Key Messages and FAQs

Key Messages

- The College Board made a $25 million investment in scholarships over 5 years beginning with the class of 2020. Approximately 4,000 students each year will earn a total of $5 million in scholarships, ranging from $500 to $40,000.

- This is a unique scholarship program. It doesn’t require an essay or an application, and it doesn’t have a minimum GPA or SAT® score requirement. Instead, it rewards all students’ efforts and actions on their way to college. The more effort that students put in and actions they complete, the more chances they have to earn a scholarship.

- The 6 steps in this program help students plan by making a good starter list of schools, help them prepare so they can take their best shot, and help them pay for college. Completing each step will earn a chance for a scholarship; completing all 6 will earn a chance to win $40K for their college education. The 6 actions are:

  1. **Build Your College List**
     Get started by exploring colleges you’re interested in.
     (700 scholarships, each worth $500)

  2. **Practice for the SAT**
     Use Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy to get ready for test day.
     (1,500 scholarships, each worth $1,000)

  3. **Improve Your Score**
     Show how practice pays off by improving your SAT score.
     (150 scholarships, each worth $2,000)

  4. **Strengthen Your College List**
     Make sure your college list has a mix of safety, match, and reach schools.
     (300 scholarships, each worth $500)

  5. **Complete the FAFSA**
     Fill out the free government form to apply for financial aid.
     (800 scholarships, each worth $1,000)

  6. **Apply to Colleges**
     Apply to the schools you want to attend
     (500 scholarships, each worth $1,000)

- Complete Your Journey
  Complete all 6 scholarship steps to be eligible for a $40,000 scholarship.
  (25 scholarships, each worth $40,000)

- The program is open to all students who attend high school in the United States, Puerto Rico, and other U.S. territories—regardless of GPA, test scores, and family income—no matter what their plans or goals are after high school.

- Students can sign up at cb.org/opportunity.

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At least half of all the scholarships—$2.5 million each year—will be awarded to students whose families earn less than $60,000 per year.

FAQs

Who’s eligible for the College Board Opportunity Scholarships?

College Board Opportunity Scholarships are open to all class of 2020 students who attend high school in the United States, Puerto Rico, and other U.S. territories. Students in the class of 2021 will be eligible beginning in late 2019. Students who attend Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) schools outside the United States are unable to participate in the program at this time.

The College Board wants as many students as possible to earn scholarships through the College Board Opportunity Scholarships. Therefore, students unable to submit the FAFSA, such as undocumented students, can still qualify for the final Complete Your Journey award of $40,000.

How do I become eligible for each scholarship?

1. **Build Your College List:** $500
   - Log into BigFuture™ using your College Board account.
   - Save 6 or more colleges to list.

2. **Practice for the SAT:** $1,000
   - Practice at least 6 hours on Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy.
   - Earn an entry for each extra hour practiced up to 20 hours.

3. **Improve Your Score:** $2,000
   - Achieve a 100-point gain from PSAT/NMSQT® to SAT or from SAT to SAT.
   - Practice 12 hours on Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy.

4. **Strengthen Your College List:** $500
   - Log into BigFuture using your College Board account.
   - Have 1 safety, 2 match, and 3 reach schools.

5. **Apply for Financial Aid:** $1,000
   - Provide FAFSA confirmation number and Data Release Number, if selected.
   - Note that you’re exempt from this requirement if you’re an undocumented or international student.

6. **Apply to Colleges:** $1,000
   - Apply to at least 2 colleges.
   - Provide documentation of application, if selected.

How can students participate?

Students can visit the College Board Opportunity Scholarships website (cb.org/opportunity) to learn more and to sign up for the program. Students can opt into the program via their College Board account and start earning scholarship opportunities for their college planning efforts. If a student doesn’t have a College Board account, they can create one for free to join the program.
The first step is to make a starter list of six colleges you’re interested in. Just for making that first list, you earn a chance to win a $500 scholarship. If you keep going and complete the next five steps, you earn a chance to win a $40,000 scholarship.

**Are there family income requirements?**

The program is open to students regardless of family income. At least half of all the scholarships ($2.5 million per year) will be designated for students whose families earn less than $60,000 per year.

**What are the key program dates?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cohort</th>
<th>Scholarship</th>
<th>Scholarship Opening Date</th>
<th>Scholarship Closing Date</th>
<th>Last Scholarship Drawing Date*</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>Build</td>
<td>December 10, 2018</td>
<td>July 30, 2019</td>
<td>July 31, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>Practice</td>
<td>December 10, 2018</td>
<td>October 31, 2019</td>
<td>November 1, 2019</td>
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<tr>
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<td>April 1, 2019</td>
<td>December 31, 2019</td>
<td>January 1, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>August 1, 2019</td>
<td>October 31, 2019</td>
<td>November 1, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>Complete</td>
<td>October 1, 2019</td>
<td>February 29, 2020</td>
<td>March 1, 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>Apply</td>
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<td>February 29, 2020</td>
<td>March 1, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>Complete Your Journey</td>
<td>December 10, 2018</td>
<td>February 29, 2020</td>
<td>March 1, 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Students can earn entries for scholarships during each of the months they’re open. Scholarship drawings will occur monthly. For the Improve Scholarships, drawings will occur at the end of each month when SAT scores are reported. For the Apply Scholarships, all winners will be selected in February 2020.

The Complete Your Journey scholarship drawing will take place in March of the students’ senior year. To qualify, students must earn at least one entry for all six scholarships throughout their junior and senior years.

**Can these scholarships be applied regardless of institution type (two year, four year, for profit)?**

These scholarships can be used for any college or university designated a Title IV institution under the Higher Education Act. Title IV schools are institutions of higher education where students are eligible for federal student aid. This includes public, private, for-profit, and vocational schools that are Title IV colleges and universities.

For more on College Board Opportunity Scholarships, including official rules and additional FAQs, visit [cb.org/opportunity](http://cb.org/opportunity).