STEP 01
Find Out The FAFSA
While federal and state governments give out college grants, to be eligible, you'll need to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). There are so many reasons to fill out a FAFSA, but for the purposes of grants, you have to fill out a FAFSA so that the colleges can figure out the extent of your eligibility for financial aid. You don't have to keep applying $6,000/year for every year you're in school for the same amount as your FAFSA, since you can adjust your FAFSA each year and your financial need may change. If you qualify for grants, you can apply for grants, but don't be discouraged. With the variety of grants available for all types of backgrounds, financial need, and ability, there are many types of grants, and if you do your research, you just might find the financial help you need for college.

STEP 02
Discover Your Expected Family Contribution
Once you fill out your FAFSA, the colleges that grant you scholarships will send you financial aid award letters that let you know if you're eligible for any college grants. The next step is to fill out a FAFSA so that the colleges can figure out the extent of your eligibility for financial aid. You don't have to stop with grants — family contributions, work-study programs, and student loans as a bridge to close the gap between grants, scholarships, and tuition. If possible, try to avoid starting college with a lot of debt. Student loans can ruin your credit score and ruin your ability to make future major purchases like a house or a car. If you take on too much student debt, you may not be able to make the payments. If you qualify for grants, you can apply for grants, but don't be discouraged. With the variety of grants available for all types of backgrounds, financial need, and ability, there are many types of grants, and if you do your research, you just might find the financial help you need for college.

STEP 03
Understand Your Federal Grant Options
Learn about the different types of federal grants available to you. Grants are available for students of all backgrounds, financial need, and ability. You can find information on federal grants by visiting the website of the United States Department of Education. To find the grants that are available to you, you'll need to fill out a FAFSA.

STEP 04
Consider Grants From Your School
While the FAFSA is the mainstream gateway to financial aid, it is not your only option. You can also fill out a state-specific application to get access to grants and scholarships specific to your state. If you qualify for federal grants, you can apply for state-specific grants. If you qualify for federal grants, you can apply for state-specific grants. If you qualify for federal grants, you can apply for state-specific grants. If you qualify for federal grants, you can apply for state-specific grants. If you qualify for federal grants, you can apply for state-specific grants. If you qualify for federal grants, you can apply for state-specific grants. If you qualify for federal grants, you can apply for state-specific grants.

STEP 05
Consider State Grants To Pay For College
After you've gone through all the federal grants, then you can consider state grants. State grants are available for students who are residents of the state. State grants are awarded based on the student's financial need. State grants are awarded based on the student's financial need. State grants are awarded based on the student's financial need. State grants are awarded based on the student's financial need. State grants are awarded based on the student's financial need. State grants are awarded based on the student's financial need. State grants are awarded based on the student's financial need. State grants are awarded based on the student's financial need.

STEP 06
Explore Options For Other Special Grants
Explore grants that are available for students with specific needs or interests. Grants are available for students with specific needs or interests. Grants are available for students with specific needs or interests. Grants are available for students with specific needs or interests. Grants are available for students with specific needs or interests. Grants are available for students with specific needs or interests. Grants are available for students with specific needs or interests. Grants are available for students with specific needs or interests. Grants are available for students with specific needs or interests.

While the United States Department of Education is still the first place you should visit when applying for financial aid, federal and state programs may not be enough when considering all of your options for financial aid. Take advantage of all of your options, and don't just settle for the first option that comes along.