

Financial Aid Fact Sheet

CONTACT EACH COLLEGE TO FIND OUT WHAT FORMS THEY REQUIRE AND THEIR DEADLINES
ALSO ASK FOR THEIR 6 DIGIT FEDERAL SCHOOL CODE (needed for FAFSA).

FAFSA - Free Application for Federal Student Aid (required by all colleges) – www.fafsa.gov

CSS PROFILE - Only required by some colleges – check with schools – www.collegeboard.com

ETA - Express TAP (Tuition Assistant Program) Application (to get aid from NY State, this form must be filed) – www.hesc.ny.gov

I. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT GRANTS

A. **Pell Grant**

- 1 - Based on all monies coming into home, taxable and non-taxable income, parental and student
- 2 - Interest income, pensions, and other assets are also counted
 - a. Pre-tax contributions to tax-deferred accounts (401K, 403B, etc.)
- 3 - The amount of the grants depends on cost of the school and #'s 1 and 2 above
- 4 - Award is maximum is \$5,920 (for 2017-18)
- 5 - Can be used at any eligible school in the United States (and some abroad)
- 6 - No repayment

B. **SEOG (Supplementary Education Opportunity Grant)**

- 1 - Federal money distributed by colleges for Pell eligible students

HOW TO APPLY: FAFSA

II. STATE GOVERNMENT

A. **New York** – money can only be used in NYS by NYS residents

1 - **TAP**

A - Based on your student/parent NYS net taxable income (must be below \$80,000) and schools tuition rate

B - Award is from \$500 - \$5,165 (for 2017-18). Higher Education Services Corp. (HESC) determines the actual award

C - No repayment

- 2 – **Additional Academic-based Scholarships** – see Guidance Counselor or go to www.hesc.ny.gov

HOW TO APPLY: TAP form (mailed to you in March if NYS college on FAFSA)

- 3 – **Excelsior Scholarship** – For students whose parents earn less than \$125,000 – up to full tuition at SUNY/CUNY only – details still yet to be finalized

- 4 – **Enhanced Tuition Award (ETA)** – For students whose parents earn less than \$125,000 – up to \$6,000 per year to attend a private college/university that participates in the program

III. COLLEGES

A. **Academic Scholarships**

- 1 - Usually based on GPA and SAT or ACT scores
- 2 - No repayment (check conditions and length)
- 3 - Ask each school – Do you give them?

B. **Grant-in-Aid**

- 1 - Based solely on financial need as determined by the FAFSA and/or CSS Profile
- 2 - No repayment

C. **Work Study** (could also be considered federal student aid)

- 1 - Student is offered a job which helps pay for indirect college expenses
- 2 - Student earns these funds through employment
- 3 - Does not pay for direct costs/reduce bill

HOW TO APPLY: Use FAFSA form and for some schools the CSS Profile

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IV. LOANS

A. **Direct Loans**

- 1 - Student may borrow \$3,500 (1st year); \$4,500 (2nd year), \$5,500 (3rd and 4th year)
- 2 - Subsidized – need-based: money is interest free while in school
- 3 - Unsubsidized - interest must be paid while student is in school – students eligible for \$2,000 per year in addition to the amounts listed in item # 1
- 4 - Interest rate - for 2017-18 – 4.45%
- 5 - Student pays it back. No parental obligation
- 6 - The origination fee is 1.069%
- 7 - You must file a FAFSA to get a Direct Loan

HOW TO APPLY: FAFSA

B. **Direct Parent Loan (PLUS)**

- 1 – Credit-based loan
- 2 - Parents can borrow if there is a difference between total cost of attendance and financial aid awarded
- 3 – Can defer principle payment until six months after student graduates or falls below half-time.
- 4 – Interest rate for 2017-18 is 7.00% with a 4.276% loan origination fee
- 5 - If parents are credit denied they can seek a co-signer or the student becomes eligible for an additional Unsubsidized loan - \$4000 for 1st and 2nd year; \$5000 for 3rd and 4th year

HOW TO APPLY: Varies by school, but must file FAFSA

C. **Private Education Loans** (also called Alternative loans)

- 1 – Loans in the student name that require a co-signer from a private lender
- 2 – Can borrow the difference between the total cost of attendance minus financial aid – usually used instead of the Parent loan
- 3- School must certify the loan

HOW TO APPLY: Student applies with lender of choice

V. OUTSIDE SOURCES

1 – **Outside Scholarships**

- A - Check with Guidance Office about scholarships from local civic organizations, ROTC scholarships, GATES millennium
- B - Do not pay anyone to search for you and follow the simple rule – ‘If it seems too good to be true, it probably is’
- C – Search the web – two reputable sites are: www.fastweb.com; www.collegeboard.com; www.tuitionfundingsources.com

2 - **Athletic Scholarships**

- A – Register with NCAA Eligibility Center (www.eligibilitycenter.org) – this will provide student with requirements needed to participate in collegiate athletics
- B – Speak to high school and college coaches – a verbal commitment is not binding

VI. GENERAL RULES

- 1 - **APPLY EARLY** – check with each school for deadlines
- 2 – FERPA – Once student is enrolled, they must authorize the school to discuss information with parent or other persons
- 3 – Male students **MUST** register with Selective Service (www.sss.gov) upon turning 18 to be considered for federal aid
- 4 – Use each schools Net Price Calculator to help estimate actual cost
- 5 - FAFSA application can be completed as of October 1 of the senior year of high school
- 6 - **All forms must be re-filed every year**
- 7 - When in doubt call the College Financial Aid Office for an appointment