



"Scholarship Applications/Criteria/Processes"

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This session calls for discussion on **scholarship applications, criteria, and processes**. Too much in 15 minutes, so I've made this handout to include our **application**, which is mailed to high school career/guidance counselors and the presidents of school PTAs. It lists our basic **criteria**. *I will highlight three selection heartburn issues.*

At the first Education Summit, I heard, "We want 3.5 to 3.8 GPAs" and "We want U.S. citizens only." I'll add for today, "We want financial need."

1] **GPA:** How do you "normalize?" In our metro area, schools grade on various scales... standard 4.0; honors 4.25/4.5; and AP 4.5/5.0. The grading also varies by county...A =95-100 or 93-100 or 90-100! **Class standing:** certain schools and/or counties will not rank. **My point:** GPAs are not normalized. **SAT and ACT scores** are a constant – and you have the schools' published profile sheets that will compare their SAT/ACT results to county, state, and nation.

2] **U.S. citizens only:** What's wrong with "permanent resident" [green card] eligibility? I believe when a child enters the United States on their parents' "green card," the child has to wait 5 years for citizenship. **My point:** why deny the legal high school student?

3] **Financial need:** The Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is determined by the U.S. Department of Education based on submission of the eight-page FAFSA - Free Application for Federal Student Aid. While EFCs are very high in the Washington, DC double-income area, we are not attempting to penalize financial success. Thus our board-approved selection criteria states, "Financial Need [*other factors count more*]." Further, most of the students overstate **college costs**. Many schools provide the cost difference of EFC and their costs, by grants not loans.

[Did you know your Federal government provides **all** high school students from DC with \$10,000 towards mandated college in-state tuition, regardless of need?]

[Did you also know the average aid at Harvard = \$ 35, 831; MIT = \$ 32, 866; Princeton = \$32,160; Georgetown = \$29, 600; George Washington = \$ 35, 780?]

My point: Back down financial need as a major factor, for 90 percent of students "fudge" their \$\$\$ stories and who verifies?

Processes: **1]** We have our standing procedures approved by our board. **2]** We keep the same chairman and rotate all other members of the selection team each year **3]** Funds are kept in scholarship account not general account per AFCEA international Handbook, Chapter 7. **4]** Checks are mailed to school BURSAR, dual-payable to student and school. Students may say, "The school took my scholarship money and reduced my grant!" To preclude such action, we write in our letter to the Bursar:

Scholarship money will be sent each summer. The check will be mailed to you, payable to both [student name] and University of XYZ for use against their tuition bill in [Engineering]. **A condition of the award is that you agree that this money may not be used to reduce your grant, if any, planned to be provided by you.** Rather it is our criteria that the scholarship money be applied to the parent/student contribution for tuition or your loan. **In the event that you use our scholarship funds to substitute for your planned college grant, our scholarship support will be withdrawn and we will ask you to return the money.** Also, if these funds are not used for the first semester tuition they are to be returned.

AFCEA DC Scholarship Program

To promote higher education, AFCEA DC gives college scholarships to eligible applicants who are studying science, technology, engineering, math and science [STEM]. Our \$7,000 two-year scholarship program is open to high school seniors entering four-year, degree-granting programs. Our \$3,500 one-year scholarship program is open to students leaving two-year community colleges to attend four-year, degree-granting programs. Our complete fields of study are Computer Science, Engineering, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Management Information Systems.

Selection is based on:

- Academic Achievement
- School Activities
- Community/Civic Activities
- Part-Time Work
- Financial Need (other factors count more)
- Letters of Recommendation

To receive following-year funds, students must:

- Remain in an eligible criteria field of study
- Maintain a grade point average of 2.5 or better (on a 4.0 scale), as verified by an official transcript, and
- Have not received a full tuition scholarship, as verified by their school bill.

Application on line here (also attached):

<http://www.afceadc.org/scholarships/afcea-dc-scholarship-application-2009.pdf/view>