

don't get hooked

by misleading financial aid offers

CFNC.org

866-866-CFNC



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It's easy to fall victim to misleading financial aid offers—they come in the mail, over the Internet, even in advertisements in newspapers and magazines. Financial aid scams come from organizations that appear to be legitimate, with words like “college,” “scholarship,” “student loan,” or “foundation” in their names. **Be aware that you should never have to pay:**

- for information about financial aid
- to apply for federal financial aid (FAFSA)
- for information about financial aid

Avoid financial aid scams by watching out for these misleading “hooks.”

the hook	the truth
“The scholarship is guaranteed or your money back.”	No one can guarantee your scholarship.
“You can't get this information anywhere else.”	Everyone has access to the same free information.
“We need your credit card or account information to hold your scholarship.”	You should never have to give this information to legitimate providers.
“We do all the work.”	You must apply for financial aid yourself.
“The scholarship requires a small fee.”	Never pay a fee. Free money is FREE money.
“You've been selected” or “You are a finalist” for an award you have never applied for.	If you never applied for it, you can't get it.
“Come to our free seminar and we'll help you get more aid.”	Paying a fee does not guarantee you more financial aid.

Check with your school counselor or local library for free information on financial aid. You can also spot, stop, and report suspected scams with the Federal Trade Commission at FTC.gov or call 1-877-FTC-HELP.



For free and accurate information about financial aid, go to CFNC.org or call 866-866-CFNC. You can also contact your financial aid administrator at your college.