



College & Financial Aid

25 October 2025



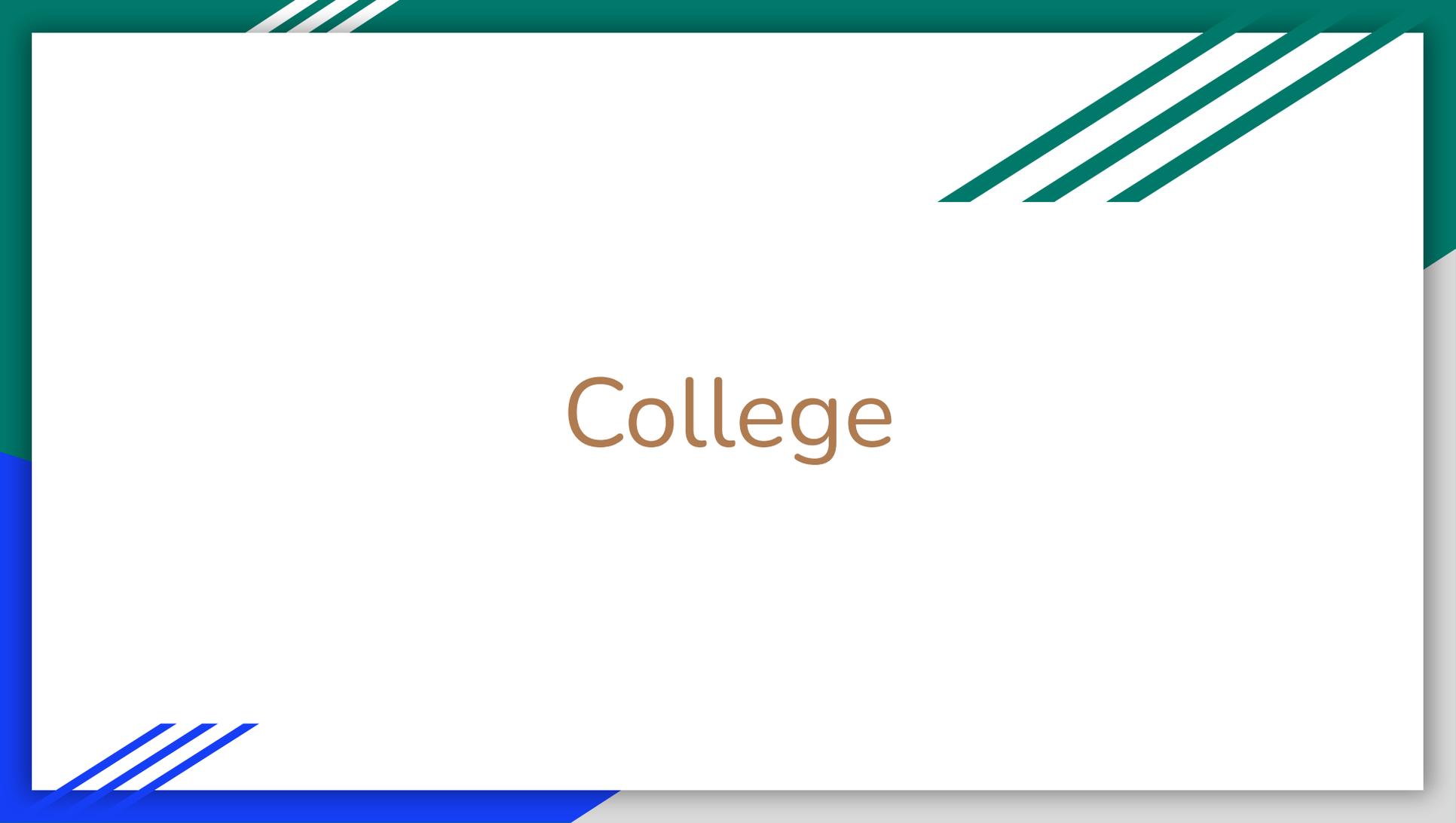
First, let's discuss

Students:

1. Name
2. What year are you?
3. Are there any concerns you have about the application process?

Mentors:

1. Name
2. What type of college did you go to?
3. Most memorable college app/college experience



College

Wait, there's more than one type of college?

4-year University/College

- Public University
 - Examples: UC Berkeley, UC San Francisco, San Jose State University
 - UC System & CSU System
 - Consider In-state vs. Out-of-State tuition
- Private University
 - Examples: Stanford University, Santa Clara University
 - Often more expensive than public, but may have very good financial aid

Community College

- CCCs = California Community Colleges
- Often two-year programs
- Much cheaper than 4-year institutions
- A common cost-effective strategy is to study at a community college for 1-2 yrs, then transfer to a 4-year institution

Application Strat - Make some lists!

Safety

Higher acceptance rate

Not your dream school
but also would not
mind going there

Definitely affordable

2-3 schools

Target

Moderate acceptance
rate

Going here would
totally be awesome

Could probably afford
it?

3-4 schools

Reach

Low acceptance rate

The school is too out
of my league to have
even thought about it
omg

Could probably afford
it?

1-3 schools

MATRICULATE

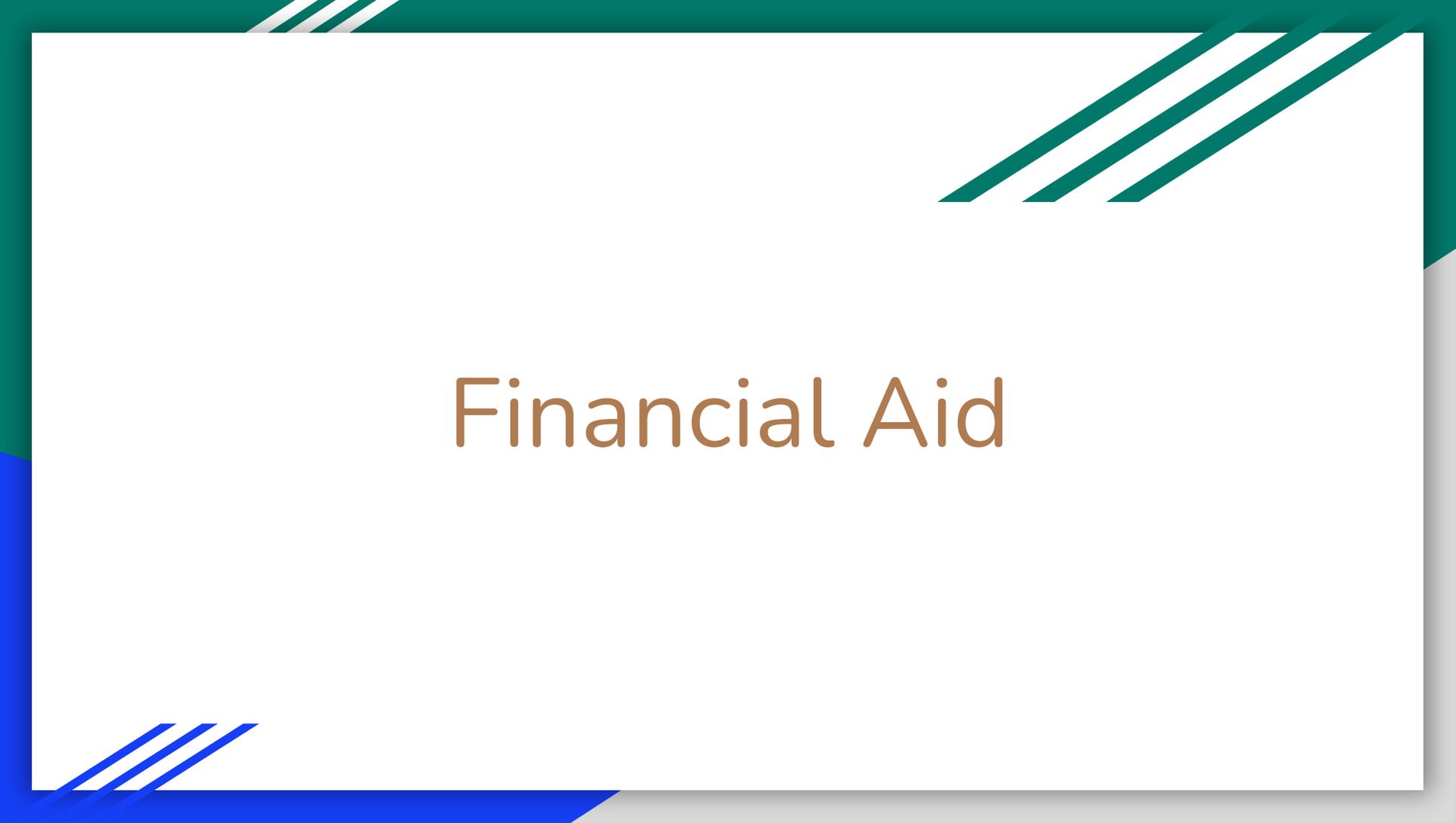
FREE COLLEGE ADVISING

matriculate.org/college

“FREE virtual college advising program that connects high-achieving low-income students with a near-peer college mentor who works one-on-one with students throughout the college and financial aid processes.”

Requirements to apply for an advisor:

- GPA of 3.5 or higher
- Annual family income of less than \$80,000
- Attends high school in the US
- Current junior, or rising senior
- Taking a rigorous course load



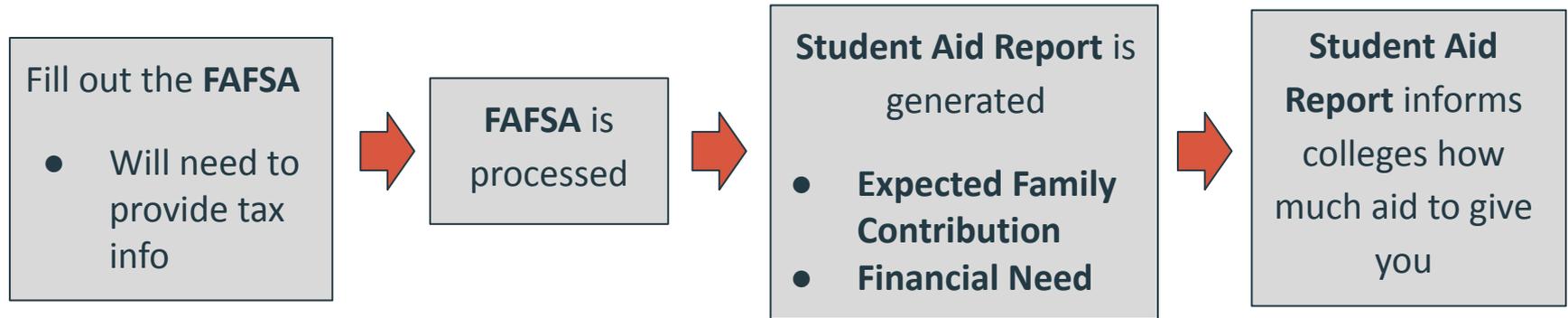
Financial Aid



What do you need to do?

1. FAFSA
 2. CCS
 3. Hunt for other scholarships
- 

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)



<https://studentaid.gov/>

Fill it out for each year you are in college

3

Types of Federal Student Aid

1



Free
money.

Grants are usually based on financial need and don't have to be repaid.

2



Borrowed
money.

Loans are an investment in your future. But remember, they must be repaid with interest.

3

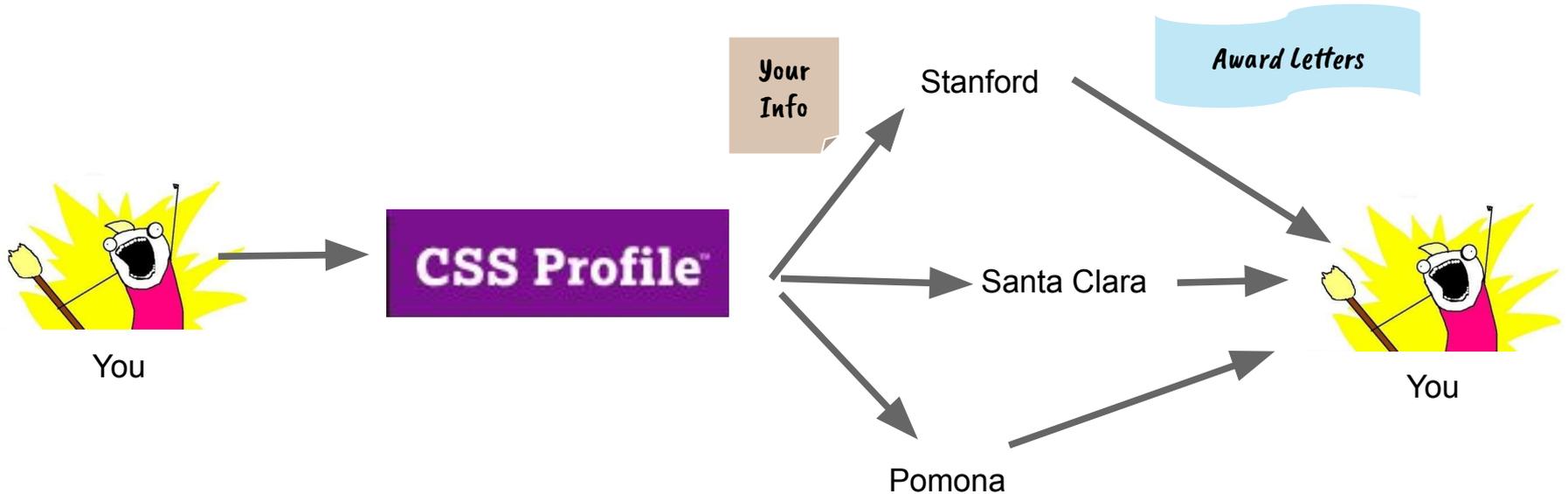


Earned
money.

A **work-study** job lets you earn money while you're in school.

College Scholarship Service (CSS) Profile

Service provided by College Board



For Undocumented/Dreamer Students

- Eligible for most UC/CSU/CCC grants
 - Cal Grant, Chafee Grant, Middle Class Scholarship
 - UC Grants, State University Grants
 - California Community College (CCC) California Promise Grant
 - Education Opportunity Program (EOP/EOPS)
 - Some University Scholarships
 - Some private scholarships administered by campuses
- **Application Deadline for Dreamer Cal grant: April 2nd**
- For more info: <https://www.csac.ca.gov/post/financial-aid-undocumenteddreamer-students>