

Senior Planning Guide & Scholarship and Financial Aid Guide for New Salem/Almont Seniors

2016-2017

Introduction

The counseling office has produced this booklet to provide information pertinent to senior and answer questions you might have during your senior year as you plan for the future. This booklet also gives a description of available scholarships and general information on financial aid. While we hope this guide is helpful, it cannot replace direct contact with your counselor. Please stop in, call (843-7610), or email(amanda.jacob@k12.nd.us) , if you have any questions or concerns.

With tuition costs rising roughly five percent annually, higher education “sticker shock” is a common first reaction when investigating how to pay for college. However, before you rule out a school based on cost, you and your family should consider the many opportunities available to you. A number of sources of financial aid are available to students from the federal government, state government, foundations and private lenders and the colleges and universities themselves. In addition, there are four different forms of aid: **grants, scholarships, loans, and work study.**

- **Grants:** Grants are given for athletics, academics, demographics, special talent potential, and/or need. Repayment is not required
- **Scholarships:** Scholarships, also called “merit aid” are awarded for academic excellence. Repayment is not required.
- **Loans:** Student loans, which have lower interest rates, may be college sponsored or federally sponsored or may be available through commercial financial institutions. Loans must be repaid, generally after you have graduated or left school.
- **College work-study:** College work-study is a federally sponsored

program that enables colleges to employ students. Eligible students work a limited number of hours throughout the school year.

The federal government is the single largest source of financial aid for student. The U.S. Department of Education's student financial aid programs make more than an estimated \$80 billion available in loans, grants, and other aid to millions of students. To apply for federal student aid you must complete the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid or FAFSA* (www.fafsa.ed.gov). Information on federal student aid can be found in the last section of this booklet.

Post-Secondary Options

There is a myth out there that a college diploma is the one and only key to success. While most careers require at least some education or training beyond high school, you should be reminded that college itself is not the goal. The goal is for you to get the skills and abilities you need for a successful life that interests you. One career may require four years of college while another may require a six-month program at a technical school. In most cases your career choice will determine which of the following options is the most appropriate:

Employment
Apprenticeships
Military

Career and Technical Colleges
Two or Four-Year Colleges/Universities

Employment

Employment is an appropriate option for some high school graduates however high school graduates with no vocation/technical training will probably find that they have limited career options. In many cases they will find that they are, in reality, not entering a career field as much as they are "getting a job". In many cases they will find that they will not be making much more than minimum wage, and opportunities for advancement will be limited. On the other hand, business and industry are always anxious to find employees who are hard-working, polite, punctual, willing to learn, and able to get along well with others. Of course, if a student has a particular talent or skill, he/she can be very valuable to an employer.

Apprenticeships

Students who prefer a hands-on approach to learning may want to consider an apprenticeship program. Apprenticeships are agreements in which employers pay individuals while they are learning their trade or professions. Apprentices learn a skilled trade through a combination of instruction and on-the-job training. These programs demand hard work and dedication. Many consider apprenticeship programs to be the best way to receive training in the skilled trades (such as plumbing, carpentry, masonry, etc.). For more information, contact the state apprenticeship office at 255-4700 or www.ndapprenticeship.com.

Military

The military trains young men and women so they can protect the interests of our country. In order to do this, the military offers qualified high school graduates a good salary and free job training. The military also provides discipline and structure, as well as opportunities for career advancement and travel. The United States military is the nation's single largest employer. It offers training and employment in over 2,000 job specialties, 75% of which have civilian counterparts.

There are four major branches of the military: The Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines. Opportunities for students also exist in the Coast Guard, the National Guard and the reserves. College students who take ROTC will enter the military as officers, while academically gifted students will find excellent education opportunities at the four military academies.

Army	1-800-USA-ARMY	www.goarmy.com
National Guard	1-800-GO-GUARD	www.ndguard.com
Navy	1-800-USA-NAVY	www.navy.com
Air Force	1-800-423-USAF	www.airforce
Marines	1-800-MARINES	www.marines.com

Career and Technical Colleges

Many rapidly growing and good paying jobs do NOT require a four-year college degree, but most better-paying jobs do require some training beyond high school. Career and technical colleges offer students short-term training in a wide variety of interesting and rewarding career fields. Some career and technical college programs last only a few weeks, while others take up to two years to complete. Students spend most of their class time in job-related settings where they receive hands-on training from experienced instructors. Technical schools that offer highly

specialized programs are sometimes relatively selective. **Be sure to apply early enough to be considered for programs that may have a limited number of openings.**

Two and Four-Year Colleges/Universities

Two-year colleges provide career oriented programs which enable students to begin their careers after only one or two years of college. It generally costs much less to attend a community college and the class sizes are smaller. Students completing two-year programs earn associate degrees. Students may also start their education at a two-year college, and then transfer to a four-year college to earn a bachelor's degree.

While a four-year college education can be quite expensive, a bachelor's degree has proven to be a good investment. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, a person with an undergraduate college degree has the potential to earn \$800,000 more over his or her lifetime than someone without a college degree. A bachelor's degree can open doors, provide status, and prepare students for financially rewarding careers.

Four-year college and universities want students to have both a broad-based education, and in a specific subject area or major. Since many of the general education courses are taken during freshman year, "undecided" students can use their first year of college to fulfill general education requirements and to decide on a major.

Admissions Criteria

Colleges will use some, if not all, of the information listed below when determining whether or not to accept an applicant. Individual college, however, differ in how they evaluate this information. For example one college may place a great deal of importance on GPA, while another college may not.

Grade Point Average(GPA)	Activities/awards
Class Rank	Community Service
ACT and/or SAT scores	Personal essays
Recommendations	Interviews

Admission Standards

North Dakota four-year universities require the following core curriculum courses:

4 Units of English

- 3 Units of mathematics, Algebra 1 and above
- 3 Units of laboratory science
- 3 Units of social studies

Many out of state schools also require two or more years of the same foreign language, one year of fine arts, a computer course, or other requirements.

Each university is entitled to admit some students who have not had the required courses. Also, students who have completed the core curriculum but have poor performance indicators, such as low grade point average or low ACT score, may be denied admission.

College Application/Admission Procedure

- Take (or retake) college admissions test
- Go online to school's website to apply for admission, housing and scholarships
- Submit application by deadline. ND schools have rolling admissions policies but be aware of early deadlines for out-of-state schools. Many vocation/technical programs have limited openings so apply early to avoid being put on a waiting list.
- Send an official high school transcript – official transcripts must be mailed by the school
- Apply for housing and scholarships, complete the FAFSA online (after Jan. 1) if seeking financial aid.

College Entrance Exams

Students entering college are usually required to take, or have taken one of these college examinations: the ACT or the SAT. **All ND public two and four-year schools require the ACT.** Nationally, most schools will accept scores from either exam. Check school catalogs, websites, or refer to a college guide to see which test is required by specific colleges.

Act Plus Writing exams are given to all students in the spring of their junior year. Students receive scores in English, Reading, Math, Science Reasoning, and Writing as well as a Composite score. Seniors can test again by registering online for any of the national test dates listed below (writing test is optional).

SAT test is a four-hour test that measures Critical Reading, Math, and Writing. The SAT tests are generally offered five times a year at Bismarck High School. Some colleges require or recommend one or more of these tests for admission or placement purposes.

To Learn More and Register Online:

ACT----www.actstudent.org

SAT----www.collegeboard.org

College Entrance Exam Schedules 2016-2017

ACT

<u>Test Dates</u>	<u>Registration Deadlines</u>	<u>Late (additional Fee)</u>
September 10, 2016	August 5	August 19
October 22, 2016	September 16	September 30
December 10, 2016	November 4	November 18
February 11, 2017	January 13	January 20
April 8, 2017	March 3	March 17
June 10, 2017	May 5	May 19

SAT

October 1, 2016	September 1	September 20
November 5, 2016	October 7	October 25
December 3, 2016	November 3	November 22
January 21, 2017	December 21	January 10
March 11, 2017	February 10	February 28
May 6, 2017	April 7	April 25
June 3, 2017	May 9	May 24

Hints for a Campus Visit

What to do

- Make an appointment to meet with an admissions officer
- Read the school's viewbook and catalog and check out their website
- Verify admission requirements
- Visit with a Financial Aid Officer
- Meet with faculty in the academic area of interest to you (and/or coaches)
- Tour the campus (check out the dorms, dining hall, student union, library, etc.)
- Sit in on a class – check out shops, labs, and classrooms
- Talk to students about campus life and the academic and social environment
- Complete the College Comparison Chart on the next page

What to Ask

- What is the full cost of the school (tuition, room and board, and books)
- What is the student-to-teacher ratio
- How large is the typical class
- What is the placement record for graduates in your field

- What student activities are available

Top Ten List of Financial Aid Tips

Tip 1: Prioritize your efforts, starting with the federal government. Then turn to the private sector for additional assistance.

Tip 2: Learn all you can about the college financial aid process. Be sure to meet with the college financial aid officer and establish a relationship.

Tip 3: Submit a FAFSA even if you don't think you qualify for aid. Being rejected for federal aid is sometimes a prerequisite for private awards.

Tip 4: Apply for aid as soon as possible after January 1. The early bird always gets the worm - and sometimes the scholarship.

Tip 5. Inform financial aid administrators about atypical expenses. Certain allowances may be made to assist you.

Tip 6. Take advantage of tuition prepayment discounts. Some colleges offer up to a 10% discount for early payment.

Tip 7. Money from grandparents should be paid in your name directly to the school. This avoids the gift tax liability.

Tip 8. Investigate company-sponsored tuition plans. Many employers will invest in the education of their employees.

Tip 9. Apply!!! You cannot win awards or receive funds for which you do not apply, so pay attention to the deadlines.

Tip 10. Use scholarship search engines like FastWeb to help you find the private sector assistance you need.

Source: fastweb.com

Myths about Financial Aid

“I'm not going to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid because....”

“...my parents make too much money, so I won't qualify for aid.”

Reality. There is not income cut-off to qualify for federal student aid. Many factors besides income—from the size of your family to the age of your older parent—are taken into account. Your eligibility is determined by a complicated mathematical formula, not your parents' income alone.

“...only students with good grades get financial aid.”

Reality. While a high grade point average will help a student get into a good school and may help with academic scholarships, most of the federal student aid programs do not take a student's grades into consideration.

“...you have to be a minority to get financial aid.”

Reality. Funds from federal student aid programs are awarded on the basis of financial need, NOT on the basis of race or creed. The FAFSA doesn't even collect this kind of information.

“...the form is too hard to fill out.”

Reality. The FAFSA is easier than ever, especially if you fill it out online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. There are detailed

instructions for every question, and the form walks you through step by step.

For more information about federal student aid, see www.studentaid.ed.gov

Scholarships

While loans are a type of financial aid available to students and parents that must be repaid, grants and scholarships do not have to be repaid. Scholarships are made to students who demonstrate or show potential for distinction in academics or other performance (e.g., athletics, music, speech, drama). To qualify for a given scholarship, a student must meet the criteria outlined for the award. In completing the application, it is important to provide all of the information requested and to pay particular attention to detail. *The presentation of the application (neat appearance, typewritten, and factual) is also an important factor in the evaluation process.* Carefully prepared applications may result in scholarship awards to deserving students.

Please keep in mind this booklet does not represent an all-inclusive list of scholarships. Don't forget to inquire about institutional scholarships at the schools you are considering. Religious groups, civic groups, fraternal organizations, and employers may be additional sources of scholarships. Students are also encouraged to involve parents in their search. Try free scholarship searches online at sites like **fastweb.com, cappex.com, or meritaid.com.** Stop by the counseling office to inquire about specific scholarships. Winning a scholarship can be both personally and financially rewarding; please give it a try!

Scholarship Myths

Think you don't qualify for a scholarship? Think again. Here are some common myths that discourage students from applying for scholarships.

“Only students with high academic achievement win merit scholarships.”

While grades may be important in selecting scholarship winners, your academic performance is not the end-all and be-all. Schools understand that your grades are not all there is to you.

“Scholarship applicants should seek to compile the longest list of extracurricular activities.”

What good is having a long list of activities if all you did was attend a bunch of meetings? You can better distinguish yourself by concentrating on a few activities and taking a leadership role, rather than trying to compile a long list.

“Applying for scholarships is just like applying for college”

Most colleges will compare you to a standard, whereas most scholarships are simply measuring applicants against one another. If you creatively stand out, you already have an advantage, regardless of your other achievements.

Source: fastweb.com

The specific scholarship criteria and deadlines listed in this booklet are based on information from the previous school year and are subject to change. It is the student's responsibility to verify actual

deadlines!!!

Scholarship

Scams

A number of privately operated scholarship search companies charge fees that range from \$30 to well over \$300. Most provide a list of sources of financial assistance for which you may apply. Many search companies offer to refund your fee if you do not receive any award. However, some services require you to provide a rejection letter from every source on the list to claim your refund. You should be aware that many scholarship sources do not routinely send rejection letters. According to the Federal Trade Commission, warning signs that a scholarship service may be a scam include the following statements.

“This scholarship is guaranteed or your money back.”

Wrong. No one can guarantee to get you a grant or scholarship.

“You can’t get this information anywhere else.”

Unlikely. Many free lists of scholarships are available. Check with your counselor for FREE information about current scholarships before you pay someone for the same or similar information. Use this book and the web sites suggested on the next page for your scholarship search.

“May I have your credit card or bank account number to hold this scholarship?”

NO way. It may be a setup for an unauthorized withdrawal from your account. Don’t give out you or your parents’ credit card or bank account number on the phone without first getting all the information in writing.

“We’ll do all the work”

Don’t be fooled. There’s no way around it. You must apply for the scholarships or grants yourself.

“The scholarship will cost you some money.”

That doesn’t make sense. Free money shouldn’t cost a thing. Don’t pay anyone who claims to have access to a scholarship for you.

“You’ve been selected by a National foundation to receive a scholarship or You’re a finalist in a contest” (that you didn’t enter)

Be careful. Before you send money to apply for a scholarship, check it out. Make sure the foundation or program is legitimate. Most sources of financial aid have application deadlines and eligibility criteria; they do not, generally, operate like a sweepstakes. Some places imitate federal foundations, agencies, and corporations. They might even have official sounding names, using such words as “National” and “Federal” or claim to have a Washington, D.C. location in order to project an aura of legitimacy.

Scholarship Opportunities

AEMP Foundation Legacy Scholarship

The Association of Equipment Management Professions (AEMP) Foundation awards numerous scholarships valued at \$500 per semester for up to 4 semesters to students attending qualified schools offering a diesel technology program. Applications are available online at www.aemp.org. **Deadline: May 1**

AES Engineering Scholarship

This \$500 award is available to high school seniors motivated to furthering their education. You are not required to be taking Engineering courses to be eligible. Students must submit an essay to a question posted on their website: www.aesengineers.com/scholarships.htm. **Deadline: October 6**

American Legion Auxiliary

The American Legion of ND has a program to assist students pursuing a degree in the nursing field. Please see counselor for application. **Deadline: April 1**

American Fire Sprinkler Association Scholarship Contest

National essay contest with a total of ten \$2000 scholarships. Contest details, essay requirements and the application process can be found at www.afsascholarship.org. **Deadline: April 7**

Associated General Contractors of North Dakota Scholarships

Scholarships worth \$1000 for students planning to enroll in Construction Management or Construction Engineering at NDSU and \$500 awards for those in Construction Technology at BSC or construction, engineering, welding, or diesel technology related courses at NDSCS in Wahpeton. Download at www.agcnd.org. **Deadline: May 1**

Army Emergency Relief - James Ursano Scholarship Fund

Awards primarily based on need for dependent children of Army soldiers on active duty, retired or deceased. Applicants must maintain a cumulative 2.0 GPA. Download at www.aerhq.org. **Deadline: May 1**

AXA Achievement Scholarship

One student from each state will receive a \$10,000 scholarship plus ten national recipient's will receive an additional \$15,000 scholarship. For seniors who set and reach ambitious goals, demonstrate drive, determination and the ability to succeed in school and who have respect for self, family, and community. Go to www.axa-achievement.com to learn more and download an application. **Deadline: December 1**

BCCF Donna Johnson Memorial Scholarship

The Bismarck Cancer Center Foundation (BCCF) will award two \$1000 scholarships to individuals who are interested in and committed to oncology nursing and who are pursuing a baccalaureate degree in nursing through Bismarck State College. **Deadline: March 1**

BNI Coal Scholarship Program

This scholarship program is available to children of full-time employees who have been employed by BNI Coal, Ltd. for a minimum of two years. To apply call 355-5502. **Deadline: April 15**

Best Buy Scholarship Program

Best Buy is awarding \$1000 scholarships to 1,200 students. Students need solid grades plus community service or work experience. Apply online at www.bestbuy-communityrelations.com. **Deadline: February 15**

BigSun Athletics Organization Scholarship

A \$500 scholarship is awarded by BigSun Athletics to help your athletes succeed in their academic pursuits. Complete a short essay in response to the question found on their website: www.bigsunathletics.com. **Deadline: June 22**

Bismarck Eagles Auxiliary Scholarship

The Eagles Auxiliary provides a \$500 scholarship to a student attending BSC. Financial need is given more importance than scholastic average. **Deadline: April 15**

***Brent Lauf Memorial Scholarship**

See Mr. Kleinjan for application and details.

BSC Foundation Scholarships

Awards from \$500-\$2,000 per year (depending on financial need) for qualifying students in academic, performing arts, visual arts, journalism, and vocational programs at BSC. Application available at www.bismarckstate.edu/scholarships. **Deadline: January 25**

Buick Achievers Scholarship Program

Buick is looking to celebrate motivated four-year college bound students who have been successful inside and outside the classroom. Those planning to major in Science, Technology, Engineering, Math, Business, Administration, Finance, Marketing, or Design and are interested in a career in the automotive industry are encouraged to apply. Visit www.buickachievers.com for more info. **Deadline: February 29**

Capitol Credit Union/Dakotas' Credit Unions' Scholarships

Capitol Credit Union is offering scholarships for seniors who are members (or their parents are members) of CCU and will be attending college in ND. The DCU will award scholarships to seniors who exemplify volunteerism, community service and leadership. Both scholarships are available at www.capcu.org in January of each year and specific details and deadline information is included at that time.

Chevy Scholar Program

West Dakota Chevy Dealers invite nominations for outstanding juniors and seniors to compete

for four \$5,000 scholarships. Students can nominate themselves or be nominated by family, friends, parents, teachers or coaches. Nominators fill out basic information including community involvement, academic achievements, extracurricular activities, and volunteer work. Download at www.chevyscholar.com. **Deadline: February 20**

Commitment to Agriculture Scholarship Program

One hundred awards of \$1,500 will be presented to seniors whose families are engaged in production agriculture and plan to pursue a career in agriculture. Minimum ACT composite score of 18 required. Download applications at www.monsanto.com, www.ffa.com, or www.nafb.com. **Deadline: February 15**

Dakota Credit Unions Scholarship

Credit Union Association of the Dakotas will award five \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors. Applicant must have been a credit union member for at least 1 year. Please see school counselor for application. **Deadline: March 8**

Eagle Scout Scholarship

Eight scholarships (\$4,000 & \$8,000) nationwide for registered Eagle Scouts. Must have SAT score of 1090 or ACT score of 26 and financial need. Website: www.bsa.scouting.org.

Deadline: February 28

EanestSwinney Master Mechanic Scholarship

This scholarship is offered to mechanically inclined students ages 18 or older seeking no less than a 2 year degree in mining related technical, maintenance or field mechanics. **Deadline: March 1**

Elks National Foundation

The Elks foundation awards a total of 250 awards. Parents or grandparents must be a member of the Elks Lodge. For more information go to www.elk.org/enf/scholars.

Farm Credit Services of ND Scholarships in Agriculture

Over 30 scholarships varying in amounts from \$500 to \$1000 will be awarded to seniors who plan to enroll in college this fall. The recipient may be from a farming or ranching family OR planning to pursue an agricultural career. Selection is based on academic record, personal attributes, vocational promise, leadership and financial need. **Deadline: March 1**

Farmers Union Co-op House Scholarship

For students with at least a 2.5 GPA planning to attend NDSU and are Farmers Union members, relatives of past Co-op House members or member of a cooperative. Financial need, ACT scores, and personal references are also considered. Website: www.ndfu.org/youtheducation/scholarships.asp. **Deadline: March 15**

Gate City Bank Community Scholarship Program

Gate City Bank will award forty-seven \$1,200 scholarships to graduating seniors from high schools in ND. Criteria taken into consideration will include, scholastic excellence, extra-

curricular activities, community involvement, and financial need. Apply online at www.gatecitybank.com/scholarship. **Deadline: March 15**

Health Care Education Scholarship

The Northern Plains Eye Foundation sponsors this \$1,000 scholarship for a senior planning to enter a health-care related field of study. Applicant must have a minimum GPA of 3.8 and minimum ACT score of 28. Available at www.npef.org/scholarship.asp. **Deadline: March 1**

Horatio Alger Association Scholarships

Scholarships available to seniors planning to pursue a bachelor's degree who have financial need, are involved in co-curricular, and community activities and have a minimum GPA of 2.0. Apply online at www.horatioalger.org/scholarships. **Deadline: October 30**

Intel Science Talent Search Awards and Scholarships

For talented seniors pursuing careers in science, math, engineering, and medicine. Entry guidelines are available at www.societyforscience.org. **Deadline: November 20**

Keppra Family Epilepsy Scholarship Program

UCB Pharma, Inc. will award 30 one-time scholarships of \$5,000 to epilepsy patients and to family members or caregivers of epilepsy patients. Visit www.keppra.com for details.

KFC Colonel's Scholars Program

Awards can be up to \$5,000 per year and up to \$20,000 over 4 years. Applicants must have a GPA of 2.75 or better, plan to pursue a bachelor's degree at a public in-state college and demonstrate financial need. Visit www.kfcscholars.org to apply. **Deadline: February 8**

Mandan Masonic Lodge #8

Mandan Masonic Lodge #8 awards a number of scholarships to high school seniors. Stop by counselor's office to get application. **Deadline: March 22**

McKelvey Foundation Entrepreneurial Scholarship

Available to seniors who have demonstrated entrepreneurial spirit by owning and operating their own business while in high school. Award of up to \$10,000 per year for four years. Apply online at www.mckelveyfoundation.org. **Deadline: January 25**

Mor-Gran-Sou scholarship

Mor-Gran-Sou offers a scholarship to students living in the Mor-Gran Sou service area. Download application at www.morgransou.com or see counselor for application. **Deadline: February 14**

NDHSCA- Gelaine Orvik Scholarship

The NDHSCA-Gelaine Orvik awards a scholarship of \$1,000 to high school seniors with the intention of becoming a High School Coach. For more information see the school counselor.

National Farmers Union Foundation Scholarships

The Stanley Moore Scholarship awards several \$1,000 scholarships to Farmers Union members. For info or an application for this and other FUMP scholarships, go to: www.nfu.org/about/education/scholarships/. **Deadline: April 16**

National Federation of Independent Business Young Entrepreneur Awards

Minimum of 100 scholarships ranging in value from \$1,000-\$10,000 to recognize young people who have demonstrated entrepreneurial spirit/initiative. Criteria also includes academic record, extracurricular activities, leadership activities, and essay content. Available online at 222.NFIB.com/Yea. **Deadline: December 15**

North Dakota Farm Bureau

North Dakota Farm Bureau will award a scholarship of \$500 to a high school graduating senior. Must be a well-rounded student who has achieved a GPA of 3.0. Must be a ND Farm Bureau member. See school counselor for details. **Deadline: April 15**

North Dakota Jump Start Coalition

ND Jump Start Coalition is awarding \$1,000 for a high school senior who sends in a 1-2 minute video of "how" to use Money Sense. See school counselor for more details. **Deadline: April 10**

North Dakota Scholarship/ND Career and Technical Education Scholarship

Scholarships of \$750 per semester or \$1,500 per year for students attending college in ND and meeting the criteria outlined at www.dpi.state.nd.us/resource/act/act.shtm. More information can be found in this booklet at the end of this listing of scholarship opportunities. **Deadline: June 7**

North Dakota Corn Growers Association Scholarship

Ten \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to children of current ND Corn Growers Association members. Criteria includes activity participation and transcript. For more info, go to www.ndcorn.org. **Deadline: January 6**

North Dakota Crop Improvement & Seed Organization

Two \$500 scholarships to the NDSU College of Agriculture are available to incoming freshmen. Applicants and/or guardian must be a member of their respective county Crop Improvement Association. Website: www.ndcropimprovement.org. **Deadline: February 15**

North Dakota Dollars for Scholars

The state chapter of Dollars for Scholars will award over \$140,000 to high school seniors and continuing college students. Get an application and learn more about any of the following scholarship opportunities at www.nddfs.org. **Deadlines: April 1**

College Access Network Scholarship

Scholarships of \$500 will be awarded to students with economic need.

Dr. Fradkin Community Service Scholarship

Eight \$500 scholarships are available to seniors who excel in community service.

Edson and Margaret Larson Foundation Leadership Scholarship

Three \$15,000 scholarships will be awarded to students planning to attend an ND or Red River Valley(ex. Concordia, MSU -Moorhead, Crookston) post secondary institution. Applicants must have a 3.7 GPA or higher and must have a composite score of 27 or higher on the ACT.

JoAnn Link Hetzel Vocational/Technical Scholarship

Twenty \$500 scholarships are available to seniors planning to attend vocational, technical or trade schools.

ND Military Scholarship

Ten \$1,000 awards to dependents of a ND military unit/installation. Applicants must have a 2.5 GPA or higher.

Sanford Health Scholarship

Two \$1,000 scholarships are available to seniors pursuing an undergraduate or vocational/technical degree in a healthcare-related field. Must have a GPA of 3.0 or higher and a record of involvement in high school activities. Preference is given to individuals from the Sanford Health service region.

***North Dakota Dollars for Scholars-New Salem/Almont Chapter**

- Ruds/Goetzfridt Memorial Scholarship
- Class of 51 Scholarship-2 Scholarships
- Josh Olin Memorial Scholarship-Available to seniors who plan on going to college for an agricultural program.
- New Salem/Almont Dollars for Scholars Scholarship

North Dakota Farmers Union Scholarship

College-bound seniors with at least a 2.5 GPA and whose families are members of Farmers Union may apply for this scholarship. The field of study is not limited to agri-business, farm operation or production agriculture but should relate to/benefit rural America. For more info go to www.ndfu.org/youtheducation/scholarships.asp. **Deadline January 31**

North Dakota Indian Education Association Scholarship

Four scholarships awarded to promising American Indian college students. Must be an enrolled member of a ND tribe with at least one-fourth degree Indian blood quantum and enrolled as a full-time student in a ND college or vocational school. Call 777-3296 for more information.

Deadline: March 25

North Dakota Jaycee Senate Scholarship

Scholarship awarded to high school seniors. Application on-line at <http://nd.usjcisenate.org/>

Deadline: December 15

North Dakota Propane Gas Association Scholarship

Two \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to applicants whose parents are propane supplied by a ND Propane Gas Association member and intend to enroll in a ND University or college in the fall. **Deadline: March 25**

North Dakota Rural Water

Scholarships available to students who receive rural water service. See counselor for application. **Deadline: January 31**

North Dakota Scholars Program

Recognizes outstanding students for scholastic achievement as measured by ACT score and academic record. **Only ACT scores earned prior to senior year are considered.** Top scholars who enroll in a ND college or university will be awarded an in-state tuition scholarship. Funding is available for approximately 30-40 new students each year. There is no application.

North Dakota School Counselor Association Scholarship

A \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to one ND student. Complete essay: "My career path and who/what helped me make my decisions."**Deadline: December 2**

North Dakota Telecom Pioneers Scholarship

Four \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to seniors who have demonstrated a commitment to community service activities. Essay (under 500 words) describing volunteer community service is required. **Deadline: April 1**

Phi Delta Kappa Scholarship Grants for Prospective Educators

For seniors planning a career in education (must be ranked in top third of class). One local winner receives \$300, and competes at the national level for additional awards. Criteria includes: academic standing, essay, recommendations, school and community activities.

Deadline: February 1

Prairie State Plant Managers Group Scholarship

Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 will be awarded to a student entering a two-year Electronics or Telecommunications program at a college in ND (BSC or NDSCS). **Deadline: April 5**

Robert E Chase Scholarship

This scholarship is available to Morton County seniors. Looking for students who are going into Christian Ministry or seeking a vocation/technical education. See counselor for application.

Ronald McDonald House Charities Scholarships

The RMHC scholarship programs will award approximately \$3 million to graduating high school seniors who dream of going to college, but may not have the finances necessary to realize the dream. Apply online at www.rmhc.org. **Deadline: January: 27**

Ross Loibl Memorial Scholarship

Scholarships of \$1,000 are awarded to graduating seniors who participated in varsity basketball. Applicants must have a GPA of 3.0 or better. Other criteria- includes the student's work experience, community service, other extra-curricular activities and financial need. See counselor for application. **Deadline: April 1**

Society of Automotive Engineers Scholarship Program

An extensive variety of undesignated and university sponsored programs for those pursuing study in the engineering field. Available online at www.sae.org/students/engschlr.htm. **Deadline: December 15**

Southwest Grain Scholarship Program

Southwest Grain will award 8 \$1000.00 scholarships based on scholastic achievement, leadership in agriculture and a perceived ability to contribute to agriculture in the future. Applicants must be pursuing careers in an agriculturally related field. See school counselor for application. **Deadline: March 15**

Student-View Scholarship Program

Log on to www.student-view.com and complete a 15 minute survey about colleges to be included in a random drawing for scholarships ranging from \$500-\$4,000.

Susan B. Komen College Scholarship Program

Designed to aid college students facing financial burdens due to the loss of a parent to breast cancer or their own breast cancer diagnosis. The scholarship awards \$10,000 per year (up to four years) to a student to attend a **state** university in pursuit of a bachelor's degree. Selections based on scholastic achievement, community service, financial need, and demonstrated leadership potential. For more information and to apply for this scholarship, visit www.komen.org/scholarship. **Deadline: November 15**

Through the Looking Glass Scholarship

Five separate \$1,000 awards will be given to graduating seniors who have at least one parent with a disability. Download an application at www.lookingglass.org.

Tylenol Scholarship

The makers of Tylenol will award ten \$10,000 scholarships and 150 \$1,000 scholarships to students who demonstrate leadership in community activities and school activities and major in areas that will lead to careers in health-related fields. Download at www.tylenolscholarship.com. **Deadline: May 15**

USA Funds Access to Education Scholarship

Awards of \$1,500 to qualifying seniors with an adjusted gross family income of \$35,000 or less. Up to 50% of the awards will be targeted to applicants who are members of an ethnic minority or have a documented physical disability. Download at www.usafunds.org. **Deadline: February 15**

U.S. Bank Scholarship Program

Forty \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to seniors planning to attend an accredited four-year college participating in the U.S. Bank Loan Program. Further details, including college eligibility can be found on their website, www.usbank.com/scholarship. Recipients selected by random drawing from those who apply online. **Deadline: March 31**

U.S. Senate Youth Program

Two ND students will be selected to participate in the US Senate Youth Program in Washington D.C. Here, they will be instructed on the role of the U.S. Senate in the federal government. All

expenses are paid, and in addition, each delegate will receive a \$5,000 scholarship. Applicants must currently be serving in an elected capacity (such as student council). More at: www.usenateyouth.org. **Deadline: October 21**

Wells Fargo College STEPS Program

Wells Fargo will give away \$1,000 college scholarships to 250 high school seniors. Winners are selected by random drawing of those who register at www.wellsfargo.com/collegesteps. The first drawing is **October 31**

West River Telecom

West River Telecom will award 8-\$500 scholarships to high school seniors who are current subscribers of WRT. See school counselor for more details. **Deadline: March 1**

Win to Win Scholarship Program

Merck Respiratory will award scholarships of \$5,000 to two seniors with asthma in each of the following categories: performing arts, visual arts, community service, athletics, and science. Must demonstrate outstanding performance, received at least one award related to their category and have a minimum 3.5 GPA. Go to www.willtowinscholarship.com for more information and an application. **Deadline: April 30**

Working Ranch Cowboy Foundation Scholarship

The WRCF scholarships vary from \$500-\$2,500 per year and are for working ranch cowboys and their family members continuing their education in a collegiate, trade, or vocational program. **Deadline: March 1**

***Specific to New Salem/Almont seniors only.**

Deadlines and specific criteria are from the previous school year and are subject to change!

Choosing A Career

A first step in deciding what to do after high school is to talk to your parents, counselor, or teachers for advice. Talk to your school's career advisor about taking an aptitude test or interest inventory to find your strengths, weaknesses, and interests to discover potential career choices that are right for you.

- Learn about yourself.
- Values----- What is important to you?
- Interests----- What appeals to you?
- Aptitude----- What are you good at?

- Talk to People

Once you've narrowed your career choices, talk to people who are working in that field, job shadow, or find a part-time job in that field. It's helpful to ask questions such as, "What's good and bad about this job?" "How did you learn your trade?"

- Consider how much training you will need for the career you're interested in.
- High School Diploma: cashier, receptionist, salesperson, waiter/waitress, security guard
- Special career training: auto technician, firefighter, machinist, police officer
- College Degree: accountant, pilot nurse, engineer, teacher, public relations specialist
- Graduate Degree: veterinarian, dentist, lawyer, physician, research scientist, school counselor