A GUIDE TO PAYING FOR COLLEGE

Uncover your funding options with a practical breakdown of how families can fund a college education.

NCSA COLLEGE RECRUITING | IMG ACADEMY

Athletic Scholarships

Aid awarded by coaches based on athletic ability and program fit.

Who offers it:

NCAA D1, D2, NAIA, and many JUCOs.

What to know:

- Full scholarships are rare; most are partial, and can be renegotaited year on year.
- Scholarship availability depends on the team's needs, the sport, and the coach's budget.

Academic and Merit Scholarships

Financial awards based on merit and academic achievements.

Who offers it:

Most colleges and private organizations.

What to know:

- Academic aid is based on GPA, test scores, or class rank.
- Merit aid considers leadership, service, and extracurriculars.
- These awards can often be stacked with other aid.

Need-Based Financial Aid

Financial support based on your family's income and assets.

Who offers it:

Federal government, states, and colleges.

What to know:

- To apply, families must fill out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).
- Aid can come in the form of grants (which don't need to be paid back), work-study jobs, or subsidized loans.

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Walk-On Opportunities

Your athlete earns a roster spot without receiving a scholarship or financial aid.

Who offers it:

Most D1, D2, D3, NAIA, and JUCO programs.

What to know:

- Walk-ons are common.
- Some athletes start without aid and earn it later.
- Getting a roster spot should be the first goal for families.

Student Loans

Funds loaned to you by a private institution or bank that you must pay back.

Who offers it:

The federal government and private backs or credit unions.

What to know:

- Only borrow what you need and only after exploring all free options first (scholarships, grants, and aid).
- Loans must be repaid with interest, so it's important to plan ahead and understand the commitment.

TYPES OF LOANS

Federal Student Loans: Offered by the government. You apply by submitting the FAFSA. These typically have lower interest rates and more flexible repayment options

Private Student Loans: Offered by banks or credit unions. These often require a credit-worthy co-signer (like a parent) and can vary in terms and rates.

REMEMBER

Most athletes use a combination of aid to fund their education, like a partial athletic scholarship plus academic or need-based support.