



Category:  
Student Affairs

Responsible Office:  
[Enrollment Management](#)

**Procedure Title:**  
Student Financial Aid Application Information

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This procedure item applies to:  
Community Colleges  
State-Operated Campuses

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## Summary

Student Financial Aid is available from all State University of New York (University) campuses. This procedure provides an overview of what is available and how to apply.

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## Process

Student Financial Aid is available from all State University of New York (University) campuses. This procedure provides an overview of what is available and how to apply.

### To apply for student financial aid:

1. Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)—the online version (FAFSA on the Web) or the paper FAFSA.
  - Visit the [FAFSA website](#) for the online version;
  - Obtain a FAFSA form from:
    1. a high school guidance office;
    2. a college financial aid office;
    3. a local public library; or
    4. our Federal Student Aid Information Center by calling 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243).

Students can apply beginning January 1 prior to the fall term they plan to enroll, and have until June 30 of the end of the Spring term to submit the FAFSA. However, the application should be made as early as possible.

2. Review Student Aid Report (SAR)

After completing the FAFSA, the student will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR). The SAR confirms the information reported on the FAFSA and will contain an [Expected Family Contribution \(EFC\)](#). The EFC is a measure of a family's relative financial strength and is used to determine the student's eligibility for federal student aid. To receive financial aid, the student must have a complete and correct SAR.

### 3. Contact the University campus(es)

The student should then speak with the financial aid office staff at the campuses of which he or she is interested in attending. The student should make sure the campus has the information required to determine the student's eligibility. The financial aid administrator will review the SAR, and if eligible, will prepare a letter outlining the amount of aid (from all sources) the campus will offer to the student.

Students must meet certain eligibility requirements to be considered for financial aid including:

- Be a U.S. citizen or [eligible non-citizen](#) with a valid Social Security Number;
- Demonstrate by one of the following means that the student is qualified to obtain a postsecondary education:
  1. Have a high school diploma or a [General Education Development \(GED\) Certificate](#);
  2. Pass an approved ability-to-benefit (ATB) test;
  3. Meet income and academic performance standards for the New York State Tuition Assistance Program (TAP);
  4. Complete a high school education in a home school setting approved under state law;
  5. Enroll in an [eligible program](#) as a [regular student](#) seeking a degree or certificate; or
  6. Register (or have registered) with the Selective Service if the student is a male between 18 and 25.

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## Forms

[Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#)

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## Related Procedures

There are no related procedures relevant to this procedure.

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## Other Related Information

A complete list of federal financial aid eligibility requirements is available from [The Student Guide](#).

General Information about Student Financial Aid Programs:

Grants - Financial aid that does not have to be repaid. Generally, the student must be an undergraduate student and the amount received depends on need, cost of attendance and enrollment status (full-time or part-time).

- Federal Pell Grants for students from families with annual incomes up to approximately \$45,000;
- Academic Competitiveness Grants for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year students who are Pell Grant recipients and who graduated from a "rigorous" high school program;
- National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent (SMART) Grants for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year students enrolled in certain bachelor degree programs in math, science and languages;
- Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (FSEOG) range from \$100 to \$4,000;
- New York State Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) awards range from \$500 per year to the full cost of tuition (for students from families with NYS incomes up to \$80,000).

Work-Study - Money earned while enrolled at the campus that will help pay for educational expenses. The Federal Work-Study Program encourages community service work and work related to course of study, whenever possible. The student can be an undergraduate or graduate student.

Loans - Borrowed money that must be repaid with interest. The student can be an undergraduate or graduate student. Parents may also borrow to pay the educational expenses of their dependent undergraduate students. Maximum loan amounts depend on the grade level of the student.

Federal Perkins Loans are offered by participating campuses to students who demonstrate the greatest financial need. Any Federal Pell Grant eligibility must be calculated before a Federal Perkins Loan can be awarded. The loan is repaid to the campus.

Stafford Loans are made to students and PLUS loans (Parent Loans of Undergraduate Students) are made to parents through two loan programs:

- William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) Program: Eligible students and parents borrow directly from the federal government at participating campuses. Direct Loans consist of Direct Stafford Loans, Direct PLUS Loans, and Direct Consolidation Loans. The loans are repaid to the U.S. Department of Education.
- Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program: Private lenders provide federally guaranteed funds. FFELs consist of Federal Stafford Loans, Federal PLUS Loans, and Federal Consolidation Loans. The loans are repaid to the bank or other private lender that granted the loan.

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## Authority

[Higher Education Act, Title IV, Volume III](#), as amended through February, 2003.

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## History

There is no history relevant to this procedure.

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## Appendices

There are no appendices relevant to this procedure.

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