

APPLYING FOR FINANCIAL AID FOR THE 2008-2009 YEAR

Beginning January 2, 2008, students may apply for financial aid for the upcoming year, 2008-2009 (August 2008-June 2009). *The Free Application for Federal Student Aid that you are using now expires June 30, 2008.

The U.S. Department of Education will no longer be providing colleges with the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Students may obtain a FAFSA on the web worksheet to use as a guide in applying for financial aid. These worksheets will be available in the Financial Aid Office in late January.

Students may apply for financial by:

1. Applying online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Please use your Personal Identification Number (PIN) to login onto the website. If you do not use your PIN after entering the data you must print the signature page and mail it to the address on the form. Failure to submit the signature page will cause your application to be rejected and not be processed which will cause a delay in the awarding of financial aid to you.
2. Students who do not wish to apply online may request that a paper FAFSA be mailed to them by calling 1-800-394-7084.
3. Students may download a paper FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov. The paper FAFSA must be mailed in to be processed.

HELPFUL HINTS

1. Please use the 2007 federal tax return to complete the FAFSA. If you are not required by the Internal Revenue Service to file taxes, you must still report any and all income that you and/or your parents received in 2007. If you are independent, report all income that you and/or your spouse received in 2007. The Financial Aid Office is responsible for determining if you are required to file taxes and will not award financial aid to any applicant who is required to file but failed to file.
2. Please keep a copy of your taxes or documentation of untaxed income in case you have to provide verification of income to the Financial Aid Office.
3. If you apply online, once you submit your application to the U.S. Department of Education, you will receive a notice immediately stating that your application has been received.
4. Within 3-5 days of submitting the application online or within two weeks of submitting a paper FAFSA you will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR). It is very important that you read the SAR because it will inform you of whether there are issues with your application, if you need to submit additional documentation to Financial Aid Office or if you 'appear' to be eligible for the Pell Grant.

If there are issues with your SAR or you have to submit additional documentation, please visit the Financial Aid Office immediately to resolve any problems. You may also call the Financial Aid Office at 251-405-7015. However, please keep in mind that during peak times you may experience a delay in getting through to the office.

5. Once your financial aid has been processed please take advantage of online registration. If you register online you may also use your financial aid to pay your tuition and fees online if you have been awarded for 2008-2009. Once classes begin please make sure that you attend classes and that your name is on the class roster. If it is reported that you failed to attend classes your financial aid will be adjusted or withdrawn and it will not be restored after attendance is reported by your instructors (per federal regulations) during the first week of class.
- 6 Please review and make sure you understand the college's Standards of Academic Progress Policy. A copy of the policy can be obtained from the Financial Aid Office. Your academic performance will determine if you continue to be eligible for financial aid from year to year.

FINANCIAL AID DEADLINES

The Financial Aid Office will make every effort to ensure that you have financial aid funds available at registration to pay your tuition and fees and monies to purchase your books. However, the Financial Aid Office needs your assistance to ensure that the financial aid and registration process is frustration free for you. Therefore, to ensure that you do not experience any problems, the Financial Aid Office must receive your Student Aid Report AND any other required documents by the following 'priority' processing deadlines:

Semester	Deadline
Fall	April 15 th
Spring	November 15 th
Summer	March 15 th

Meeting the 'priority' deadline means that you have a 'valid' Student Aid Report, one that does not have to be corrected or was rejected, and all other required documents in the Financial Aid Office by the deadline date. It does not mean that you begin the application process on the deadline date.

If you do not meet the 'priority' processing deadline the Financial Aid Office will be make every effort to process your financial aid award but there is no guarantee that your financial aid will be processed by registration.

SPECIAL NOTE: The Financial Aid Office will not process paperwork on the spot when it is submitted in the registration arena. Therefore, please submit your paperwork to the office by the deadlines and before registration begins.

IMPORTANT WEBSITES

<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/> Students must use this website to apply for federal financial aid such as the Pell Grant.

<http://www.pin.ed.gov/> Students and parents of dependent students can request a Personal Identification Number or PIN. The PIN serves as the student and parent's electronic signature and provides immediate access to the student's financial aid information online.

<http://www.sss.gov/> All males that are U.S. citizens or alien residents, who are between the

ages of 18 to 25, are required to register with the Selective Service Administration. Failure to register with Selective Service will cause the student to be ineligible for financial aid.

<http://www.fastweb.com/> This is free scholarship database.

<http://www.coca-colascholars.org/> Provides information on the Coca-Cola Scholars Two-Year Colleges Scholarship Program.

<http://www.jackkentcookefoundation.org/> Provides information on the Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship Program that is available for students and recent graduates of community colleges

<http://www.hasf.net/> Provides information on the on scholarship information for Hispanic students enrolled at two-year colleges.

FINANCIAL AID OFFICE

OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
8am- 5pm

Wednesday
9am- 5pm

Phone: 251-405-7015
Fax: 251-

FINANCIAL AID STAFF

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