

# Cracking the code: steps to admissions success

- Where you apply matters: better applications = more choices
- Make sure your colleges are a financial match too
- Read up on statistics about schools you are interested in
- Scholarship dos and don'ts
- Resources



# What is admissions success?

Getting into a college that's a good educational, social, and geographical match for you.

But...that's not enough

**College  
Money  
Matters\$**  
No interest but yours

# What is admissions success?

Making sure your colleges are a financial match as well

# Case Study



Farah, my dental hygienist

Debt: \$210,000 (14%)

# How do I get financially smart from the Start?



## Apply to colleges in a variety of price ranges

- In-State Public Colleges
- Public Colleges – out of state
- Private colleges
- ~~For Profit~~

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_for-profit\\_universities\\_and\\_colleges](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_for-profit_universities_and_colleges)

# Check out the statistics on your colleges



- Graduation rate
- Acceptance percentage of low-income students
- Price
- Job placements
- Mobility rates

<https://www.thirdway.org/report/out-with-the-old-in-with-the-new-rating-higher-ed-by-economic-mobility>

<https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/>

# Have “The Talk”

Families should talk NOW about how much money is available for college and how much is safe to borrow

You can find out what colleges are likely to meet your budget by using Tuitionfit.org (free)

Even if you are wealthy, you need to fill out the FAFSA

- Government loans are available for any income level
- Colleges also use FAFSA to determine grants and scholarships



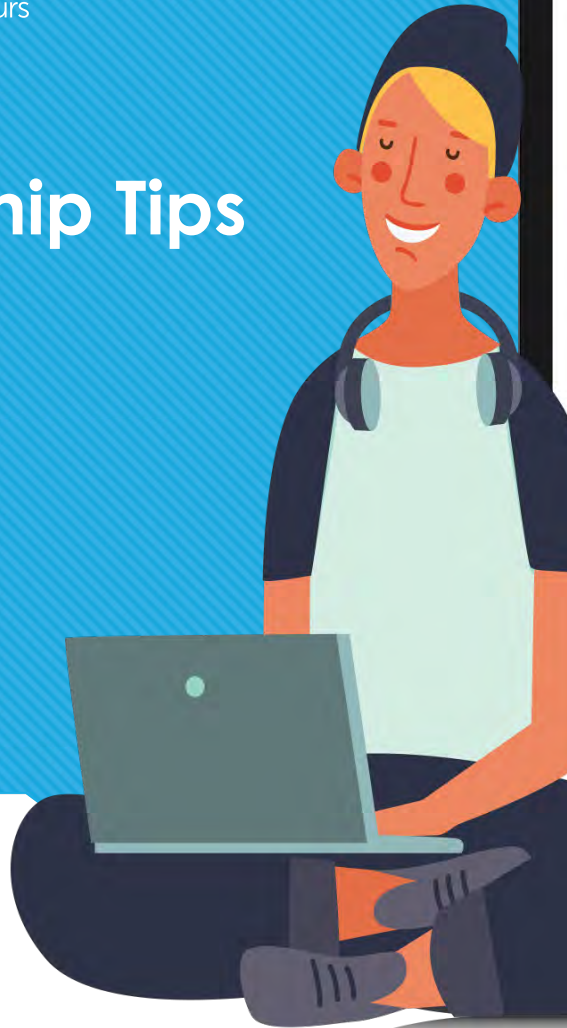
# Scholarships: Do's and Don'ts

Do	Don't
Start very very early!	Pay for a scholarship search service
Check out your State offerings	Get scammed
Look at Collegemoneymatters.org	Waste time on 'lottery scholarships'
Consider creative ways to search	

<https://collegemoneymatters.org/scholarships-and-grants-interactive/>



# Scholarship Tips

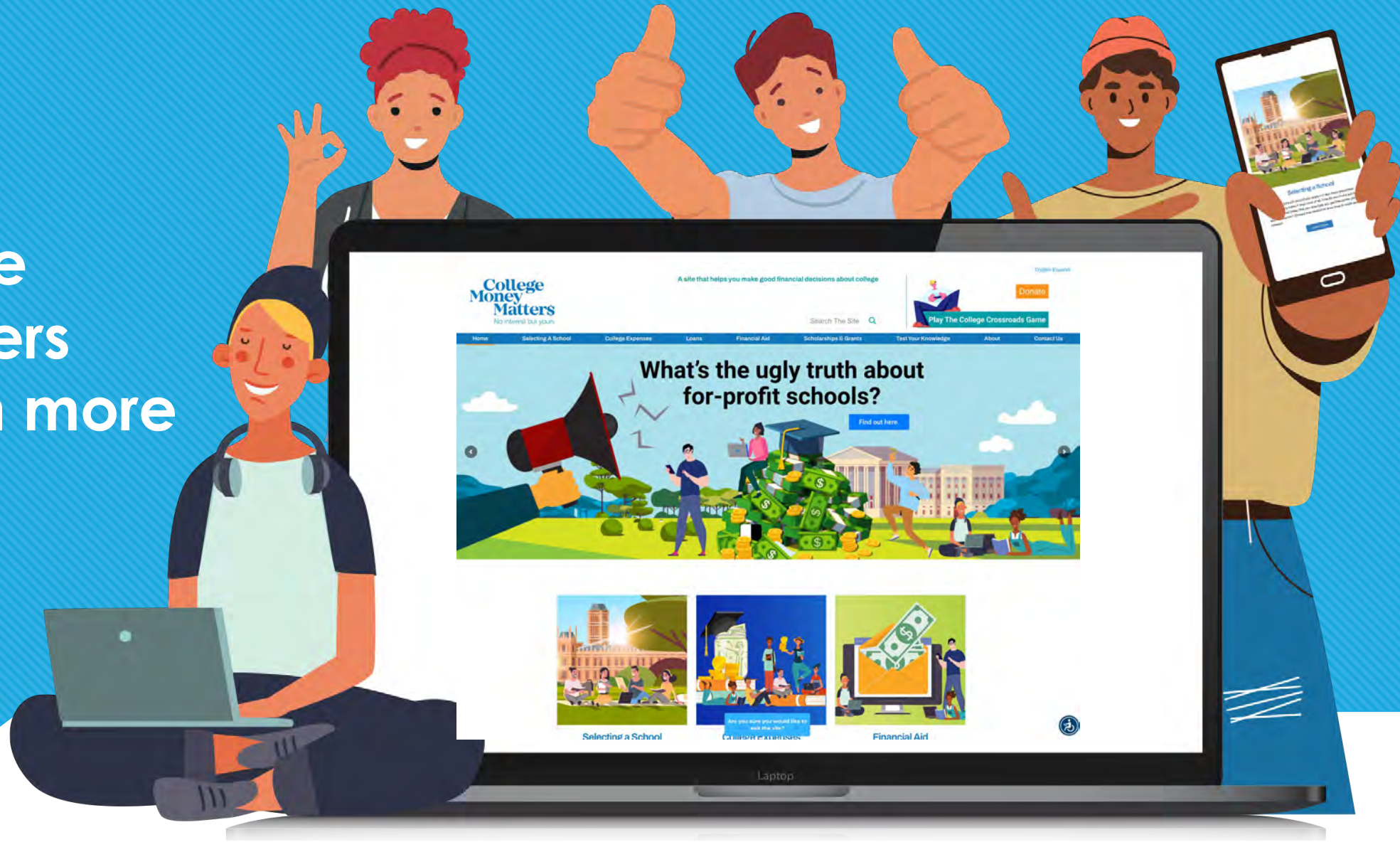


<https://collegemoneymatters.org/scholarships-and-grants-interactive/>



<https://collegemoneymatters.org/scholarships-and-grants-interactive/>

# View College Money Matters webinar with more details on application strategies



Webinar: Where you apply matters: Be financially smart from the start  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=legaHvSDO5I&t=1s>

## Other resources:



**Recommended book:** 'The Price You Pay For College' by Ron Lieber

**Need blind colleges:**

<https://money.com/colleges-that-meet-full-financial-need/>

**Scholarship information:**

<https://collegemoneymatters.org/scholarships-and-grants-interactive/>

<https://collegemoneymatters.org/your-state-could-help-pay-for-college/>

[Tuitionfit.org](https://tuitionfit.org) **Model for finding schools in your budget range**

**Things parents need to know:**

<https://collegemoneymatters.org/for-parents/>

Laptop