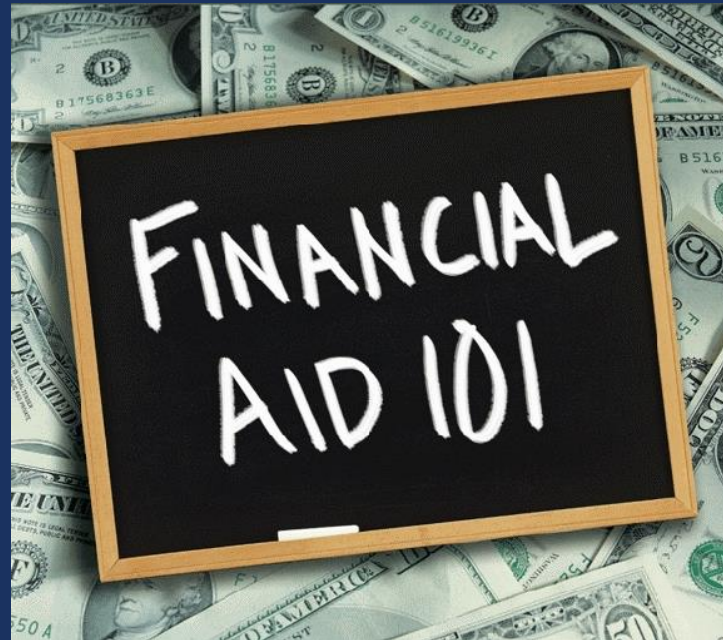

UNDERSTANDING THE FINANCIAL AID PROCESS

PRESENTED BY RENEE NUNZIATO, DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL AID, SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE



DO YOU FEEL THIS WAY NOW?



TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID

- Free money
 - Scholarships – typically merit based
 - Grants – typically need based
- Self-help
 - Student loans
 - Parent loans
 - Employment (Work Study)



HOW IS ELIGIBILITY DETERMINED?

- Aid is awarded based on financial need, merit, or a combination of both...*He who gives out the money makes the rules*
 - Filing the FAFSA determines how much a family can contribute (in theory)
 - NYS a bit simpler – based on income and enrollment status
 - Institutional – could be need-based, merit based or both, athletic, academic major, etc.

PHILOSOPHY OF NEED-BASED AID

- Paying for college is a partnership between the student, family and awarding agencies
 - First responsibility of student and family
 - Aid is a supplement to family resources



WHO PROVIDES INFORMATION ON THE APPLICATION?

- The student is the applicant
- Is considered dependent and must provide parental information unless:

Federal

- Veteran or active duty
- Married
- Have children or dependents they support
- They are an orphan, ward of the court, in foster care or legal guardianship
- DOB prior to January 1, 1996
- They are designated as homeless by a high school or other government agency

State

- Married
- 35 years of age or older
- 22 years or older and: does not reside with parents, does not receive more than \$750 in financial support, has not and will not be claimed as depended on taxes
- Under 22 same as above plus other special conditions (ward of court, orphan, parental rights relinquished, etc.)

WHO IS A PARENT ON THE APPLICATION?

- Biological or adoptive parent(s)
- If parents are divorced or separated, the custodial parent (where the student lives, not who claims them on taxes)
 - If custodial parent is remarried, step-parent is included on the application
 - If biological parents live in the same house, they both must be on the application

No one else is the parent!

HOW TO APPLY

- Deadline Dates - Admission & Financial Aid deadlines are usually different
- Each school may require different forms
 - FAFSA – Free Application for Federal Student Aid (*federal*)
 - CSS Profile – College Scholarship Service Profile (*private institutions*)
 - State Aid applications – TAP, Excelsior, STEM, etc.
 - Institutional forms



HOW TO APPLY – FEDERAL AID

www.fafsa.ed.gov

FAFSA[®]: Apply for Aid

Use the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA[®]) form to apply for financial aid for college or grad school.

NEW TO THE FAFSA[®] PROCESS?

Completing the FAFSA form is free. Fill it out now.

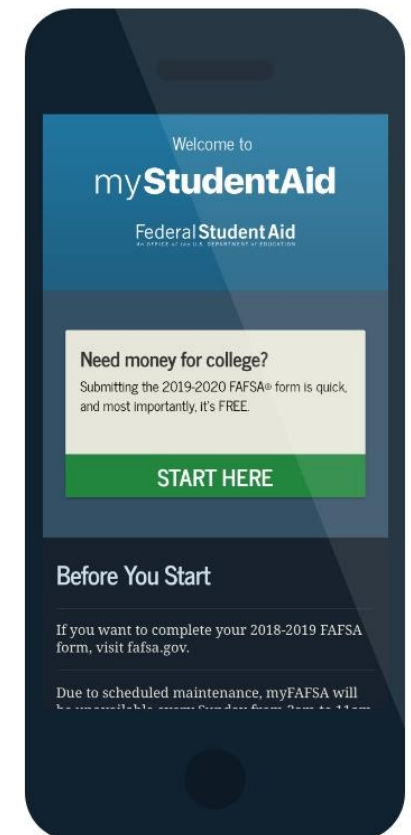
[START HERE >](#)

RETURNING USER?

Correct info • Add a school
View your *Student Aid Report* (SAR)

[LOG IN >](#)

myStudentAid



HOW TO APPLY – FEDERAL AID

Login

Log in to the FAFSA

Only students may use their FSA ID to log in. Parents and others can start a FAFSA for a student by entering the student's identifiers. Parents and others can also work on a FAFSA form or correction the student started using the **Save Key** that the student made. [Help for parents.](#)

Form Approved
OMB No. 1845-0001
App. Exp. 12/31/2020.

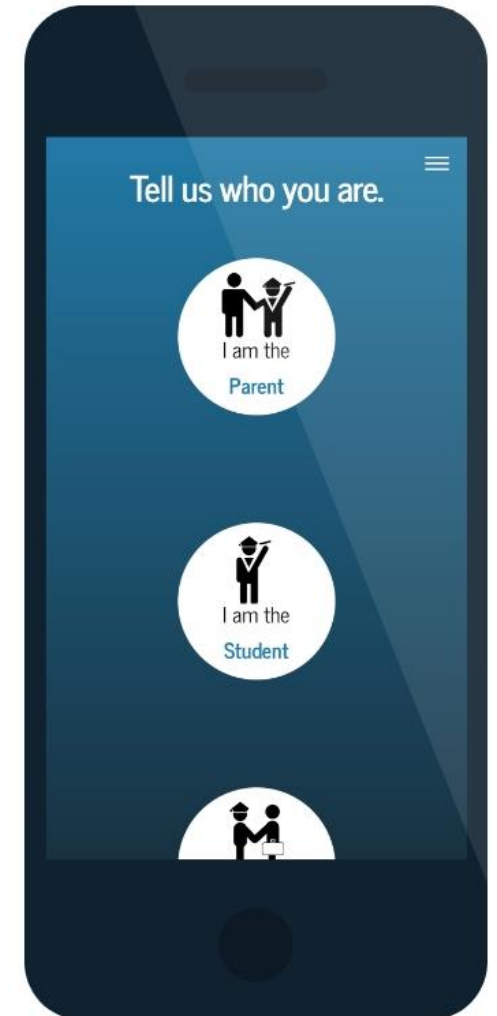
I am the student

OR

I am a parent, preparer, or student from a Freely Associated State

NEXT →

- Need FSA ID and password for both student and parent
 - Do not try to use same email address!



HOW TO APPLY – FEDERAL AID

- Available October 1st each year
- 2019-2020 based on 2017 tax information
- Can use IRS data retrieval tool
 - Imported data is masked and cannot be changed
- Can list up to 10 schools – don't need to wait until they are accepted

HOW TO APPLY – STATE AID (TAP)

- Small link on confirmation page of FAFSA, *or*
- HESC will send email when ETA is available to complete
- NY residents attending NY school
- Income limit of \$80,000 NTI
- Awards range from \$500 to \$5,165
- Only one school listed at a time



The screenshot shows the HESC website header. At the top right, there is a search bar and a navigation menu. The 'My HESC Account Access' link is highlighted with a red circle. Below the header, there is a navigation bar with 'Prepare', 'Pay', 'Repay', and 'Contact' options. The main content area features a woman smiling and the text 'Paying for College Make Your College Dreams a Reality'. A 'TAP 40 YEARS' logo is also visible.

My HESC Account Access



On right side
of screen

Tuition Assistance Program

**APPLY FOR TAP
NOW**

WHAT ABOUT THE NY FREE TUITION???

EXCELSIOR SCHOLARSHIP

- Program started Fall 2017
- Full-time at CUNY/SUNY colleges may qualify
- Program covers up to **full tuition or \$5,500** (less other grants/scholarships), does not cover fees, room or board
- AGI limits for family:
 - \$110,000 for 2018-2019
 - \$125,000 for 2019-2020 and beyond



EXCELSIOR SCHOLARSHIP



EXCELSIOR SCHOLARSHIP

- Strict application deadline
- Designed for on-time completion
 - Must take 12 college level credits per semester and complete 30 credits per year to maintain eligibility
 - If a recipient transfers, they must transfer the equivalent of 30 credits per year applicable to their new program
 - Gap in enrollment/change of major could jeopardize meeting annual credit requirements
- If decertified for not meeting credit requirement/good academic standing, scholarship could be lost forever
- 5 page contract must be signed – residency requirement equal to length of receipt of award or converts to a loan (limited exceptions apply)

ENHANCED TUITION AWARD

- For full-time students attending **participating** independent institutions
- Can receive up to \$6,000 annually with a combination of TAP, ETA and match from institution
- Same enrollment and residency requirements as Excelsior

OTHER STATE GRANTS/SCHOLARSHIPS

www.hesc.ny.gov

**Higher Education
Services Corporation**

Andrew M Cuomo, Governor Dr. Guillermo Linares - Acting President

[Partner Access](#)

[Student Access](#)



Google Custom Search



[Prepare](#) [Pay](#) [Repay](#) [Contact](#)

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Grants, Scholarships and Loan Programs

[Federal Grants
& NYS TAP](#)

[Other NYS Grants,
Scholarships & Awards](#)

[Federal
Work-Study](#)

[Other
Scholarships](#)

[Loan
Forgiveness](#)

[Student
Loans](#)



Need help?
CHAT NOW ▶

DETERMINING FEDERAL AID AWARDS

- Completion of the FAFSA results in an Expected Family Contribution (EFC)

Need analysis measures *ability* to pay not *willingness* to pay.

EQUITY APPROACH TO RATION LIMITED FUNDS

- Equitable doesn't mean equal!
 - Horizontal Equity – consistent treatment of people in similar circumstances
 - Vertical Equity – appropriately differing treatment of people in different circumstances
 - Assumption that as financial strength increases, more flexibility in how income and assets can be used (larger % of finances are discretionary)

DETERMINING FEDERAL AID AWARDS

- EFC is subtracted from the cost of attendance (sticker price) of the college, any difference is “financial need”

<u>School ABC</u>		<u>School XYZ</u>	
COA	\$32,000	COA	\$14,000
— EFC	\$15,000	— EFC	\$15,000
<hr/>		<hr/>	
Need	\$17,000	Need	\$0

HOW EFC IS CALCULATED (DEPENDENT STUDENTS)

- 4 components
 1. Contribution from parent(s) income
 2. Contribution from parent(s) assets
 3. Contribution from student's income
 4. Contribution from student's assets



PARENT CONTRIBUTION FROM INCOME

- Calculates “discretionary income” – Total income from 2017, taxable and most forms of untaxed income **less** certain adjustments
 - Federal income tax paid
 - FICA
 - Employment Expense Allowance
 - State and local tax allowance
 - Income protection allowance (to cover basic needs)
 - Ex. Family of 4 with 1 in college = \$28,580



PARENT CONTRIBUTION FROM ASSETS

- What assets are considered?
 - Cash, savings and checking accounts
 - Net value of business if equivalent of 100 FT employees
 - Net value of any real estate (not including primary residence)
 - Stocks, bonds, mutual funds, 529 Plans, trusts, other investments
 - **NOT** retirement plans
- Total value of assets **less** an “asset protection allowance” assessed at 12% rate
 - Example of 2018-2019 APA: 2 parents, age 40 = \$16,800; 2 parents, age 50 = \$21,200
 - Example of 2019-2020 APA: 2 parents, age 40 = \$9,900; 2 parents, age 50 = \$12,500



DEPENDENT STUDENT CONTRIBUTION FROM INCOME & ASSETS

- Income after threshold amount (currently \$6,660) is assessed at a 50%
- Income above threshold may be viewed as contributing to the household if parents are very low income
- No asset protection allowance, total value assessed at 20%



REALITY AND THE EFC

- Federal Government's definition of discretionary income may not coincide with yours
 - NY high cost of living area
 - Some spend more \$ on discretionary items than gov't considers necessary
- You may have \$0 contribution from assets but use assets for your family contribution
 - Ex. home equity not part of formula, but many families use home equity to help finance



FAFSA TIPS

- If you do not use the IRS DRT to complete the FAFSA, get a copy of your federal TAX RETURN TRANSCRIPT (irs.gov or call 1-800-908-9946).
- Keep all W2 forms issued from employers, including your student's
- If you did not file a tax return in 2017, obtain a “non-filing status” letter from the IRS.

You may not be asked to submit these documents, but get them anyway!



FEDERAL AID PROGRAMS

- Grants
 - Federal Pell Grant – Award amounts range from \$652 to \$6,095 (EFC \$0 to \$5,486)
 - Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG) – typically have to be Pell eligible & award amounts vary at each school (campus based program)
- Loans
 - Direct Subsidized Loan – interest does not accrue while in-school and in-grace
 - Direct Unsubsidized Loan – responsible for interest over life of loan
 - Direct Parent PLUS – credit based loan in parent's name
- Employment
 - Federal Work Study (campus based program)

MORE ABOUT LOANS...

- Federal Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized
 - \$5,500 annual max for freshman (\$3,500 sub / \$2,000 unsub)
 - \$6,500 annual max for sophomores (\$4,500 sub / \$2,000 unsub)
 - \$7,500 annual max for juniors & seniors (\$5,500 sub / \$2,000 unsub)
 - \$20,500 annual max for graduate students (unsub only)
- 2018-2019 interest rates 5.05% fixed UG, 6.60% fixed for GRAD
- 6 month grace period before repayment
- Flexible repayment terms & sometimes options for forgiveness

More info at www.studentaid.gov

MORE ABOUT LOANS...

- Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS)
 - Annual amount up to full Cost of Attendance less other financial aid
 - Can be used to replace Expected Family Contribution
 - 2018-2019 interest rate 7.60% fixed with origination fee of 4.248%
 - Based on parent's creditworthiness – **not guaranteed for all students!**
 - Typically repay while student is enrolled, but there is an option to defer
 - If parent is denied, student can access additional Unsubsidized loan (\$4,000 U1 & U2/\$5,000 U3 & U4)

MORE ABOUT LOANS...

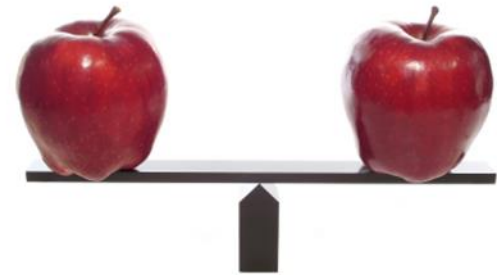
- Private Education Loans
 - Credit based loans with student as the borrower
 - Likely will need credit worthy co-signer
 - Interest rates and loan terms vary by lender
 - Fixed vs. variable rates
 - Repayment while in school vs. interest only payments vs. deferment until graduation

INSTITUTIONAL AID

- *Again...He who gives out the money makes the rules*
 - Need-based, merit-based, skill-based, etc.
- **Know the terms of the award!**
 - 1 year recruitment vs. renewable
 - GPA requirements
 - Program requirements (i.e. ineligible if change in major?)

COMPARE AID OFFERS

- Need to look at the total cost
 - Consider transportation, books, and other misc. expenses
- Evaluate the awards that make up the award package
 - Amount of gift aid
 - Amount of self-help (loans and employment)
 - Terms and conditions of institutional aid
 - Campus based awards – FWS, SEOG
- Compare the annual net cost
- Utilize federal loan calculators to understand what loan repayment will look like after graduation



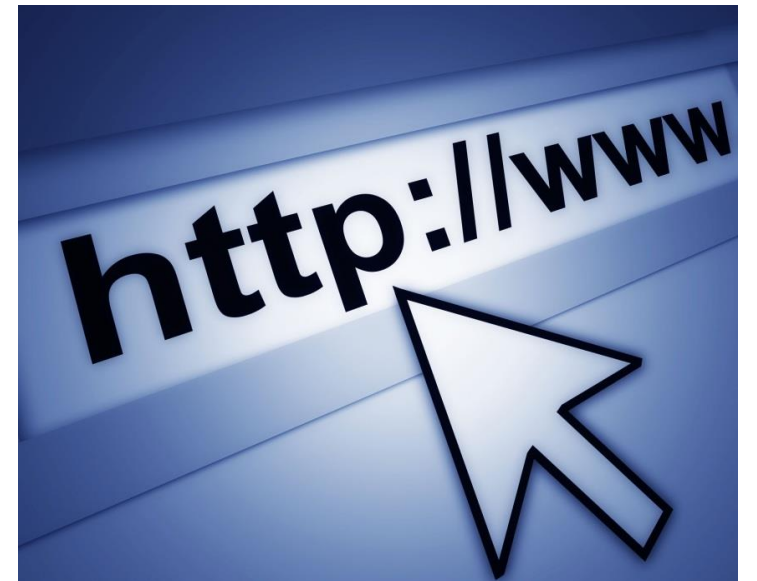
OTHER MISC. INFO

- Education tax credits
 - School issues 1098-T
 - Credits described in IRS Publication 970
 - Talk to your accountant to see if you qualify
- Parents should speak to employers for scholarships/benefits for their student
- Look for scholarships
 - Outside of school
 - Community based
 - National scholarship searches
 - Scholarships that require a separate application
- AmeriCorps
 - National & community service
 - Provides funding for education in exchange for service
 - Education award up to \$5,550
 - Can be used to pay current or future education expenses *or* repay federal student loans



IMPORTANT WEBSITES

- FAFSA
 - www.fafsa.ed.gov
 - 1-800-433-3243
- HESC
 - www.hesc.ny.gov
 - 1-888-NYS-HESC (697-4372)
- Federal Student Aid
 - www.studentaid.gov



HOPEFULLY HOW YOU FEEL NOW...



QUESTIONS

