



WPI

TOUCH TOMORROW & FINANCIAL AID BASICS

Office of Student Aid and Financial Literacy

2021

AGENDA

- What is financial aid?
- Applying for financial aid
- How is financial aid determined?
- How do families pay their expected family contribution (EFC)?
- Questions to ask financial aid offices
- Resources

WHAT IS FINANCIAL AID



- Assistance given to students to help pay for their educational expenses.
- Based on financial need.
- [Eligibility for federal student aid PDF](#)

[Additional Resources as you prepare...](#)

- [2020-2021 Federal Student Aid at a Glance PDF](#)
- [Am I dependent or independent? PDF](#)
- [College Preparation Checklist](#)

TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID

- Types of aid - federal, state, private & institutional
 - Federal- Federal loans, Pell Grant, SEOG, Federal Work Study
 - State- MASSGrant, Mass No Interest Loan
 - Private outside scholarships & loans
 - Institutional scholarships & loans

APPLYING FOR FINANCIAL AID

- Applications

- FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)
 - available October 1, 2021 (for the 2022-2023 AY)
 - free form
 - www.fafsa.ed.gov
- CSS PROFILE Application (College Scholarship Service)
 - available October 1, 2021 (for the 2022-2023 AY)
 - fee based form
 - www.collegeboard.org
- Noncustodial PROFILE

APPLYING FOR FINANCIAL AID

- Additional Forms

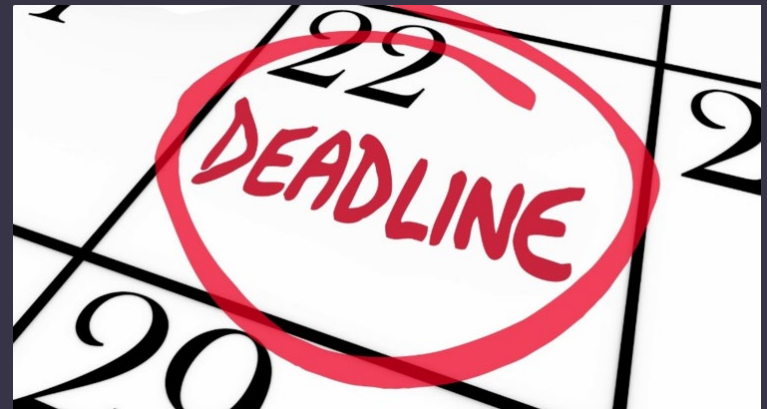
- Some schools may require additional financial aid forms
- Be sure to check your email!

[The Financial Aid Process PDF](#)

APPLYING FOR FINANCIAL AID

▪ Deadlines

- Will vary from school to school
- May be different for admission types
 - Early Decision
 - Early Action
 - Regular Decision
- State financial aid
- Private scholarships



HOW IS FINANCIAL AID DETERMINED?

$$\underline{\text{COA} - \text{EFC} = \text{FN}}$$

- COA – Cost of Attendance
- EFC – Expected Family Contribution
 - Determined from FAFSA and/or CSS PROFILE Application
 - Based off family's income, assets, household size, number in college, etc...
- FN – Financial Need
 - Figure used by schools to award aid
- [Financial Aid Vocab Sheet PDF](#)

HOW IS FINANCIAL AID DETERMINED?

Cost of Attendance (COA)

- Varies from school to school
- Available on college websites

Example:

▪ Tuition	\$44,000
▪ Fees	\$1,500
▪ Room	\$6,000
▪ Board	\$6,000
▪ Books	\$1,500
▪ Personal Expenses	\$1,000
▪ <u>COA</u>	<u>\$60,000</u>

HOW IS FINANCIAL AID DETERMINED?

$$\underline{\text{COA} - \text{EFC} = \text{FN}}$$

$$\$60,000 - \$20,000 = \$40,000$$

AID SCENARIOS

$$\text{COA-EFC=FN}$$

$$\$60,000 - \$20,000 = \$40,000$$

Example Package #1

Institutional Scholarship (need based)	\$33,000
Federal Subsidized Loan	\$3,500
Federal Unsubsidized Loan	\$2,000
Institutional Loan	\$1,500
Total Award	\$40,000
Gap	\$0

AID SCENARIOS

$$\text{COA-EFC=FN}$$

$$\$60,000 - \$20,000 = \$40,000$$

Example Package #2

Institutional Scholarship (need based)	\$20,000
Federal Subsidized Loan	\$3,500
Federal Unsubsidized Loan	\$2,000
Institutional Loan	\$2,500
Federal Work Study	\$1,000
Total Award	\$29,000
Gap	\$11,000

HOW DO FAMILIES PAY THEIR EXPECTED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION (EFC)?

Federal PLUS Loan

parent loan borrowed through the federal government

Private Loans

student or parents as borrowers

Payment Plans

spread out over the year, monthly bills

QUESTIONS TO ASK FINANCIAL AID OFFICES

- Do you meet full need?
- Do you award need and merit scholarships?
(merit – separate application?)
- What criteria do I have to meet in order to keep my scholarship(s) in future years?
- What is your school's academic/financial aid SAP (satisfactory academic progress) policy?
- Is your school need aware or need blind?

QUESTIONS TO ASK FINANCIAL AID OFFICES

- If there are drastic changes to my family's financial situation in future years, will your school award additional scholarship funding?
- Do outside scholarships reduce the amount of scholarship funding I receive?
- How/when do I report outside scholarships?
- How much has tuition increased at your school each year for the past three years?

RESOURCES

FAFSA

<https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>

CSS Profile & NCP

<https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/>

College Scorecard

<https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/>

College Navigator

<http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>

Net Price Calculator

This tool is available on all college & university websites.

RESOURCES

FastWeb

<http://www.fastweb.com/>

Massachusetts Department of Higher Education; Office of Student Financial Assistance

<http://www.mass.edu/osfa/home/home.asp>

[Sample Student Aid Report \(SAR\)](#)

[Guide to Explaining the EFC Formula, 2021-2022](#)