

Paying for College

College Access Fairfax

www.collegeaccessfairfax.org

Family Activity

- Expectations
- College is an investment – better earnings for college graduates
- Everyone in the family contributes to a college education
- Talk about how much the family can afford
 - From an early age
 - Focus on why instead of where

Choosing a College

- What are my out of pocket expenses?
- www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov
- Net Price Calculator
 - All colleges and universities are required to have a Net Price Calculator on their website.
 - Full Cost (Sticker Price) – Grants and Scholarships = Net Price
- Do I have the financial resources for this college?

Today's Topics

- Federal Student Aid Programs
- Federal and State Aid Application Process
- Also from **College Access Fairfax**
 - Scholarships 101
 - CSS/Profile Line by Line
 - FAFSA Line by Line
 - FAFSA Completion Workshops (January-April)
 - Financial Awareness for Middle School Families

What is Financial Aid?

- Money that is available to help pay for post-secondary education
 - Scholarships/Grants Free Money
 - Loans Cheap Money
 - Work-Study A Job

Cost of Attendance

The **Cost of Attendance (COA)** considers **all** costs associated with a student's enrollment at a particular college or university.

- Components include:

- Tuition and fees
 - Room and board
- } Fixed costs – must be paid

- Books and supplies
 - Transportation
 - Miscellaneous
- } Costs that can be managed

- Based on a student's:
 - Enrollment status
 - Living arrangements
 - State residency status

Cost of Attendance

Virginia In-State Example

Typical Costs for an In-State Resident Hall Student
at Radford University
2016-2017 School Year

Tuition and Fees	\$10,100
Room and Board	\$ 8,000
Books and Supplies	\$ 1,100
Personal Expenses	\$ 1,900
Travel Expenses	\$ 1,400
Total	\$ 22,500

Sources of Money for College

- Federal government
- State government
- Colleges and universities
- Private foundations
- Employers and private companies
- Professional and service organizations

Financial Aid Process

- Complete FAFSA after October 1st at www.fafsa.gov – every year in school
- Submit to Federal Government (online)
- Student receives Student Aid Report (**SAR**)
- College(s) receive Institutional Student Information Report (ISIR)
- Colleges send award letter to student
- Student reviews award letters and accepts or declines

Financial Aid Application

- Some colleges
 - require the family to complete the **CSS PROFILE**
 - require a student to complete an institutional financial aid application.
 - have a general scholarship application.
 - have early application dates to apply for merit/academic scholarships.

What is on the **FAFSA**?

FREE Application for Federal Student Aid

- Identifying information (Social Security Number, Green Card number; birth date)
- Income and tax information
- Assets: bank accounts and investments

FAFSA Tips

- Double check personal information
- Be sure to read through directions
- Make sure that you enter the correct information from taxes
- If possible, use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool
- Make sure to sign the form with your Log In and Password (one for student, one for parent)

FAFSA Result = Expected Family Contribution (EFC)

The **EFC** is a Federal calculation based on information provided in the FAFSA:

- Income (parent(s) and student)
- Assets (parent(s) and student)
- Number in household
- Number in college
- Marital status
- Dependency status
- Age of older parent

What Determines Financial Aid Eligibility?

COA (Cost of Attendance)

minus

EFC (Expected Family Contribution)

equals

NEED

- Financial aid *may* meet **NEED** if college has enough financial reserves
- Financial aid offers that do not meet full need have a **GAP**

Types of Aid

- **Free Money**
 - Grants and Scholarships
- **Cheap Money**
 - Stafford (Direct) Loans
- **Gap Money**
 - PLUS Loans
 - Alternative (Private) Loans

Federal Grants

- Federal Pell Grants (need based)
- Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) (need based)
- Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH)
- Iraq/Afghanistan Service Grant

Other Grants

- State Grants
 - Virginia Commonwealth Award
- Institutional Grants
 - Check with Financial Aid Office

Scholarships

- Awarded based on need, merit or a combination
- Awarded for a variety of reasons: academics, sports, extra-curricular activities
- FCPS Scholarship Database in Family Connection
- Apple Education Foundation: Scholarships to Apple FCU members
- College Access Fairfax Scholarships

Loans

- Subsidized Direct Loan (to student)
 - Unsubsidized Direct Loan (to student)
 - PLUS Direct Loan (to parents)
 - Perkins Loan
-
- All are federal loans with favorable interest and repayment terms

Stafford Direct Loans

Subsidized

- Government PAYS accrued interest
- Based on financial need
- Fixed rate
- Undergraduate students
- Amount: \$3,500-\$8,000

Unsubsidized

- Student is responsible for the interest for the life of the loan
- NOT based on financial need
- Fixed rate
- Undergraduate and graduate
- Amount: \$5,500-\$20,500

Loan Considerations

- Only borrow what you need. Try to borrow no more than the expected first year salary.
- Repayment does not start immediately.
- Private loans are an option but may have higher interest rates and different repayment terms

Federal Work-Study

- First come – first served –based on financial need
- Student needs to apply
- A job where student earns a paycheck, at least minimum wage
- Work may be on- or off-campus
- Income from Federal Work-Study is deducted from calculations on the next year's FAFSA form

Critical Deadlines

- Start filling out the FAFSA Oct 1
- Priority Deadline Nov-April
 - Many Virginia Colleges March 1
- Admissions decisions arrive TBD
- Award letters sent out TBD
- National College Decision Day May 1
- Payment due End of July

What If You Still Need Money?

- University payment plans
- Savings
- 529 plans
- Credit cards
- Borrowing from private sources
- Search for outside scholarships (religious affiliations/employers/hobbies)

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