

Get a Jump on Funding Your Education!

The struggle to pay for college is real. And, the thought of how to cover costs for tuition, books, fees, and life can be very daunting. There IS help out there!

Here are a few suggestions for getting a jump on funding your education:

1. Start by filing your *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)*

Always plan to fill out your FAFSA, even if it's a renewal FAFSA, as soon as it's made available to you. While the application is not due until July 1, much of the campus-based aid has most likely been allocated to those who filed for financial aid well before that date. Bottom line: Apply early to receive optimal funding. Do not miss out on funding opportunities because you missed a due date.

Visit <https://fafsa.ed.gov/> to get started. Contact Elizabeth Griswold (egriswold@pencol.edu) in the Financial Aid office for help with questions.

2. Do some research! It's worth the time and effort

Funding your education will be different depending on where you go to school. And, it may take a little work to find the funding. But, the more you research now, the less overwhelming your student loan debt will be when you are done. Visit this helpful site (www.scholarships.com) for tips on how to navigate the funding process, and to find more information about the variety of fund sources that are available to help ease the costs.

3. Scholarships For Everyone and Everything

The Peninsula College Foundation offers a variety of scholarships each year, provided by the generous supporters from our community. All scholarships provided through the PC Foundation are open for application beginning in January each year. Please note that the awarded funds are available for the next academic year. To apply, create a **free** account and pre-fill your personal profile on <https://washboard.wsac.wa.gov> now, so you'll be ready to go when they open in January. In the meantime, look for flyers, posters, and emails leading up to the scholarship application season. Additional WashBoard resources: <https://washboard.wsac.wa.gov/resources>

For additional assistance with information, tips, tricks, and guidelines, visit www.pencol.edu/scholarships. You can also contact the Foundation at foundation@pencol.edu, 360-417-6426, or stop by our offices on the main PC campus (C104 & C105).

4. Additional Resources

Beyond what PC and the PC Foundation have to offer, there are thousands of scholarships available in every shape and size. Visit <http://www.pencol.edu/scholarships/additional-scholarship-resources> for a list of additional organizations and their scholarships.

Also visit:

<http://www.collegescholarships.org/states/washington.htm>

<https://www.scholarships.com>

<https://www.usagrantsapplications.org/free-college-grants/>

<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/grants-scholarships>