Share this email:



How to Spot and Avoid College Scholarship and Job Scams

Dear [--Merge1--],

Paying for college can be a significant financial commitment. For many students, scholarships, financial aid, and part-time work can make the difference between staying on budget and taking on additional debt. Unfortunately, scammers know how valuable these opportunities are-and they use that urgency to target students.

From fake scholarship notifications to fraudulent remote jobs, **college scholarship scams and job scams** can cost students money, expose sensitive information and put their financial accounts at risk. Learning to recognize common warning signs can help protect your identity and your accounts.

Common Scholarship and Financial-Aid Scams

Scholarship scams come in many forms, but they all share a common goal: convincing you to part with cash or sensitive data in exchange for financial aid that does not exist.

Upfront Fees and "Pay-to-Play" Offers

One of the clearest scholarship scam red flags is a request for money before you receive an award. A scammer may call it an application, processing or redemption fee, or promise a money-back guarantee.

The FTC advises students never to pay to apply for a scholarship. Legitimate scholarship-search companies may charge for their services, but they shouldn't guarantee a scholarship or require payment to receive supposedly awarded funds.

Guaranteed Awards and Fake Financial-Aid Services

Be skeptical of anyone promising guaranteed scholarships, grants or special access to financial aid. Some companies charge to complete the FAFSA or claim they can obtain aid you couldn't get on your own. The FAFSA is free to complete and submit, and you should never share your StudentAid.gov username or password with a company or consultant.

If someone encourages you to provide false information on the FAFSA to qualify for more aid, walk away. Providing inaccurate information can have serious consequences.



Unexpected Scholarship Notifications

Another common tactic is an unexpected message announcing that you've been selected for a scholarship or grant you don't remember applying for.

The message may ask you to click a link, provide financial information or pay a fee before the award is released. These are significant warning signs.

Don't assume an offer is legitimate because it uses professional-looking graphics, a familiar organization name or official-sounding language. Independently research the organization and contact it using information from its official website.

Watch the above video for more tips about protecting yourself from scholarship and job scams!

Want more quick money tips? Check out The Current for short videos and articles on budgeting, credit, saving, and more.

Our *All About Me* program can help you navigate the waters regardless of where you are in life or what your greatest challenges happen to be.

Visit All About Me

Beach Municipal FCU is not responsible for decisions made based on this content. This information is for reference only.

Beach Municipal Federal Credit Union
Est. 1970

beachmunicipal.org | 757.333.7787

As always, we thank you for your membership and the opportunity to serve you!

Download the Beach Municipal FCU Mobile App.

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

Apple and the Apple logo are trademarks of Apple Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries. App Store is a service mark of Apple Inc. Google Play is a trademark of Google Inc.

Follow Us:

Copyright © [--CurrentYear--] Beach Municipal FCU. All Rights Reserved. This email was sent to you by Beach Municipal FCU located at 4164 Virginia Beach Blvd, Virginia Beach, VA 23452.
Membership eligibility is required. For full membership disclosures and additional information please visit a branch location. Federally Insured by NCUA.

If you no longer wish to receive emails from us please go here.