



Applying for 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), and many special scholarships and awards. Financial aid from colleges can be institutional grants, scholarships, work programs, and loans.

Remember, applying for New York State and federal student aid is FREE! Use the Web! It's faster and easier. Start by going to www.hesc.org. HESC is New York's financial aid agency. The HESC Web site gives you safe links to the entire college aid process.

To apply for federal financial aid electronically, you and your parents must get federal student aid Personal Identification Numbers (PIN). To get the federal PIN, go to 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 the 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. To get a New York State PIN, go to www.hesc.org; click on "Student, Families & Counselors," then go to "Apply for TAP." 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.

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 file 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.
- ✎ Watch for e-mail notices. If you give your e-mail address on the FAFSA, HESC will send your application and award status information, or ask for more information electronically.
- ✎ 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 received based on your application. Accept or decline the offer of aid by the deadline. Supply any additional documents requested.
- ✎ If your award letter indicates you are eligible and you need 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 sponsored by the school counseling office or a local college. They will help you fill out the forms and learn 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 College Admission and Financial Aid Application Schedule

September

- ✍ Register for the SAT I/II or ACT.
- ✍ Be sure your courses meet requirements for high school graduation.
- ✍ Get letters of recommendation from teachers, employers, and others who know you well.
- ✍ Decide whether you should apply for an "early admission decision."
- ✍ Plan to visit colleges to which you are applying.
- ✍ Review deadlines for specific college programs.

October

- ✍ Make a final check and review of your school records.
- ✍ Attend college nights or conferences.
- ✍ Register for SAT I/II or ACT if you have not yet done so.
- ✍ Work on applications; request transcripts be sent to the colleges to which you are applying.
- ✍ Schedule a planning conference with your college advisor/counselor.
- ✍ Apply for any scholarships/awards from local groups/organizations.

- ✍ ATTEND THE COLLEGE FAIR IN YOUR AREA!

November

- ✍ Consult your college advisor/counselor and college catalogs for required Achievement Tests other than SAT or ACT.
- ✍ Attend financial aid workshops and seminars.
- ✍ Complete your admissions applications and essays, if required.
- ✍ Register for SAT I/II or ACT, if you have not yet done so.
- ✍ Check bulletin boards for financial aid workshops, scholarship announcements, and visits by college representatives.

December

- ✍ Get a Federal Student Aid Personal Identification Number (PIN) for you and your parents.
- ✍ Get student financial aid application forms.
- ✍ Check college application due dates.
- ✍ Colleges send early admissions notices.
- ✍ Talk to alumni and college friends during the holidays.

January

- ✍ Attend financial aid application workshops.

- ✍ File the FAFSA and, if required, the college's financial aid application form.
- ✍ File your TAP Application online at the end of the FAFSA.
- ✍ Remind your family to keep copies of all tax returns.
- ✍ Are all your college applications submitted? Any deadlines approaching?
- ✍ Keep a folder to track college applications.
- ✍ Check bulletin boards for scholarships and financial aid information.

February

- ✍ Colleges may ask for your mid-year high school grade report.
- ✍ Are you maintaining your folder of correspondence?

March

- ✍ Colleges begin to send acceptance notices.
- ✍ Register for Advanced Placement (AP) examinations, if needed.
- ✍ Check your financial aid status at your college or university. Check TAP status on www.hesc.org.
- ✍ Start looking for a summer job.



April

- ✦ If you are accepted by a college, you must make an enrollment decision, accept or refuse the financial aid offered, and send in the required housing and tuition deposits.
- ✦ Colleges send out financial aid packages to accepted students.
- ✦ Review your financial aid package with the college financial aid office.
- ✦ Notify the colleges which you decided not to attend. If you decline admission, and have received an aid package, notify the college financial aid office so it can offer the award to another student.
- ✦ If you have to borrow money from the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFEL), or Federal Direct Student Loan Program, you will have to sign a promissory note which guarantees you will repay the loan.

May

- ✦ Send thank you notes to all those who assisted you, including college advisors/counselors, office staff, and teachers.

June-August

- ✦ Notify your college advisor/counselor's office of any scholarships received.
- ✦ Use your summer job to help finance your education.
- ✦ Get ready for your first year of college!



Student Information Phone Numbers & Web Sites

- Federal Student Aid Information Center for questions about the FAFSA Application (800) 4FED-AID (800 433-3243) (800) 730-8913 for TDD Access
- Federal Student Aid Processor for questions about the status of application or to request duplicate Student Aid Reports (319) 337-5665.
- FAFSA Express Application Confirmation (702) 555-1212 (each call \$5) or www.fafsa.ed.gov.
- NYS Higher Education Services Corporation, www.hesc.org. Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) and Loan Inquiry (888) 697-4372.
- Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) (202) 208-3711.
- Questions about the PROFILE Application www.profileonline@collegeboard.com
- Educational Opportunity Program (EOP/HEOP) (518) 474-5313 or contact your school(s) of choice.
- Mapping-Your-Future www.mapping-your-future.org.
- U.S. Department of Education Website www.ed.gov, FAFSA Website www.fafsa.ed.gov.
- The Financial Aid Homepage www.finaid.org.
- Immigration & Naturalization (INS) www.uscis.gov or check your phone book for a local office.
- Internal Revenue Service (800) 829-1040 or www.irs.gov
- Selective Service (847) 688-6888 or www.sss.gov
- Social Security Administration (800) 772-1213
- National & Community Service Program (AmeriCorps) (800) 942-2677
- Veterans Administration (888) 838-7697
- VESID (800) 222-5627 State Office or check your phone book for a local office

