

Financial Aid Overview

The **BIG** Idea

- What types of financial aid are available to me, and what are the advantages and disadvantages of each?

AGENDA

Approx. 45 minutes

- I. Warm Up (10 minutes)
- II. Financial Aid Overview (10 minutes)
- III. Consider the Possibilities (20 minutes)
- IV. Wrap Up: Deadlines (5 minutes)

MATERIALS

STUDENT HANDBOOK PAGES:

- Student Handbook page 85, Help Me Pay for College!
- Student Handbook page 86, Financial Aid Research Sheet
- Student Handbook page 87, The Road to Financial Aid

FACILITATOR PAGES:

- Facilitator Resource 1, Financial Aid Overview
- Facilitator Resource 2, State Higher Education Agencies
- Facilitator Resource 3, Financial Aid Options
- Facilitator Resource 4, Financial Aid Research Sheet SAMPLE
- Facilitator Resource 5, Financial Aid From Best to Worst (one copy per student)

Overhead projector (or LCD projector and laptop)

Post-Its

Butcher paper or chart paper

Markers

OBJECTIVES

During this lesson, the student(s) will:

- Recognize that options exist to make college financially within reach.
- Understand the relative merits of various types of financial aid.
- Understand the role of the FAFSA (and CSS Profile) in determining financial aid.
- Identify next steps in the financial aid process, including deadlines for applying.

OVERVIEW

In this lesson, students review four types of financial aid—grants, scholarships, work-study, and loans—and receive information about how financial need is determined. Next, students re-search specific financial aid options offered through the federal and state government, as well as private institutions. As a class, they order financial aid options from most to least desirable, and defend their choices. Finally, they receive a handout that highlights important terms and resources, including deadlines.

PREPARATION

- List the day's **BIG IDEA** and activities on the board. List financial aid topics on the board. (See **Activity II, Financial Aid Overview** Item 4.)
- List the day's vocabulary words on the board.
- Make transparencies of **Facilitator Resource 1, Financial Aid Overview**, or create a PowerPoint using these pages.
- The following handouts need to be made into overhead transparencies or added to your laptop for display via LCD projector:
 - **Student Handbook page 85, Help Me Pay for College!**
 - **Student Handbook page 86, Financial Aid Research Sheet**
 - **Student Handbook page 87, The Road to Financial Aid**
- Meet with your school counselor prior to facilitating the lessons in this unit. S/he will be a valuable source of information concerning local scholarships as well as state financial aid programs and deadlines, and may be interested in co-facilitating some of the Financial Aid lessons.
- Update **Facilitator Resource 3, Financial Aid Information**, and make a packet for each student containing all four pages, as follows:
 - Log on to http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/publications/student_guide/index.html to view a copy of **Funding Education Beyond High School: The Guide to Federal Student Aid**. Use this guide to update the federal information on the first and second pages. Review the information in this guide, which will help you answer your students' questions about financial aid.
 - Use **Facilitator Resource 2, State Higher Education Agencies**, to locate financial aid

- information specific to your state. Create a page of state-specific financial aid information to replace or update the information found on the third page of **Facilitator Resource 3, Financial Aid Information**. (This list of state agencies is also available as part of **Funding Education Beyond High School: The Guide to Federal Student Aid**; you can consult it to make sure contacts are current.)
- Other financial aid info found on the fourth page.
- Predetermine how you will assign topics in **Activity III**.
 - For **Activity IV, Deadlines**, investigate your state’s deadlines for the FAFSA and state financial aid programs, which you’ll need for **Student Handbook page 87, The Road to Financial Aid**.
 - Consult www.fafsa.ed.gov for FAFSA deadlines, which vary by state.
 - Consult your school counselor or the appropriate State Higher Education Agency (**Facilitator Resource 2**) for other deadlines.
 - Place chart paper or butcher paper lengthwise across the board. Write “Financial Aid” across the top, and “Most Desirable” or “Best” on the left-hand edge and “Least Desirable” or “Worst” on the right-hand edge. (Students will place their Post-Its here in **Activity III**.)

VOCABULARY

CSS Profile: form frequently used by private schools to determine eligibility for financial aid.

Expected Family Contribution (EFC): an estimate of how much a student and his/her family can afford to pay for college for the next school year, determined by completing the FAFSA.

Financial Need: the amount of financial aid a student is eligible for, calculated by subtracting Expected Family Contribution from Total Cost of Attendance.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA): form used to determine eligibility for federal financial aid (and often aid from state governments and individual colleges).

Grant: also called gift aid, financial aid that doesn’t have to be repaid. Comes from federal and state governments and from individual colleges, usually based on financial need.

Loan: financial aid that must be repaid.

Scholarship: financial aid distributed according to requirements set by the provider, like excellence in academics or sports.

Total Cost of Attendance: all expenses for college, including tuition and fees, books and supplies, room and board, personal expenses, and transportation.

Work-Study: a federal program that provides students with part-time employment, usually on campus, to help meet their financial needs.

IMPLEMENTATION OPTIONS

Activities I and II: You may prefer to present a less formal overview of Financial Aid by listing what students already know about each category, then using **Facilitator Resource 1, Financial Aid Overview**, as a reference to fill in any gaps in their knowledge.

Activity III: If you think your students will have difficulty completing **Student Handbook page 86, Financial Aid Research Sheet**, model its completion using **Facilitator Resource 4, Financial Aid Research Sheet SAMPLE**, as a guide.

If you find **Activity II** and/or **Activity III** take(s) more than the allotted time, or if you feel your students will be overwhelmed by the amount of information in **Facilitator Resource 3, Financial Aid Options**, you may prefer to defer this activity to next week, or send this info home as a handout.

ACTIVITY STEPS

I. Warm Up (10 minutes)

1. [As students enter, ask them to complete **Student Handbook page 85, Help Me Pay for College!** Give them five minutes to complete the activity.]
2. [Place a transparency of **Student Handbook page 85, Help Me Pay for College!** on the overhead projector. Have volunteers list types of student aid and their characteristics, and use the chart to record what they already know. Designate any disputed information with a question mark and revisit it in **Activity II, Item 3.**]

II. Financial Aid Overview (10 minutes)

1. **SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** For the next three weeks, we'll be discussing financial aid—money available to help you pay for college. It would be great if there were one single source of financial aid – a warm, fuzzy blanket that wrapped up all of your college expenses. In fact, financial aid is more like a patchwork quilt – one piece from here, another from there. The good news is, you can still be completely covered. You just have to be aware of the steps needed to collect all the pieces. Today we'll take a look at an overview of the process.
2. [Display **Facilitator Resource 1, Financial Aid Overview**, as a PowerPoint or series of overhead transparencies, including the following information with each slide:
 - **What does financial aid offer?**
Note that you can get financial aid for all kinds of postsecondary education. If you're planning on attending a one- or two-year program, one of your first questions should be whether it is eligible for federal and state aid.
 - **What are the basic concepts of financial aid?**
(These terms will be defined in the slides that follow.)
 - **What's included in the Cost of Attendance?**
All college expenses, including shampoo and pizza (personal expenses) and bus or plane fare to and from school (transportation).

[Explain tuition and room and board if students aren't clear about these terms.]

- **What is the Expected Family Contribution?**
Programs that offer needs-based financial aid consider what families can afford to pay. That way, money goes to students who need it most.

- **What is Financial Need?**

This equation determines how much financial aid a student is eligible for.

- **Examples:**

In the examples, you'll see that the price of college varies. But the amount that your family is expected to contribute stays the same. Your financial need is greater at expensive schools. These schools often work with students to meet this need.

- **What are the major types of financial aid?**

- **What are the main sources of financial aid?**

- **How do students apply for financial aid?**

Colleges use two different forms to collect information on family finances.

1. The FAFSA is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Important details:

- The FAFSA is the key to federal, state, and school aid.
- Financial info from you and your parent(s) is required.
- This form is available online, and it's free.
- You may complete the FAFSA after January 1, not before. (We'll work on the online version later in the year.)

2. The CSS Profile is used by many private schools like Harvard or (name a school in your area).

- **What financial aid info will students need from schools?**

Check with the Financial Aid Office at each school to see what forms are required. (A lot of this information will be available on college websites.)

- **How can students find scholarships?**

Students can begin applying for scholarships now. We'll discuss the details next week.

3. [Take a moment to clarify any misconceptions identified during the **Warm Up Activity**.]

4. [List these items on the board, and refer to them during the following discussion.

Topics We'll Cover

- Kinds of Aid
- How to Apply, and When
- Scholarship Search
- Loan Info
- The paperwork (FAFSA and CSS Profile)
- Avoiding scams
- Comparing Financial Aid Awards]

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: We're going to approach the financial aid process in small chunks. We'll do an overview this week, and look at scholarship information in the two lessons after that. In January, we'll talk about how to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and walk through the online version together. In the Spring, you'll learn how to compare financial aid award letters, so you'll be ready when you receive yours from colleges where you've been accepted. [NOTE: If you prefer to teach these lessons consecutively, let students know the plan.]

As always, you should pay close attention even if you have no immediate plans to attend college. Financial aid is available for most education options, including tech and trade schools. And this information will be useful if you decide to attend college at a later date.

III. Consider the Possibilities (20 minutes)

1. **SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** Next, I'd like you to look at the financial aid programs that are available to students in our state. Here's a list of the many possibilities.
2. [Distribute copies of **Facilitator Resource 5, Financial Aid Options**, and let students know these are theirs to keep, so it's ok to underline and take notes. Assign a topic to each individual or group of students.]

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: Each of you will read about one type of aid listed in the left-hand column, and then present your research to the group. Please turn to **Student Handbook page 86, Financial Aid Research Sheet**, for a list of questions I'd like you to answer.

You'll have ten minutes to complete your research. When you've finished, please put the name of your type of aid on a Post-It, and place it on the approximate place on the chart where you think it belongs. The most desirable (best) kinds of aid should be on the far left, and the least desirable (worst) on the far right. Then we'll discuss your findings as a class.

3. [When students have completed their research, ask individuals or teams to justify their choices, explaining the advantages and disadvantages of each type of aid. See **Facilitator Resource 5, Financial Aid from Best to Worst** for guidelines re: grouping.]

IV. Wrap Up: Deadlines (5 minutes)

1. **SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** Fortunately, most of these types of aid can be obtained by completing only one form. Who remembers the name of this form? (*the FAFSA*) When do you complete it? (*after January 1*)
2. [Have students turn to **Student Handbook page 87, The Road to Financial Aid**, and provide them with the deadlines they need to complete the form: the FAFSA, the CSS Profile, and state aid (for example, TAP in New York State). If a separate application is required for state aid, let students know how to apply. Encourage students to take this page with them for easy reference.]
3. **SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** If you've not talked to your parents about paying for college, now's a good time to start. Whether or not they're planning on helping you pay for college, you'll need financial information from them when you apply for aid. You'll want to share this week's Family Newsletter with them, as it's full of useful information about the FAFSA and a few cautions about scholarship scams.

Next week, we'll talk about financial aid that you can apply for right now—scholarships. I'll see you then.



What does Financial Aid offer?

Access to funds to help pay for:

- 4-year public and private colleges
- Community colleges
- Private career colleges

Choice among schools

The best academic, cultural, and social fit rather than the least expensive program

ADAPTED FROM: The Fulfillment Fund, www.fulfillment.org

What are the basic concepts of financial aid?

- *Student* **Cost of Attendance**
- *Parent and Student*
Expected Family Contribution
- *Student* **Financial Need**

ADAPTED FROM: The Fulfillment Fund, www.fulfillment.org

What's included in the **cost of attendance?**

- Tuition & Fees
- Books & Supplies
- Room & Board
- Personal Expenses
- Transportation

ADAPTED FROM: The Fulfillment Fund, www.fulfillment.org

What is the **Expected Family Contribution?**

The Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is the amount a family (parents and student) is expected to pay from income and assets.

ADAPTED FROM: The Fulfillment Fund, www.fulfillment.org

What is **Financial Need**?

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{Total Cost of Attendance} \\ - \text{Expected Family Contribution} \\ \hline \text{Financial Need*} \end{array}$$

*Financial Need is the student's financial aid eligibility

ADAPTED FROM: The Fulfillment Fund, www.fulfillment.org

Examples:

	Community	State (Public)	Private
Cost	\$ 4000	\$ 11,000	\$ 35,000
EFC	– 500	– 500	– 500
Need	\$ 3,500	\$ 10,500	\$ 34,500

In the best of all possible worlds, full “need” will be met with a financial aid package made up of grants and scholarships along with reasonable amounts of work-study and student loans. Some schools are not able to meet full need.

ADAPTED FROM: The Fulfillment Fund, www.fulfillment.org

What are the major types of financial aid?

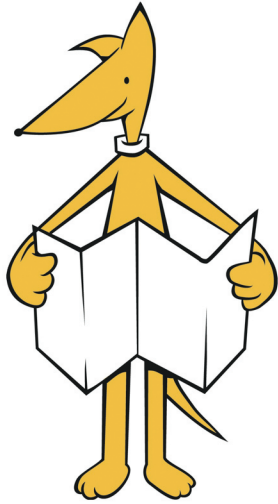
- **Gift Aid** — Grants or scholarships that do not need to be repaid
- **Work** — Money earned by the student as payment for a job on or off campus (aka Work-Study)
- **Loans** — Borrowed money to be paid back with interest

ADAPTED FROM: The Fulfillment Fund, www.fulfillment.org

What are the main sources of Financial Aid?

- Federal government
- State governments
- Colleges and universities
- Private agencies and organizations

ADAPTED FROM: The Fulfillment Fund, www.fulfillment.org



How do students apply for financial aid?

- Federal, state, and school aid:

FAFSA:

www.fafsa.ed.gov

- Some schools:
CSS Profile

www.collegeboard.com

ADAPTED FROM: The Fulfillment Fund, www.fulfillment.org

What financial aid info will students need from schools?

- FAFSA only or both FAFSA + CSS Profile?
- School-specific form?
- Deadlines?

ADAPTED FROM: The Fulfillment Fund, www.fulfillment.org



How can students find scholarships?

- Available from colleges, companies, community-based groups, and other organizations
- Usually require separate applications
- May require transcript, essay, interview, or audition
- Check with your high school about scholarship opportunities
- Use free scholarship searches

ADAPTED FROM: The Fulfillment Fund, www.fulfillment.org

State Higher Education Agencies

Listed below for each state are the agencies responsible for administering state financial aid programs. You should encourage students to apply for any available state aid as well as federal aid and private scholarships.

Alabama

Alabama Commission
on Higher Education

Toll-free: 1-800-960-7773

Web site: www.ache.state.al.us

Alaska

Alaska Commission
on Postsecondary Education

Toll-free: 1-800-441-2962

Web site: www.alaskaadvantage.state.ak.us

Arizona

Arizona Commission
for Postsecondary Education

Phone: 602-258-2435

Web site: www.azhighered.org

Arkansas

Arkansas Department
of Higher Education

Toll-free: 1-800-54-STUDY

Web site: www.arkansashighered.com

California

California Student
Aid Commission

Toll-free: 1-888-224-7268

Web site: www.csac.ca.gov

Colorado

Colorado Commission
on Higher Education

Phone: 303-866-2723

Web site: www.state.co.us/cche

Connecticut

Connecticut Department
of Higher Education

Phone: 860-947-1855

Web site: www.ctdhe.org

Delaware

Delaware Higher Education
Commission

Toll-free: 1-800-292-7935

Web site: www.doe.state.de.us/high-ed

District of Columbia

Office of the State
Superintendent of Education

Phone: 202-727-6436

Web site: www.seo.dc.gov

Florida

Office of Student Financial
Assistance, Florida Department
of Education

Toll-free: 1-888-827-2004

Web site: www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org

Georgia

Georgia Student Finance
Commission

Toll-free: 1-800-505-4732

Web site: www.gsfc.org

Hawaii

University of Hawaii System

Phone: 808-956-8111

Web site: www.hawaii.edu/academics/admissions/aid.html

Idaho

Idaho State Board
of Education

Phone: 208-334-1574

Web site: www.boardofed.idaho.gov/scholarships

Illinois

Illinois Student Assistance
Commission

Toll-free: 1-800-899-4722

Web site: www.collegezone.com

Indiana

State Student Assistance
Commission of Indiana

Toll-free: 1-888-528-4719

Web site: www.in.gov/ssaci

Iowa

Iowa College Student Aid Commission

Toll-free: 1-800-383-4222

Web site: www.iowacollegeaid.org

Kansas

Kansas Board of Regents

Phone: 785-296-3421

Web site: www.kansasregents.org

Kentucky

Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority

Toll-free: 1-800-928-8926

Web site: www.kheaa.com

Louisiana

Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance

Toll-free: 1-800-259-5626

Web site: www.osfa.state.la.us

Maine

Finance Authority of Maine

Toll-free: 1-800-228-3734

Web site: www.famemaine.com

Maryland

Maryland Higher Education Commission

Toll-free: 1-800-974-1024

Web site: www.mhec.state.md.us

Massachusetts

Massachusetts Board of Higher Education, Office of Student Financial Assistance

Phone: 617-727-9420

Web site: www.osfa.mass.edu

Michigan

Student Financial Services Bureau

Toll-free: 1-800-642-5626, ext. 37054

Web site: www.michigan.gov/mistudentaid

Minnesota

Minnesota Office of Higher Education

Toll-free: 1-800-657-3866

Web site: www.ohe.state.mn.us

Mississippi

Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid

Toll-free: 1-800-327-2980

Web site: www.ihl.state.ms.us/financialaid

Missouri

Missouri Department of Higher Education

Toll-free: 1-800-473-6757

Web site: www.dhe.mo.gov

Montana

Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education

Toll-free: 1-800-537-7508

Web site: www.mgslp.state.mt.us

Nebraska

Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education

Phone: 402-471-0032

Web site: www.ccpe.state.ne.us

Nevada

Office of the State Treasurer

Toll-free: 1-888-477-2667

Web site: www.nevadatreasurer.gov

New Hampshire

New Hampshire Postsecondary Education Commission

Phone: 603-271-2555

Web site: www.nh.gov/postsecondary

New Jersey

New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority

Toll-free: 1-800-792-8670

Web site: www.hesaa.org

New Mexico

New Mexico Higher Education Department

Toll-free: 1-800-279-9777

Web site: www.hed.state.nm.us

New York

New York State Higher Education Services Corporation

Toll-free: 1-888-697-4372

Web site: www.hesc.org

North Carolina

College Foundation
of North Carolina

Toll-free: 1-866-866-2362

Web site: www.cfnc.org

North Dakota

North Dakota University System

Phone: 701-328-2960

Web site: www.ndus.edu

Ohio

Ohio Board of Regents

Toll-free: 1-888-833-1133

(for information specifically
about Ohio programs)

Toll-free: 1-877-428-8246

(for information about other
sources of financial aid)

Web site: www.regents.ohio.gov

Oklahoma

Oklahoma State Regents
for Higher Education

Toll-free: 1-800-858-1840

Web site: www.okhighered.org

Oregon

Oregon Student Assistance
Commission

Phone: 541-687-7400

Toll-free: 1-800-452-8807

Web site: www.osac.state.or.us

Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Higher Education
Assistance Agency

Toll-free: 1-800-692-7392

Web site: www.pheaa.org

Rhode Island

Rhode Island Higher Education
Assistance Authority

Toll-free: 1-800-922-9855

Web site: www.riheaa.org

South Carolina

South Carolina Commission
on Higher Education

Toll-free: 803-737-2260

Web site: www.che.sc.gov

South Dakota

South Dakota Board
of Regents

Phone: 605-773-3455

Web site: www.sdbor.edu

Tennessee

Tennessee Student Assistance
Corporation

Toll-free: 1-800-342-1663

Web site: www.collegepaystn.com

Texas

Texas Higher Education
Coordinating Board; Texas
Financial Aid Information Center

Toll-free: 1-888-311-8881

Web site: www.collegefortexans.com

Utah

Utah Higher Education
Assistance Authority

Toll-free: 1-877-336-7378

Web site: www.uheaa.org

Vermont

Vermont Student Assistance
Corporation

Toll-free: 1-800-642-3177

Web site: www.vsac.org

Virginia

State Council of Higher
Education for Virginia

Toll Free: 1-877-516-0138

Web site: www.schev.edu

Washington

Washington State Higher
Education Coordinating Board

Toll-free: 1-888-535-0747

Web site: www.hecb.wa.gov

West Virginia

West Virginia Higher
Education Policy Commission

Toll-free: 1-888-825-5707

Web site: www.hepc.wvnet.edu

Wisconsin

Wisconsin Higher Educational
Aids Board

Phone: 608-267-2206

Web site: www.heab.wisconsin.gov

Wyoming

Wyoming Department
of Education

Phone: 307-777-7690

Web site: www.k12.wy.us

U.S. Territories

American Samoa

American Samoa
Community College

Phone: 011-684-699-9155

Web site: www.ascc.as

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Northern Marianas College
Financial Aid Office

Phone: 011-670-234-5498

Web site: www.nmcnet.edu

Federated States of Micronesia Department of Education

Phone: 011-691-320-2872

Web site: www.literacynet.org/micronesia/doe.html

Guam

University of Guam

Phone: 011-671-735-2288

Web site: www.uog.edu

Puerto Rico

Puerto Rico Council
on Higher Education

Phone: 787-724-7100

Web site: www.ces.gobierno.pr

Republic of Palau

Republic of Palau Ministry
of Education

Phone: 011-680-488-2471

Web site: www.palaumoe.net/school/post.htm

Republic of the Marshall Islands

Marshall Islands Scholarship
Grant and Loan Board

Phone: 011-692-625-5770

Web site: www.rmischolarship.net

Virgin Islands

Virgin Islands Department
of Education

Phone: 340-774-0100

Web site: www.doe.vi

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Federal Student Aid, Students Channel, *Funding Education Beyond High School: The Guide to Federal Student Aid 2009-2010*, Washington, D.C., 2008.
http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/publications/student_guide/index.html

Financial Aid Options: Federal

All information is for undergraduate students, and was compiled in the fall of 2009. For updates, visit www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov.

PROGRAM	TYPE OF AID	NOTES	AMOUNT
Pell Grant	Grant, does not have to be repaid	Based on financial need. Foundation of federal student financial aid, other aid is added to this. May be awarded to part-time students.	Can change yearly. Range in 08-09 was \$400 - \$4,731.
Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)	Grant, does not have to be repaid	Awarded to students with lowest Expected Family Contribution. May be awarded to part-time students. School Financial Aid Office determines amount. Depends on amount of other aid you get and availability of funds at your school. Not all schools participate. Apply early to get aid before all funds have been disbursed (distributed).	From \$100 to \$4000 a year.
Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG)	Grant, does not have to be repaid	For students enrolled at least half-time who have completed a rigorous high school program. For first- and second-year students only. Second-year students must have a 3.0 GPA at end of first year. www.ed.gov/admins/finaid/about/ac-smart/state-programs/html lists accepted HS programs.	Up to \$750 for first-year students. Up to \$1,300 for second-year students.
National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent Grant (National SMART Grant)	Grant, does not have to be repaid	For third- and fourth-year students in specific fields: physical, life, or computer sciences, mathematics, technology, engineering, or a critical foreign language. Must have a 3.0 GPA at the end of the second year, and maintain it throughout the grant. Details at ifap.ed.gov/dpclatters/GEN0706.html	Up to \$4000 per year for the third and fourth year.
Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant	Grant, does not have to be repaid unless you fail to carry out the service obligation.	For students completing (or planning to complete) course work in teaching. To receive the grant, student must sign an Agreement to Serve as a full-time teacher in certain low-income schools in high-needs fields for at least 4 academic years (within 8 years of completing (or ceasing enrollment in) the course of study for which the grant was received. Must submit evidence of employment to meet this requirement. <u>Recipients who fail to comply with these terms must repay the grant, with interest from the date of disbursement.</u> High-needs fields can be found at www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/pol/tsa.pdf .	Up to \$4000 a year for 4 years.

PROGRAM	TYPE OF AID	NOTES	AMOUNT
Federal Work-Study	Money earned while attending school. Does not have to be repaid	Provides part-time employment while you are enrolled in school. Is available to full- or part-time students. Work may be on-campus or off-campus in the public interest. If you attend a for-profit school, there may be restrictions on the types of jobs you can hold. School must be a participant in the Federal Work Study program.	At least the current federal minimum wage for work performed.
Federal Perkins Loan	Loan, must be repaid.	Based on financial need. Available to full- or part-time students. Repaid to school. Up to 10 years to repay, depending on amount owed. Amount depends on need, amount of other aid, and availability of funds from school. 5% interest.	Up to \$5,500 per year
Subsidized Stafford Loan	Loan, must be repaid.	Based on financial need. Must be at least a half-time student. The U.S. Department of Education pays interest while you're in school. 10 – 25 years to pay, depending on amount and repayment plan. Interest rate is 5.6%. FFEL: Lender is a bank, credit union, or private lender. Direct loans: Lender is U.S. Dept of Ed	Varies depending on year in school and whether parents receive PLUS loan.
Unsubsidized Stafford Loan	Loan, must be repaid.	Financial need is not a requirement. Borrower is responsible for paying all interest. 10 – 25 years to pay, depending on amount and repayment plan. Interest rate is 6.8%. FFEL: Lender is a bank, credit union, or private lender. Direct loans: Lender is U.S. Dept of Ed	Varies depending on year in school and whether parents receive PLUS loan.
PLUS Loan	Loan, must be repaid.	Loans for parents to help pay the cost of education for dependent students. Must be at least a half-time student. Parents must have good credit. Borrower is responsible for paying all interest. FFEL: Lender is a bank, credit union, or private lender. Interest rate is 8.5%. Direct loans: Lender is U.S. Dept of Ed. Interest rate is 7.9%.	Cannot be more than cost of attendance less other student aid.

Financial Aid Options: State (New York)

PROGRAM	TYPE OF AID	NOTES	AMOUNT
New York State Tuition Assistance Program (TAP)	Grant, does not need to be paid back.	Must live in New York State, and attend an approved postsecondary school in New York State. Be a full-time student. Have a “C” average after receiving 2 annual payments. Meet income eligibility requirements.	Up to \$5000 a year.
Educational Opportunity Programs	Grant, does not need to be paid back.	Programs for students who are academically and economically disadvantaged. Admissions criteria are set by colleges, must be a promising student not eligible for admission under traditional standards. Provide a pre-college summer program and ongoing academic support, plus additional financial aid. Program titles are different, depending on type of school: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HEOP – private schools • EOP – SUNY schools • SEEK – 4-year CUNY schools • College Discovery – 2-year CUNY schools 	Varies
New York Higher Education Loan Program (NYHELPS)	Loan, must be paid back.	Students must use all state and federal aid first; this loan helps fill in any remaining gap. Must be a New York State resident, or have a parent borrower who is a New York State resident. Must be enrolled at least half-time in an eligible degree-granting or certificate program. Need an eligible New York State co-signer with good credit.	Depends on cost of attendance and amount of other aid

SOURCES:

www.hesc.org (TAP and NYHELPS)

<http://oss.syr.edu/heop.php> (HEOP: This describes the program at Syracuse University; check with colleges you’re interested in for details on their programs.)

www.suny.edu/student/academic_eop.cfm (EOP)

<http://web.cuny.edu/academics/academic-programs/programs-of-note/seekcd.html> (SEEK and College Discovery)

Financial Aid Options (Other)

PROGRAM	TYPE OF AID	NOTES	AMOUNT
Scholarships	Scholarship, does not need to be repaid.	<p>Scholarships can be given by colleges to attract students with particular talents or interests (for example, athletic or academic achievement). They can be given by corporations as a gesture of community support or to encourage students to enter a particular field. They may be given by an organization (for example, a company, trade union, church, or synagogue) to help children of its members. Military scholarships are awarded in exchange for service.</p> <p>High schools or chambers of commerce may know of scholarships offered to local students.</p> <p>You must apply separately for different scholarships, and it's easy to get overwhelmed by too much information. Use a search engine to find scholarships that match your talents and interests, and don't forget to ask your school counselor about local options.</p>	Range from \$50 to \$20,000+.
Institutional Aid	Scholarship or grant. Does not need to be repaid.	<p>May be offered by colleges and universities when federal and state financial aid fail to meet all of a students' financial need.</p> <p>Decision is made by the school. This type of aid is most likely to come from private colleges and universities with money for this purpose. Institutional aid can make very expensive schools affordable.</p>	Range.
Private (Alternative) Loan	Loan, must be repaid.	<p>Private (alternative) college loans are made by banks, and are similar to car loans and mortgages. Bank loans have higher interest rates than government loans, and repayment begins immediately. Always compare interest rates, and be cautious about loans offered to you by "special invitation" or found by clicking on a link to the website of a non-government lender.</p>	Range.

Financial Aid Research Sheet SAMPLE

Financial Aid Program Subsidized Stafford Loan

What type of aid is this? (Grant, loan, work-study)	Loan
Who provides the aid? (U.S. government, state, etc.)	Can be the U.S. Dept of Ed or a bank or credit union
What are the eligibility criteria? (briefly)	Financial need, must be at least a half-time student
What institution determines whether a student receives it, regardless of eligibility?	Not sure.
What is the maximum amount?	Varies, depends on whether parents get a PLUS loan
If it's a loan, what is the interest rate?	6%
What are its advantages?	Dept of Ed pays interest while you're in school Only Perkins loan has lower interest rate Can take 10 - 25 years to pay back
What are its disadvantages?	Based on need, so higher income students may be ineligible Have to pay back
Other useful information	

SOURCE: OPTIONS CAPDI at Goddard Riverside Community Center, www.goddard.org

Financial Aid From Best to Worst

NOTE: State aid programs are not included on this list due to variations from state to state.

BEST OPTIONS:

Free money, scholarships and grants

Students may rank in different order based on perceptions of restrictiveness.

- Pell Grant — great to get, triggers the availability of others.
- FSEOG — amount depends on funds available at your school. Apply early while money's available!
- ACG — has academic requirements
- SMART — requires particular areas of study
- TEACH — requires 4 years of teaching in low-income areas in high-needs fields, or must be paid back as a loan, with interest from date of disbursement
- Scholarships — require a match between talents and personal characteristics and those the provider is looking for. Don't require financial need.

MEDIUM OPTION:

Work-Study

- A part-time job, good for expenses. Not good for up-front costs like tuition and room and board because it's paid throughout the year, via a paycheck as student completes the work.

WORST OPTIONS:

Loans

- Big drawback is they need to be paid back, whether or not you graduate or find employment in your field.
- Loans are listed in their order of desirability on the second page of Financial Aid Options, based on interest rate and repayment options.
- Private (Alternative) Loans are the worst option of all, the loans of last resort due to high interest rates. (Only credit cards are worse.)

Help Me Pay For College!

In the left-hand column, list each of the four types of financial aid. In the right-hand column, list at least one characteristic (pro or con) of each.

An example has been provided. Please list a second characteristic of a scholarship.

Type of Aid	Characteristic(s) of this Type of Aid
Scholarship	Doesn't have to be repaid.

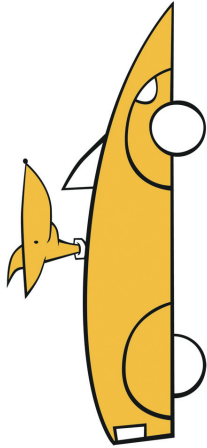
Financial Aid Research Sheet

Financial Aid Program _____

What type of aid is this? (Grant, loan, work-study)	
Who provides the aid? (U.S. government, state, etc.)	
What are the eligibility criteria? (briefly)	
What institution determines whether a student receives it, regardless of eligibility?	
What is the maximum amount?	
If it's a loan, what is the interest rate?	
What are its advantages?	
What are its disadvantages?	
Other useful information	

SOURCE: OPTIONS SOURCE: OPTIONS CAPDI at Goddard Riverside Community Center, www.goddard.org

The Road to Financial Aid



Free Money!!!

Grants

Scholarships

- www.fastweb.com
- www.scholarships.com
- www.scholarshipexperts.com
- www.collegeboard.com
- www.uncf.org
- www.latincollegedollars.org

Work Study

Part-time jobs arranged as part of your financial aid.

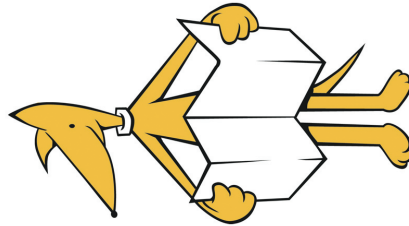
Timeline

First day to fill out FAFSA
January 1, _____

State FAFSA deadline

State aid deadline

Other deadlines:



Help

Financial Aid Info

http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/publications/student_guide/index.html
www.finaid.com

Loans from Least to Most Expensive

Perkins: Best federal loan with lowest interest rate & flexible repayment options. Opportunities for cancellation after graduation if you work in law enforcement, nursing, teaching, or some non-profits.

Subsidized Stafford: Reasonable interest rate, don't owe interest while you're in school, flexible repayment.

Unsubsidized Stafford: Reasonable interest rate, you pay interest while in school, flexible repayment.

PLUS: Loan to parents; need good credit. Lower interest rate than bank loans. Repayment starts right away.

Private: Use caution. Higher interest rates than government loans.

Credit Cards: Don't even think about it! Extremely high interest rates, payments due right away.

Financial Aid Equation

Cost of Attendance – EFC = Financial Need

Terms

EFC: Expected Family Contribution – an estimate of how much money you and your family can afford to pay for your education for the next school year.

SAR: Student Aid Report – summarizes the info you provided on the FAFSA and reports your Expected Family Contribution.

Cost of Attendance – sum of all college expenses, including tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, personal expenses, and transportation.

Forms

FAFSA: Form to receive aid from federal & state governments, as well as public colleges & universities. You must be a citizen or legal resident to use this form.

www.fafsa.ed.gov

CSS Profile: Form to receive aid from private colleges and universities.

<https://profileonline.collegeboard.com/prf/index.jsp>

State Aid:

Adapted from the Fulfillment Fund: www.fulfillment.org