

FINANCIAL AID

FAFSA (Free Application For Student Financial Aid) is only available on line. This document must be filed for any of the federal scholarship, grant, and work-study opportunities available at many campuses

- What is financial aid ?
 - Grants
 - Scholarships
 - Work study employment
 - Loans
- Questions should be directed to the financial aid office of the college your child is planning to attend
- Almost everyone is eligible for some type of financial aid, but you must apply to find out
- College goal Sunday is a date in February where they will help you fill out the FAFSA at FVTC or UW-Oshkosh
- Most of this money is awarded on a first come first get basis which makes it vital to file this document as soon as possible after Jan. 1

- www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov is used as an early analysis tool to look at estimate of financial aid package
- The application is filled out based on the parents' & students' end of year tax return, so the sooner the tax return is prepared, the better. The FAFSA should be done on-line at: www.fafsa.ed.gov. A guide to federal student aid can be found at www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov
- Male students must register with the selective service to be eligible for federal financial aid. They can register within 3 months of their 18th birthday at ... www.sss.gov

Remember...Everyone attending college can apply for financial aid, regardless of income level. There are programs for which students and parents may qualify, even if they are not eligible for "need-based" financial aid.

Financial Aid Quick Tips

- **FAFSA is free - watch for websites that may try to charge a fee**
- FAFSA must be completed each year the student applies for financial aid
- Make sure you read the info sent to you. Each school has their own way of processing financial aid & may have forms to fill out
- Make copies of everything that is sent to a school and keep them in a designated folder
- Schools are required to audit at least 30% of their financial aid applicants. If your family is chosen for a random FAFSA audit, do not send original tax and bank statements to the school
- If your family's financial situation changes from the time the FAFSA was completed, contact the financial aid office. They may be able to adjust the student's aid
- Keep track of what aid the student receives and if there are any requirements to remain eligible for the aid
The easiest way to do application is to have your completed 2011 tax returns in front of you and fill in the blanks with that information. If you do not have your taxes complete, you can estimate the information, but then you will need to go back in to make changes after they are complete

- To submit the FAFSA online and sign it electronically, the student and a parent needs a pin (personal identification number) number at www.pin.edu.gov
 - Pin numbers can and should be requested in advance of filling out the FAFSA application
 - Student and parent each need their own pin number
 - Pin numbers should be saved and used following years

- The FAFSA application is sent to a federal clearinghouse, U.S. Department of Education processes the FAFSA
 - They compute the information and send you a SAR report, estimating what you may get in financial aid you will receive an electronic or paper Student Aid Report (SAR). This tells you your family's expected financial contribution toward your education.
 - Make any necessary corrections to the SAR report
 - They submit your information to the colleges you are considering and included in the report for the college to put together a financial aid package to send to you
 - When the school receives your information, they will review it for accuracy and make a decision about your financial aid.

Federal Student Aid RESOURCES for students can be found at:

Financial aid questions?

- Student aid on the web: <http://www.studentaid.ed.gov>
- Federal student aid information center: 1-800-4-FED-AID
- Individual college financial aid administrators
- ACT's financial aid need estimator: <http://www.actstudent.org/finaid/resources.html>

Student Aid on the Web - www.studentaid.edu.gov

- In-depth info on federal student aid programs, applying for financial aid, and repaying student loans:
 - Conduct college and scholarship searches
 - Estimate college costs
 - Track and compare financial aid awards letters

You Tube - www.youtube.com/collegedotgov

- More than 60 videos
- Inspirational videos from peers
- Advice from current college students
- Students can submit their own

College.gov

- Inspiration for students to achieve their college dreams

www.fafsa.gov

- Official site of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid

Facebook - www.facebook.com/college.gov

- Weekly tips, info, and links
- More than 20 videos
- More than 12,500 "likes"

Winneconne HS Website (Scholarships and Financial Aid) - www.winneconne.k12.wi.us

WisCareers Financial Aid plus Financial Aid Information booklet 2011-12 - <http://wiscareers.wisc.edu>

- Log in with WisCareers user name and password
- Go to "Education"
- Click on Financial Aid Assistance