

Unfortunately with all of the money revolving around college and scholarships, the opportunities to take advantage are too attractive for some people. Under the guise of helping to navigate the college and scholarship application process, some very sophisticated schemes have been developed to help separate parents and students from their hard earned money and valuable time. There is already enough to do when applying for colleges and scholarships; however, you must be wary so you do not fall prey to a scam. Anyone receive a letter inviting you to a hotel for special scholarship offers?

The Better Business Bureau (BBB) is a good resource to check the validity of companies offering financial aid assistance for college. Always check a company out through the BBB before you attend their college financial aid assistance session at some hotel. In most cases, you won't go!

## Here Are the Tell-Tale Signs of a Scholarship Scam:

**Guarantee of a Scholarship** — No company or organization can guarantee the receipt of a scholarship, especially before an application is submitted.

**Advanced Fees** — There is no reason to pay upfront for a scholarship search, since there are number of free resources online.

**Financial Information** — Bank account or credit card information is not required by legitimate scholarship grantors.

**High Pressure Sales Tactics** — No matter how much the promoter claims you can receive, don't give in to pressure to sign up for any product or service immediately. Ask for written information and then research the company and the product before committing to any contract or payment.

**Dodging the Question** — If you receive vague or evasive answers to your questions, this is a big red flag. Walk away.

**For a more detailed explanation about scholarship scams, visit the website below:**

<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0082-scholarship-and-financial-aid-scams>