

HOW TO APPLY FOR STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

What Is Student Financial Aid?

Financial aid helps pay college costs. It comes from the federal government as Pell Grants, Work-Study, Perkins Loans, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, and the federal loan programs. These include Stafford (student) and PLUS (parent) loans.

New York State financial aid consists of the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP), Aid for Part-Time Study (APTS), scholarships, and other special awards.

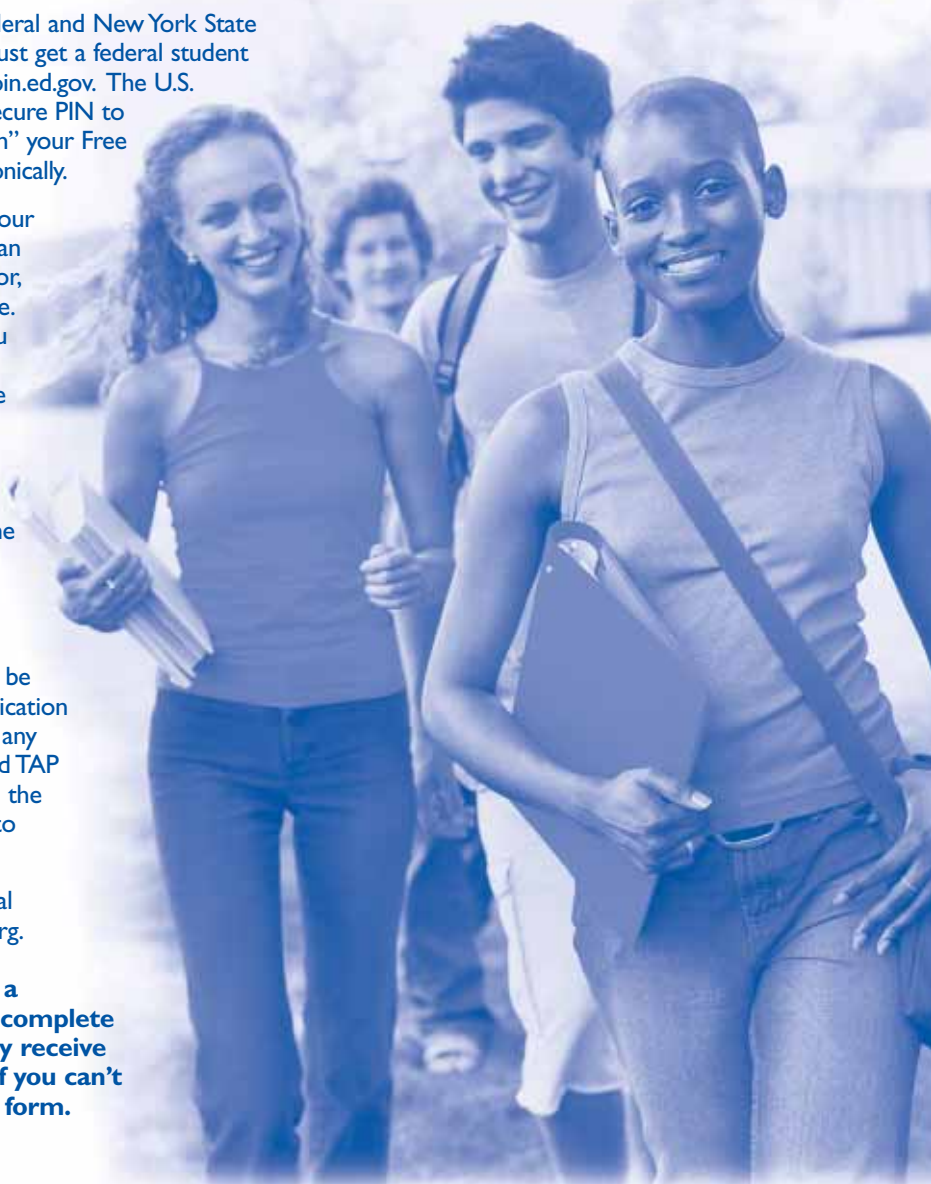
Financial aid from colleges can be institutional grants, scholarships, work programs, and loans.

Get the best information at: www.hesc.org

How Do I Apply For Financial Aid?

- Use the Web! It's faster and easier. To apply for federal and New York State financial aid electronically, you and your parents must get a federal student aid Personal Identification Number (PIN) at www.pin.ed.gov. The U.S. Department of Education will mail or e-mail the secure PIN to you in about one week. You can use the PIN to "sign" your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) electronically.
- Complete and submit the FAFSA. You should file your FAFSA electronically at www.fafsa.ed.gov, or you can get a paper FAFSA from your high school counselor, the local library, or your college's financial aid office. If you completed a FAFSA in the previous year, you will receive a notice to go to your renewal FAFSA online using your PIN at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Be sure to file early to meet deadlines!
- If you are a New York State resident, and include a New York school in "Step Six" of your FAFSA, you should also apply for New York State aid online by using the special link on the FAFSA Submission Confirmation page. You will also need to establish a HESC PIN to complete your TAP application. Information from your FAFSA and your family's calculated New York State net taxable income will be pre-filled on your TAP application. Review the application information, change any incorrect items, complete any missing items, then submit the form. If you received TAP in the previous year, and your information remains the same, you may not need to file a TAP application to receive an award.
- Remember, applying for New York State and federal student aid is FREE! Start by going to www.hesc.org.

If you are a New York resident and have listed a New York school on the FAFSA, but did NOT complete a TAP application online, you will automatically receive a notice from HESC reminding you to do so. If you can't apply online, you will be mailed an application form.



What's Next?

- Once the FAFSA is processed, you will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) or a Correction FAFSA. If you filed the FAFSA-on-the-Web, you will receive your SAR by mail in about two weeks. If corrections are needed, follow the instructions carefully and correct any missing or inaccurate information. If requested, take or send the SAR to your college financial aid office. Keep a copy for your records.
- Make sure to watch for e-mail notices. If you give your e-mail address on the FAFSA, HESC will use it to tell you about your application and award status or ask for more information.
- Be sure to respond to any requests by the deadline or you could lose your eligibility for financial aid.
- The college financial aid office will send you an award letter detailing the aid you are eligible to receive based on your application. Accept or decline the offer of aid by the deadline. Supply any additional documents requested.
- To apply for a Federal Stafford Loan (student loan), you must submit the FAFSA and complete a Master Promissory Note (MPN). Contact the financial aid office to find out about the loan application procedure your school uses. You can submit and sign your Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) promissory note at www.hesc.org. Go to the Student section of our Web site and click on the hot button "Complete your e-MPN."
- You can check the status of your TAP and FFEL student loan applications at www.hesc.org. Click on the hot button "Student Account."

To Complete Your Financial Aid Application, You Will Need This Information.

- W-2 forms, or end-of-year pay stubs;
- Records of last year's untaxed income, such as child support and untaxed income from such agencies as: Social Services, Social Security, and the Veteran's Administration;
- Federal and state income tax forms for you, your parents, or your spouse; if married;
- Bank account balances; lists of stocks, bonds and other assets; and both the estimated value and mortgage balance of other real estate (not including your home).

Important Reminders

- Meet the deadlines. Check with each school, and file in time to meet the earliest deadline. You can file your financial aid applications using estimated income (if your tax forms have not been completed). The most accurate estimated income figures can be taken from end-of-year pay stubs or W-2 forms.
- Apply for financial aid every year. Financial aid programs change. Changes in your situation can affect your eligibility.
- Don't pay for financial aid information that you can get for free — see your counselor or college advisor, or visit www.hesc.org.
- Attend financial aid workshops. Usually sponsored by the school counseling office, financial aid workshops can provide valuable help in filling out the forms and learning about aid programs. Forms workshops are held during January and February. Talk to your high school counselor or local college financial aid administrator for dates and locations.



Your Student Aid Agency

New York State Higher Education Services Corporation
99 Washington Avenue • Albany, New York 12255
1-888-NYSHESC (1-888-697-4372) • www.hesc.org