

## ACCESS College Foundation Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. How does ACCESS help students go to college?

There are many ways ACCESS College Foundation helps our South Hampton Roads community and students become successful in their pursuit of a postsecondary education. Programs and services offered by the ACCESS College Foundation include:

**Early Awareness** – ACCESS has implemented the ACCESS Early College Awareness Program in the 2009-10 school year. The pilot program employs several initiatives including the employment of an ACCESS Early College Awareness Advisor whose outreach efforts are concentrated on middle school students and parents in public schools in Norfolk and Portsmouth.

**One-Stop Resource** - Provide a college advisor for high school students and their parents to help with researching higher education opportunities. Advisors offer assistance in identifying colleges and programs that match a student's interests, searching for financial aid and guiding them through the step-by-step procedure for the admissions and financial aid process.

**Parental Advising** - Assist parents in preparing for their child's postsecondary education through educational seminars and one-to-one advising.

**Financial Assistance with College Applications and Tests** - To overcome financial barriers for students whose families are not able to pay for college, ACCESS Advisors obtain fee waivers for SAT/ACT testing and college applications for qualifying students or ACCESS pays the fees for the SAT/ACT tests and college applications if necessary.

**College Tours** - When students are able to visualize themselves on a college campus, they are better equipped to take on the challenge of making the grades and navigating the college application and financial aid processes. The ACCESS College Foundation provides guided tours of a variety of colleges and universities in Virginia free of charge to the students ACCESS serves. Tours are guided by college staff, and include motor coach transportation, refreshments and/or meals and often provide on-site college admission sessions.

**Financial Aid** - Provide trained advisors for personal and confidential advising services to high school students and their families, supplementing the financial aid information provided by school guidance staffs and maximizing each student's financial aid opportunities.

**ACCESS "Last Dollar" Scholarships** - Award need-based scholarships to high school students who are pursuing postsecondary education.

**2. Is ACCESS just for the college-bound student?**

ACCESS College Foundation helps students identify and apply for a variety of postsecondary programs, not just four-year colleges. Community colleges, internships and degree programs are also valuable investments in education.

**3. Can I go to college even if I don't have the money?**

ACCESS College Foundation Advisors assist all students in the schools they serve in obtaining financial aid, regardless of their ability to pay.

**4. What if I'm not an honors student?**

A variety of postsecondary educational choices exist for all students who are interested in a secure future, however students must carry a 2.5 grade point average to qualify for the ACCESS "Last Dollar" Scholarship.

**5. Where can students, parents and donors find out more about ACCESS?**

Visit [www.accesscollege.org](http://www.accesscollege.org) or call (757) 962-6113 for more information or to make a donation.

**6. How are ACCESS Advisors different from public high school guidance counselors?**

ACCESS Advisors provide highly targeted services to students in the area of higher education, focusing on making it an attainable reality for students who may have not considered it a realistic option. The ACCESS College Foundation and its Advisors work in tandem with public high school staff to attend to every student who wishes to seek out education beyond high school. Successful partnerships have been forged with each of the public high school systems in which ACCESS provides services, with the Superintendents holding a position of the ACCESS College Foundation's Board of Directors.

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