

FINANCIAL AID SORT

Financial Aid Sort is part of the **CIS** computer programs. Financial Aid Sort enables you to identify financial aid available for education. A list is created based on your selection of criteria. You may view descriptions of the scholarships, loans, or other awards in the Financial Aid file.

You may answer a few of the questions or all of them. Use the "Aid Sort" pull-down menu to select the questions you want to answer.

Omit categories that do not pertain to you (i.e. Talent or Interest), this will help eliminate any scholarships that you do not qualify for.

1. **PROGRAMS OF STUDY** Some awards are for study in a particular field. Aid Sort will identify awards for study in any of the fields you request.
 - When you request one or several fields of study, your list will include awards for study in those fields.
 - At the same time, awards for programs you did not select will be eliminated from your list.

2. **ACADEMICS OR LEADERSHIP** Do you have high grades? Are you a leader in school or community activities? If so, you might qualify for awards based chiefly on academic achievement or leadership.
 - Academic Achievement and Leadership adds scholarships based mostly on grades, test results, and leadership.
 - Scholarships offered by sponsors who have academic achievement or school or community leadership as one of their top three selection criteria are also included.
 - Most of the awards may be applied to any field of study.

3. **FINANCIAL NEED** Is there a chance you would qualify for federal financial aid or other awards based chiefly on financial need?
 - Financial Need adds scholarships and loans for students who could not afford to go to school without financial assistance. It includes government grants and private scholarships.

- Scholarships that have financial need as one of their top three selection criteria are also included.
- Financial need is the difference between what it costs to attend a particular school and the amount you or your family is expected to pay toward those costs. Family contribution and financial need are calculated using the financial information provided by the student and his or her family.

4. TALENT OR INTEREST If you have a special talent or interest, you might qualify for awards in one or more of the following areas:

- Most of these awards involve entering contests, taking tests, or submitting performance tapes or essays.
- When you request one of several areas from the list, you will include awards coded for those fields.
- At the same time, awards coded for other talents or interests will be eliminated from your list.
- Using the omit option will eliminate all talent and interest awards.

5. PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS You might qualify for awards based primarily on family heritage, racial background, being a woman, or having a disability.

- Personal Characteristics adds scholarships that meet the criteria.
- Most of the awards may be applied to any field of study.
- Using the omit option will eliminate all personal characteristics awards.

6. ORGANIZATIONAL AFFILIATION Are you or is either of your parents affiliated with an organization or field of work?

- Organization Affiliation adds scholarships and awards that meet the criteria stated by the sponsor.
- Most of the awards may be applied to any field of study.
- Using the omit option will eliminate all organizational affiliation awards.

7. LOCAL COMMUNITY Some communities offer awards for local residents.

- Local Community is based on area of residence and/or attendance of school.

- Using the omit option will eliminate all local community awards.
- Southeast Area
 - Lincoln (includes Southeast Area awards)
 - Norris High School (includes Southeast Area awards)
- Metro Area
- Omaha (includes Metro Area awards)
- Central Area
- Northeast Area
- Mid-Plains Area
- Western Area

8. DEADLINE FOR NEXT FALL If you are looking for financial aid for next fall, some deadlines may have passed.

- This question allows you to remove awards from your list if a deadline has already passed. Awards with open application periods remain on each list.
- After getting a list of awards that you could apply for this year (for aid for next fall), you may want to change your answer to ANY to get a comprehensive list of awards that you could apply for in future years.

9. AWARD TYPE There are three types of awards: Scholarships do not have to be repaid or earned through employment. Loans are an advance of funds that the borrower repays. Other types of awards include internships, travel awards, cash prizes, and research grants.

- When you select only one award type (example: Scholarships or Grants), the other types of awards will not be included on your list.
- You may want to consider all types of awards when you answer this question the first time. If your list is long, you can change your answer to get separate lists of scholarships, loans, and other.
- Keep in mind that loans represent a large percentage of financial aid funds available. They are often less competitive than scholarships. They also need to be repaid.
- Internships and cooperative work experience programs involve work or service commitments. An added benefit is that they provide on-the-job experience that supplements classroom instruction.

10. EDUCATION COMPLETED Some awards are restricted to certain groups of students.

- Select "High School" if you are a high school student. That will give you a list of potential awards for your first year of college or vocational school. Awards restricted to current college students and other adults will be eliminated from your list.
- If you are interested in seeing a list of awards that you could apply for in future years, change your answer to Post High School.
- Select Post High School if you already have a high school diploma or its equivalent. Awards restricted to high school students will be eliminated from your list.

11. LEVEL OF STUDY Some awards may be used for study toward any degree. Others provide assistance only for undergraduate study, only for graduate study, or only for special study.

- High school students and students just beginning (or in the first years of) their undergraduate instruction can get a comprehensive list by selecting Undergraduate degrees. Awards limited to study at the graduate level will be eliminated.
- College seniors and others who are planning to study at the graduate level can select Graduate degrees to get a comprehensive list. Awards limited to study at the undergraduate level will be eliminated.
- Other awards also include internships or travel awards. These could apply to any student.