

### WHAT IS A FINANCIAL AID AWARD LETTER?

This is a summary of all of the different types of aid being offered to you to help pay for college

### HOW DO YOU RECEIVE A FINANCIAL AID AWARD LETTER?

You must successfully submit an application for financial aid (FAFSA or your state's financial aid application)

### WHERE DO YOU FIND YOUR FINANCIAL AID AWARD LETTER?

Most colleges will have this on your student portal in a section labeled "Financial Aid"

### UNDERSTANDING YOUR FINANCIAL AID AWARD LETTER:

There are three types of financial aid that you may see on your award letter:

- **Grants & Scholarships (Gift Aid)**
  - Free money that does not have to be paid back
- **Work Study**
  - Money that you can earn by securing a campus job
- **Loans**
  - Borrowed money to help pay for college that you must pay back

### DO YOU RECEIVE ALL OF YOUR FINANCIAL AID AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR?

No.

- If you go to a college on semesters, you will receive half of your financial aid at the beginning of fall semester and the other half at the beginning of spring semester
- If you go to a college on the quarter system, you will receive one third of your financial aid at the beginning of fall quarter, one third for winter quarter, and the final third for spring quarter

**PRO-TIP:** If you've already applied for financial aid and you still haven't received anything, please follow up with your college's financial aid office