**FINANCIAL AID SORT WORKSHEET**

Financial Aid Sort describes eleven categories that may be used to identify sources of financial aid for college. Within these categories, you select characteristics that match your educational plans, abilities, and background. Financial Aid Sort creates a list of scholarships and loans for you to explore further.

When you begin, no awards are on your list. As you select characteristics, matching awards appear on your list. You can print your financial aid list, get more information for any award on your list, and review and change your selection criteria.

Financial Aid Sort’s eleven categories and their selection characteristics are listed on the following pages. Read each statement and think about responses that you will make. Put a check mark (✔) in the circle (❍) next to your answers, or write your answers on the blank lines provided.

*NOTE: Selecting “Omit” for a selection category is very different from skipping a category. If you decide to omit any of the categories, you will remove any awards coded for that category from your list. If you simply skip the category, your list will not be affected by that category’s selection characteristics.*

**Item 1  What do you plan to study in college?**

Some awards are for study in a particular field. Financial Aid Sort will identify awards specifically for study in any of the fields you request.

When you use the computer, you can view a list of programs by broad program area (cluster) or alphabetically by title. For now, write down some programs that interest you or ask your site coordinator for a list of programs.

If you do not have a field or program of study in mind, skip this item.

*NOTE: If two or more programs are selected, the program will list awards for study in any of the programs listed.*

**Item 2  Scholarships Based on 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.

❍ Include awards based primarily on academic achievement or leadership.

If you are quite sure that you would not qualify for awards based chiefly on academic achievement or leadership:

❍ Omit awards based chiefly on academic achievement or leadership.

*NOTE: Each sponsor uses its own definition of academics and leadership. If you are uncertain about this category, sort on this characteristic to get a new list after you first get a list of awards that match your other criteria. Check the OPEN TO topic for each award to see if you meet their qualifications.*

continued on next page
Item 3 Scholarships Based on Financial Need
Is there a chance you could qualify for federal financial aid or other awards based chiefly on financial need? If you might qualify for awards based on these characteristics, check the option below.
○ Include awards based on financial need.
If you are quite sure that you would not qualify for awards based chiefly on financial need:
○ Omit awards based on financial need.

Item 4 Scholarships Based on Talent or Interest
If you have a special talent or interest, you might qualify for awards in one or more of the following areas. Check all that apply.
○ Fine Arts or Performing Art
○ Speaking or Writing
○ Science or Math Skill or Proficiency in a Foreign Language
○ Poise and Appearance
○ Sports or Competitive Games
If you do not have a special talent or interest in any of these areas:
○ Omit awards based on talent or interest.

Item 5 Scholarships Based on Personal Characteristics
You may qualify for awards based primarily on family heritage, racial background, being a woman, or having a disability. Check all that apply.
○ Family Heritage ○ Hispanic American
○ Any Racial Minority ○ Asian American
○ African American ○ Women
○ American Indian/Native American ○ Individuals with Disabilities
If you do not have any of these personal characteristics:
○ Omit awards based on personal characteristics.

NOTE: A few awards are for children of individuals with a disability. Select Individuals with Disabilities if you have a parent or guardian who has a legal disability.

Item 6 Scholarships Based on Organizational Affiliation
Are you or is either of your parents affiliated with an organization or field of work? Check all that apply.
○ Religious Affiliation
○ Union Membership
○ Affiliation with an Employer or Field of Work
○ Affiliation with the Military
○ Affiliation with a Club or Association
If you are not affiliated with any of the above:
○ Omit awards based on organizational affiliation.
Item 7  Scholarships Based on Local Community
List the county or region of the state where you live. (On computer you will select your area from a list of areas.) Financial Aid Sort will include awards for residents of your area.

If you are not interested in state and local awards:
☐ Omit state and local awards.

NOTE: When you answer items 8 through 11, you will be given a choice. You can apply your selection criteria to the list of scholarships you generated by your choices on the previous 7 characteristics (narrowing your list). Or you can apply your selection criteria to the entire database of financial aid (expanding your list to include awards that are not coded against the previous 7 characteristics).

Item 8  Scholarships Based on Deadline
If you are looking for financial aid for next fall, some deadlines may have passed. When you use the computer, you can choose to see awards with deadlines in the current month or later. You call also choose to see awards in any given month only. For example, “March or later,” or “March.” Write down the deadline you choose.

To include awards with any deadline:
☐ Clear selection.

Item 9  Scholarships Based on Award Type
There are three types of awards.
☐ Scholarships
☐ Loans
☐ Other (Includes internships, cooperative work experience, travel awards, cash prizes, research grants, teaching fellowships)

To include all types of awards, skip this item.

Item 10  Scholarships Based on Education Completed
Some awards are restricted to certain groups of students.
☐ High school students may apply
☐ Students with some post high school experience may apply

To include awards for both groups of students, skip this item.

Item 11  Scholarships Based on Level of Study
Some awards may be used for study toward any degree. Others provide assistance only for undergraduate study or only for graduate study.
☐ Undergraduate degrees
☐ Graduate degrees
☐ Special study such as internships or travel awards

To include awards for any level of study, skip this item.