

## HIGHER EDUCATION: WITH YOUR RESEARCH

Financial aid helps you pay for study at a college, university, community college or business/health/vocational school. Financial aid is provided by the federal and state governments, colleges and private organizations to help you and your family pay for college costs — tuition/fees, room and board, books, supplies, transportation and other education expenses.

## THE BASIC TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID

**Grants and Scholarships** — You get grants and scholarships based on your financial need, academic ability or a special talent. You don't pay them back. Before you apply for a loan, be sure to get all the free money you can in the form of grants and scholarships. Use the free scholarship search at HESC.org.

**TAP** — New York State's Tuition Assistance Program is the state's largest grant program. You must study for a degree full time at an approved college in New York State, and meet state and federal eligibility. Part-time TAP is available for students who completed requirements as first-time freshmen in 2006-07 or thereafter.

## Work Study — You work part time in a job designated by the college. What you earn helps pay education expenses.

**Loans** — You'll probably have to borrow money for at least part of your education. Loans must be paid back with interest. Students and parents can borrow from the federal government and participating lenders. The New York Higher Education Loan Program (NYHELPS) is also available for New York students attending eligible New York State colleges, providing access to low-cost loans to help bridge the gap between college costs and available federal and state aid.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF SAVING

Grants, loans and scholarships help you pay for college, but probably won't pay the whole bill. So savings are very important, and it's never too late — or too soon — to save. New York's 529 College Savings Program provides a flexible, convenient, low-cost way to save for college.

This program lets your family and others set up college savings accounts with special tax benefits. For details, visit [www.nysaves.org](http://www.nysaves.org), HESC.org or call toll-free 1-877-NYSAVES.

## HOW TO QUALIFY FOR FINANCIAL AID

You will have to meet eligibility standards for each aid program. The standards are listed on the applications and at HESC.org. For federal aid, you must have a high school diploma, GED, or pass an Ability to Benefit exam and you must be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen with a valid Social Security number.

To get New York State grants or scholarships you must also be a resident of New York attending school in the state. For NYHELPS, borrowers must reside in New York State and the student must be attending an eligible New York State college participating in the program.

Federal and New York State aid is for study in degree-granting or other academic programs that have been approved by the U.S. Department of Education and the state Education Department.

**HOW TO APPLY**

The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is the key that unlocks the door to all kinds of financial aid programs. The FAFSA must be completed by you and your parents every year to apply for nearly all types of federal, state, or college-sponsored financial aid, including grants, some scholarships, loans, and work programs. Some colleges also have their own application or use the PROFILE form. Ask the college financial aid office.

## COUNT ON HESC FOR THE GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT YOU NEED

The New York State Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC) is New York's student financial aid agency. We have the programs, information and resources to help you afford a college education.

We administer the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) and more than a dozen other grants and special awards. We also guarantee student and parent loans as part of the Federal Family Education Loan program.

Our easy to navigate Web site, HESC.org, makes planning and paying for college faster and easier than ever.

It's the first place for students and parents to turn for college and career planning, including exploring careers and checking college fair information. You can learn what to look for when choosing a college and take virtual campus tours.

And you can learn more about how to pay for college, with everything you need to know about grants, scholarships and loans.

At HESC.org, you'll find online financial aid applications, award calculators and tools to help you manage your loans and grants, as well as helpful information and tips on repaying your loans and avoiding default.

## HOW YOU CAN PAY FOR COLLEGE



## THE BEST WAY TO COMPLETE YOUR FAFSA IS ONLINE AT HESC.ORG. HESC WILL LINK YOU TO THE FREE FEDERAL SITE WHERE YOU CAN LEARN ABOUT THE APPLICATION PROCESS AND COMPLETE YOUR FAFSA.

Paper FAFSAs are available from your high school counselor or college financial aid office to fill out and mail in. Make sure you use the FEE federal form; you don't have to pay a fee to get financial aid.

You can apply any time after January 1 of the year you're asking for aid. Remember, the year you must apply for financial aid every year. Be sure to supply an e-mail address on your FAFSA. It will speed up your aid process.

Keep copies of everything you file and be sure to meet all deadlines. The SAR shows your federal aid eligibility and expected family contribution. If corrections are needed, follow the instructions carefully. Keep a copy for your records.

**APPLYING FOR TAP**

Once you've finished your FAFSA online, a confirmation page will give you a link to the TAP-on-the-Web application. You'll be asked to establish a HESC PIN, which allows you to complete or make changes to your TAP application at HESC.org.

Your online TAP form will be pre-filled with some of the FAFSA data. You just review the form, supply any missing information, and submit it.

Even if you've mailed a paper FAFSA, you can apply for TAP online. HESC will mail you instructions.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

■ Once your FAFSA is processed, you'll receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) by mail or e-mail. The SAR shows your federal aid eligibility and expected family contribution. If corrections are needed, follow the instructions carefully. Keep a copy for your records.

■ Next you'll get a TAP/state scholarship award notice either by mail or e-mail. If more data is needed to process your award, you'll get a request for information from HESC. Be sure to answer it by the deadline.

■ The colleges you list on the FAFSA will get your application data and send you an award letter detailing all the aid you're eligible to receive.

Follow the instructions on how to accept or decline the offer of aid and supply any additional documents requested.

■ To apply for a federal Stafford Loan or Graduate/Professional PLUS Loan, you must have submitted the FAFSA, and then complete a loan application called the master promissory note. You will be able to complete an electronic master promissory note at HESC.org. Parents can apply for federal PLUS loans at HESC.org.

Contact your college's financial aid office to learn about its loan application process.

## BE A SMART BORROWER

Smart borrowing means borrowing only what you need and can afford. Remember, you'll have to repay your loan, even if you don't finish college.

You can easily decide the amount that's right for you using the online calculators at HESC.org.

Student loans can have different interest rates and repayment plans. Make sure you get the loan that best meets your needs.

## REMEMBER, IT'S A LOAN!

You must pay back your loans — even if you don't complete college or find a job in your chosen field.

You're responsible for paying the amount you borrowed, the interest, and fees. Repayment usually starts within six months after you either leave college or attend less than half time. It's up to you to set up payments with your lender.

If you have trouble with repayment, there is plenty of help available. Talk to your lender or HESC if you think there's a problem.

You can get your loan account information and details on repayment at HESC.org.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit our Web site at [HESC.org](http://HESC.org)

**HESC Customer Communications Center**  
1-888-NYSHESC  
1-888-697-4372

**Federal Student Aid Information or FAFSA Application Status**  
1-800-4-FED-AID  
1-800-433-3243



Your Student Aid Agency  
New York State Higher Education Services Corporation  
99 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12255  
[HESC.org](http://HESC.org)

David A. Paterson, Governor

## PAYING FOR COLLEGE For details and up-to-date information visit [HESC.org](https://www.hesc.org) or check with your college financial aid office.

| BASIC PROGRAMS   | Who's Eligible   | Amounts/Information  |
|--|--|--|
| <b>GRANTS</b>  | <b>Given for financial need or other reasons. You don't have to pay them back.</b>   |  |
| Federal Pell Grant   | Students who take at least 3 credit hours a semester and demonstrate financial need.   | Up to \$5,350, depending on cost of attendance. Use FAFSA to apply.  |
| NYS Tuition Assistance Program (TAP)   | Students who have to pay at least \$200 a year in tuition and attend full time (at least 12 credits). Students must have a C average after receiving 2 annual payments. Graduate and professional students are also eligible.  | \$500-\$5,000 for first-time recipients (undergraduates), depending on their family's NYS net taxable income, the tuition amount, type of school attended, and other factors. Use FAFSA and TAP Application to apply. Apply as soon as possible, but no later than May 1 of the academic year for which you want aid.  |
| Part-Time TAP  | Students taking at least 6 but fewer than 12 credits who in the previous academic year have earned two consecutive semesters of 12 credits each (24 credits total) and maintained a "C" average.   | Available for students who have completed requirements as first-time freshmen in 2006-07 or thereafter.  |
| National Academic Competiveness Grant (ACG)  | U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen and Pell Grant-eligible students who have completed a rigorous high school program.   | Up to \$750 for 1st year and up to \$1,300 during 2nd year if enrolled full time and maintaining a 3.0 GPA. Use FAFSA to apply.  |
| National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent Grant (SMART)   | U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen and Pell Grant-eligible students maintaining a 3.0 GPA pursuing a major in math, science, technology, engineering or critical foreign language at a 4-year degree granting institution.   | Up to \$4,000 in 3rd and 4th year. Use FAFSA to apply.   |
| Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)   | Priority is given to: Students with exceptional financial need • Students who receive federal Pell Grants  | For undergraduates, up to \$4,000 a year, with a maximum total grant of \$20,000. Use FAFSA to apply.  |
| Grants from Colleges   | Varies according to the college.   | Awards vary. Check the college's Web site, catalog, or ask its financial aid office for details.   |
| NYS Aid for Part-Time Study (APTS)   | NYS residents who: Attend a NYS college • Take 3-11 credits per semester • Pay at least \$100 a year in tuition  | Up to \$2,000, depending on NYS net taxable income. Awards determined by college. Contact the college financial aid office for an APTS application. FAFSA may also be required.  |
| NYS Educational Opportunity Program (SEEK, CD, HEOP)   | NYS residents who are determined to be academically and financially disadvantaged, according to state guidelines.  | Awards based on need. Apply to the Opportunity Program admissions office at the college of your choice.  |
| TEACH Grant  | U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen enrolled in a participating TEACH Grant Program institution; enrolled in coursework necessary for teaching in a high-need field; must agree to serve as a full-time teacher for at least four academic years in a school serving low-income students; visit <a href="https://www.hesc.org">HESC.org</a> for more information.   | Up to \$4,000 per year.  |
| <b>SCHOLARSHIPS</b>  | <b>Given for academic ability, special talents, or other reasons. You don't have to pay them back.</b>   |  |
| New York Lottery – Leaders of Tomorrow Scholarship   | U.S. citizen and a graduate of a NYS high school • Have maintained a B average for 7 semesters of high school • Demonstrate leadership skills and document experience in extracurricular and community activities • Must attend a NYS college full time and maintain a B average • Each high school principal will recommend 2 seniors • One senior from every private and public high school will be selected   | Awards are \$5,000 payable in increments of \$1,250 per year. Must complete studies within 5 year period. Contact your high school guidance office. Apply no later than March of the academic year for which you want aid.   |
| NYS Scholarship for Academic Excellence  | Students who are enrolled for 12 credits or more at a NYS college.   | Awards are: \$1,500 to the top graduating senior of each high school in NYS. • \$500 to other academically gifted students. Contact your high school guidance office.  |
| Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program  | Based on high school academic average and SAT score.   | \$1,500 (based on federal appropriation). Apply by March 1. For an application, visit the high school guidance office.   |
| Scholarships from Colleges   | Varies according to the college.   | Awards vary. Check the college's catalog or ask its financial aid office for details.  |
| <b>LOANS</b>   | <b>You must pay back your loans — with interest — so borrow money only as a last resort. You must not be in default on any educational loan, or owe a refund on any educational grant.</b>   |  |
| Federal Stafford Loan (Subsidized)   | Eligibility based on financial need. Financially dependent and independent undergraduate students, graduate and professional students.   | Low fixed interest rate loans up to \$5,500 for undergraduates, depending on year in school and dependency status; up to \$8,500 for graduate and professional students. U.S. government pays all interest while you're enrolled at least half time as well as during the grace period after you leave school or drop below half-time attendance. Apply using FAFSA and e-Master Promissory Note. Visit <a href="https://www.hesc.org">HESC.org</a> . <b>STUDENTS MAY ALSO BE ELIGIBLE FOR ADDITIONAL UNSUBSIDIZED FEDERAL STAFFORD LOANS.</b> |
| Federal Stafford Loan (Unsubsidized)   | You must use your maximum eligibility for subsidized Stafford Loans first. No financial need requirement. Financially dependent and independent undergraduate students, graduate and professional students.  | Amounts vary depending on year in school and dependency status. Fixed 6.8 % interest rate. You are responsible for the interest payments while you are in school; you can make the interest payments or have them added to the principal balance. Apply using FAFSA and e-Master Promissory Note. Visit <a href="https://www.hesc.org">HESC.org</a> .  |
| Federal PLUS Loan  | You must: Be the natural or adoptive parent or stepparent of a dependent student. • Not have an adverse credit history • Not be in default on any educational loan, or owe a refund on any educational grant. (This rule also applies to your child.)  | Cost of attendance minus any financial aid that the dependent student is expected to receive. Must be enrolled at least half time. Fixed interest rate of 8.5%. Repayment begins within 60 days after the full loan amount is disbursed, unless lender and borrower agree to defer payment. Apply using PLUS e-Master Promissory Note.   |
| Federal Graduate/Professional PLUS Loan  | You may borrow up to the total cost of education (as defined by the school), minus other financial aid. • Must not have an adverse credit history • Must first apply for maximum in Subsidized/Unsubsidized Stafford Loans   | Cost of attendance minus any expected financial aid. Fixed rate of 8.5%. Repayment begins within 60 days after full loan amount disbursed. Must be enrolled at least half time. Apply using FAFSA and PLUS e-Master Promissory Note.   |
| Federal Perkins Loan   | Participating schools give priority to students with exceptional financial need. Graduate students are also eligible.  | For undergraduates, up to \$4,000 a year, with a maximum total loan of \$20,000. 5% interest rate. FAFSA required.   |
| Federal Direct Student Loan Program  | See criteria for federal Stafford Loan Program and federal PLUS Loans.   | Available as an alternative to Stafford and federal PLUS Loans at certain colleges. Contact the college financial aid office for details. FAFSA required.  |
| New York Higher Education Loan Program (NYHELPS)   | Available January 2010 to bridge the gap between college costs and available aid. Eligible borrowers are U.S. citizens and NYS residents. Students must be enrolled or accepted for enrollment at an eligible NYS college at least half time and making satisfactory academic progress; have first applied for and received all state, federal and institutional aid to which the student is entitled; have an eligible co-signer who is a NYS resident. | Up to \$10,000 for a full academic year. Fixed interest rate is expected to average 8%. Go to <a href="https://www.hesc.org">HESC.org</a> to learn more.   |
| Alternative (Private) Loans  | Eligibility varies, depending on specific programs, institutions, or disciplines of study.   | Go to HESC Marketplace on <a href="https://www.hesc.org">HESC.org</a> to learn more about and compare multiple private loans with accurate and pre-qualified pricing.  |
| <b>WORK STUDY</b>  | <b>Work at a campus job to help pay your college costs.</b>  |  |
| Federal College Work Study   | Schools give priority to students with exceptional financial need. Graduate students are also eligible.  | Varies according to school policy. FAFSA required.   |
| <b>TAX CREDITS</b>   | <b>You may be able to deduct part of your college costs from your taxes.</b>   |  |
| Education Loan Interest Deduction  | Student/parent loan interest on a qualified student loan may be deductible from federal income taxes.  | Can reduce income subject to tax by up to \$2,500. Consult tax instruction.  |
| Hope Scholarship Tax Credit  | Taxpayers with an adjusted gross income below \$180,000.   | Up to \$1,800 in tax credit per eligible student; available only until the first four years of postsecondary education are completed.  |
| Lifetime Learning Tax Credit   | Taxpayers with an adjusted gross income below \$120,000.   | Up to \$2,000 in tax credit per return; available for all years of postsecondary education and for courses to acquire or improve job skills.   |
| NYS Tuition Tax Credit / Deduction   | NYS taxpayers with family members in college.  | May claim a credit or deduction for tuition paid for self, spouse, or dependent student. Consult tax instruction.  |
| NY's 529 College Savings Plan  | A flexible, convenient, and low-cost way to save for college. Open to all U.S. citizens and resident aliens with a valid Social Security or taxpayer identification number and a permanent U.S. address.   | Withdrawals are exempt from New York State income tax when used for qualified higher-education expenses. NYS taxpayers who are account owners can also deduct up to \$5,000 of contributions (\$10,000 for a married couple filing jointly) on their state income tax return each year.  |
| <b>SPECIAL PROGRAMS</b>  | <b>These grants and scholarships cover students in specific circumstances.</b>   |  |
| NYS Aid to Native Americans  | Members on the official tribal roll of a NYS tribe • Children of those members   | \$2,000 a year for 12 or more credits per semester; prorated amounts available for students taking fewer than 12 credits. Native American Education Unit, NYS Education Department, Education Building Annex, Room 475, Albany, NY 12234 • (518) 474-0537. Apply by July 15 for fall semester, December 31 for spring semester, May 20 for summer session.   |
| Aid to Native American Indians   | Needy applicants who are: At least one-quarter American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut • An enrolled member of a federally recognized tribe • Attending college full time  | Bureau of Indian Affairs/Education, South & Eastern States Agency, MS2559-MIB, 1849 C Street NW, Washington DC 20240, (202) 208-3478.  |
| Segal AmeriCorps Education Award   | Members of AmeriCorps programs who have completed their community service.   | Up to \$4,725 after completing 1,700 hours of service; \$2,363 upon completing 900 hours. Living allowances, health insurance, and child care may be included. Visit <a href="http://www.americorps.org">www.americorps.org</a> .  |
| Flight 587 Memorial Scholarship<br>Flight 3407 Memorial Scholarship  | Children, spouses and financial dependents of individuals killed in American Airlines Flight 587's crash in Queens, NY on Nov. 12, 2001 and Continental Flight 3407's crash in Buffalo, NY on Feb. 12, 2009. Must be full-time undergraduate student in an approved program in NYS. Flight 587 students already enrolled in undergraduate institutions outside New York on Nov. 12, 2001 are also eligible.  | Actual tuition costs or SUNY undergraduate tuition, whichever is less.* Also provides for nontuition costs in combination with other programs. Visit <a href="https://www.hesc.org">HESC.org</a> .   |
| Loan Forgiveness Award Programs  | Available for: Teachers at designated schools • NYS licensed social workers with at least one year working in a critical human service area • Licensed Registered Nurses on nursing faculty or adjunct clinical faculty • Experienced attorneys employed in district attorney offices or employed as indigent legal service attorneys in NYS   | Amounts vary based on profession. Visit <a href="https://www.hesc.org">HESC.org</a> . Contact the school you attended for details.   |
| NYS Math and Science Teaching Incentive Program  | Applicants must: Be U.S. citizens or eligible non-citizens • Be matriculated in an approved undergraduate or graduate program at a degree-granting institution in NYS leading to a career as a math or science teacher in secondary education • Have a cumulative college GPA of 2.5 or higher • Complete a service agreement teaching math or science in a NYS secondary school   | Annual award for full-time study is equal to the annual resident tuition at SUNY or actual tuition charged, whichever is less, for up to four years of full-time undergraduate study and one year of full-time graduate study while matriculated in an approved program leading to permanent certification as a secondary education teacher in math or science. Eligibility form at <a href="https://www.hesc.org">HESC.org</a> .  |
| NYS Memorial Scholarships for Families of Deceased Firefighters, Volunteer Firefighters, Police Officers, Peace Officers and Emergency Medical Service Workers | Children or spouse of a police officer, firefighter, or emergency medical service worker who died as a result of injuries sustained in the line of duty. Students must attend full time.   | Actual tuition costs or SUNY undergraduate tuition, whichever is less.* Also provides for nontuition costs in combination with other programs. Apply by May 1 of the academic year for which you want aid. Eligibility form at <a href="https://www.hesc.org">HESC.org</a> .   |
| NYS World Trade Center Memorial Scholarship  | Children, spouses and financial dependents of deceased or severely and permanently disabled victims of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States or the subsequent rescue and recovery operations. New York State residency and U.S. citizenship not required.   | Up to the published cost of attendance at a SUNY or CUNY college or an equivalent amount at a private/independent college.* Apply at <a href="https://www.hesc.org">HESC.org</a> .   |
| Senator Patricia K. McGee Nursing Faculty Scholarship  | Licensed Registered Nurses in NYS who have been accepted in a master's nursing program at an approved institution in NYS.  | Applicants must provide at least 12 credit hours as nursing faculty or adjunct clinical faculty providing teaching service for four years at a NYS institution after completing their master's program. Apply at <a href="https://www.hesc.org">HESC.org</a> .   |
| <b>MILITARY CORNER</b>   | <b>These programs cover current and past members of the military and their families.</b>   |  |
| NYS Regents Awards for Children of Deceased and Disabled Veterans  | Students whose parents served in the U.S. armed forces during specified time periods and, as a result of such service died, were discharged honorably and suffer 40% or more disability, or are former POWs or are MIA.  | \$450* per year. Contact HESC Scholarship Unit at 1-888-NYSHESC (1-888-697-4372) or e-mail <a href="mailto:militarycorner@hesc.org">militarycorner@hesc.org</a> . Eligibility form at <a href="https://www.hesc.org">HESC.org</a> .  |
| Military Service Recognition Scholarship   | Children, spouses and financial dependents of those who while NYS residents serving in the U.S. armed forces or state militia on or after 8/2/90 died, became severely or permanently disabled or were classified MIA.   | Up to the published cost of attendance at a SUNY or CUNY college or an equivalent amount at a private/independent college.* Contact the HESC Scholarship Unit at 1-888-NYSHESC (1-888-697-4372) or e-mail <a href="mailto:militarycorner@hesc.org">militarycorner@hesc.org</a> . Eligibility form at <a href="https://www.hesc.org">HESC.org</a> .   |
| Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) Scholarship  | Eligibility based on high school record and other criteria. Students must serve up to 8 years (combined active duty and reserve service) in return for a 4 year scholarship.   | Up to full tuition – plus fees, an allowance for books, and a monthly stipend. Contact the high school guidance office, the college ROTC Unit, or the local Army, Navy, or Air Force recruiting office. Apply by December of high school senior year.  |
| Veterans Tuition Award   | Eligible veterans matriculated at an undergraduate or graduate degree-granting institution or in an approved NYS vocational training program.  | Actual tuition costs or SUNY undergraduate tuition, whichever is less,* for full-time study; prorated for part-time study. Contact HESC Scholarship Unit at 1-888-NYSHESC (1-888-697-4372) or e-mail <a href="mailto:militarycorner@hesc.org">militarycorner@hesc.org</a> . Eligibility form at <a href="https://www.hesc.org">HESC.org</a> .  |
| <b>Other Resources:</b>  |  |  |
| Military Residency Waiver  | NYS residency eligibility requirement for receipt of awards administered by HESC is waived for a member, spouse or dependent of the U.S. armed forces on full-time active duty and stationed in this state.  | Contact the HESC Scholarship Unit at 1-888-NYSHESC (1-888-697-4372) or e-mail <a href="mailto:militarycorner@hesc.org">militarycorner@hesc.org</a> .   |
| NYS Division of Military and Naval Affairs   | Programs for active duty members and veterans.   | Information and applications may be obtained from the NYS Division of Military and Naval Affairs. Visit <a href="http://www.dmna.state.ny.us">www.dmna.state.ny.us</a> .   |
| Veterans Affairs   | Programs for: Eligible veterans • Children and spouses of deceased veterans • Children of service-connected disabled veterans  | Call 1-800-827-1000, or contact any regional Department of Veterans Affairs office or visit <a href="http://www.gbill.va.gov">www.gbill.va.gov</a> .   |

\*To comply with the statutorily mandated savings included in the current New York State budget, the award amount to each student will be reduced by 2 percent in 2009-10.