

Marshall High School Graduates: Help Paying for College

If you're a graduate of GCM or know one, and want to learn about help paying for college, see the info below. You're best bet is working with the financial aid office of the college you're at or want to go to. Here are other ideas:

Try the College Board at <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search>? They have scholarships searchable for undergrads. I've also seen some good scholarships for GCM alums at these places:

- The financial aid office of your most recent college or one you're going to. For example, if you were at Mason, try here: <https://www2.gmu.edu/financial-aid/types-aid/scholarships>
- The local community foundation where you live, like ours in northern VA: <https://www.cfnova.org/grants-and-scholarships/scholarships>
- Pick one search one big engine you like (they all pull from the same global scholarship lists), I've heard good things about www.finaid.org (just make sure they are legit and don't charge a fee or have a lot of "contests")
- Any local groups you have a connection to, or your parents do: religious groups, employers, civic clubs like Tysons Rotary and Kiwanis: <https://www.rotary.org/en/our-programs/scholarships>
- Professional organizations that help college students start careers in an area, if you have a major you're interested in, like for example this one for engineering: <https://www.asce.org/scholarships/>. Another career-focused resource is <https://www.careeronestop.org/toolkit/training/find-scholarships.aspx>.
- Make sure you're updating your FAFSA each year and submitting as early as possible, and meet with a financial aid staff of a college you are at or want to go to so you can learn all the ways they can lower your costs or set up a payment plan. Or you can always look at colleges to transfer to that have lower costs, that's a big decision but let me know if you want help exploring it.