

Financing Your College Education What You Need to Know



Who is HESC?

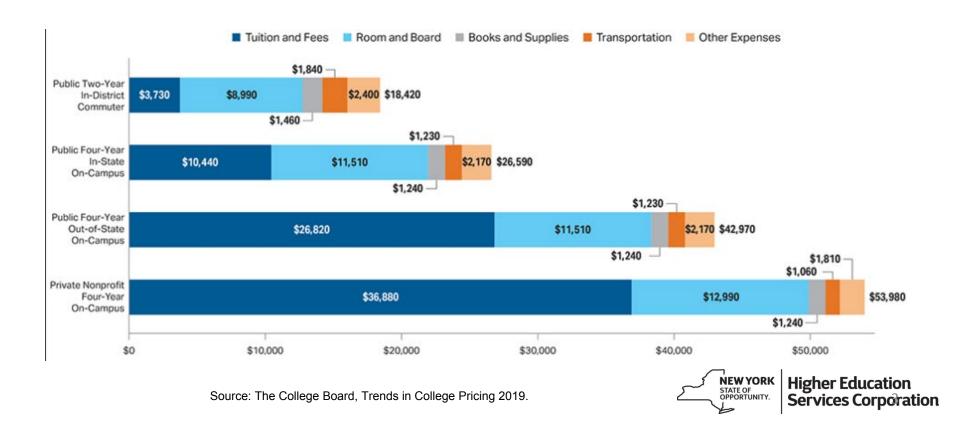








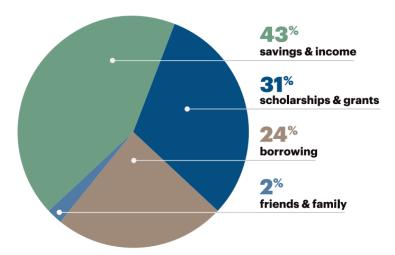
Average Costs 2019-20



How are Families Paying for College?

On average, families spent **\$26,226** on college and used a mix of sources

How the typical family pays for college



Source: How America Pays for College 2019 – Report by Sallie Mae and Ipsos



Financial Aid Basics: Gift vs Self-Help Aid



Gift Aid

Doesn't need to be repaid **Grants & Scholarships**



Self-Help Aid

Adopts a self-investment philosophy Loans & Work Study



Financial Aid Basics: Need vs Merit

- Financial aid may be awarded based on
 - Financial need (need-based)
 - Other criteria, such as academic or athletic ability (merit-based)



Aid: Do We Qualify? Need-Bas **⊂**amily Co **Financial Need** Atte Need-based aid Tuiti aibility Room/be always Books/supplie Transportation Determined by school NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY. **Higher Education Services Corporation**

Sources of Financial Aid

Federal Aid





State Aid

Private Scholarships



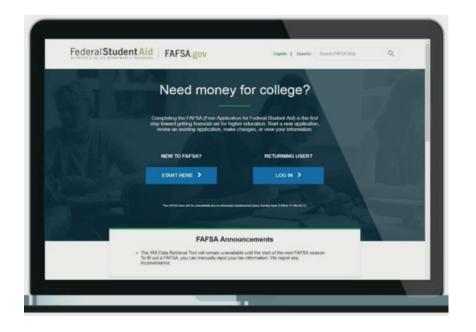


Institutional Aid



The Application Process: FAFSA

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid
- 2021-22 application available now on FAFSA.gov
- Filing deadlines are set by each school's financial aid office





Before Starting FAFSA: FSA ID

- The student <u>and</u> at least one of their parents must each create a Federal Student Aid ID (FSA ID) at **FSAID.ed.gov**
 - Used to access and electronically sign FAFSA





Typical Questions on FAFSA

- Student and parent identifying information
- Eligibility questions
- College List (up to 10 schools)
- Income and assets for both student and parent (if dependent)
 - Tax year 2019 is used for income



Question: Parent Marital Status

- If I have a single parent, do I need my noncustodial parent's information to apply?
 - No, for the FAFSA and NYS aid applications only custodial parent information is needed
 - Non-custodial info may be needed by some private colleges for institutional aid



Question: Income Changes

- What if our family income has changed recently due to job loss, retirement or another situation?
 - The applications require 2019 income tax information to be reported.
 - Contact the college financial aid office after filing FAFSA to request review for special circumstances.



Important: Expected Family Contribution

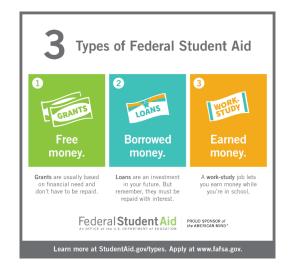
- Increases EFC
 - Income (from 2019 taxes, untaxed income)
 - Assets Savings, Investments (not retirement), Real Estate (not primary residence)

- Decreases EFC
 - Number In Family
 - Number In College
 - State of Residence
 - Parent age
 - Child support paid



Higher Education

Federal Student Aid Programs



Pell Grant – Up to \$6,345, depending on EFC
Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity
Grant (FSEOG) – Awards range from \$100 to \$4,000,
for high-need students

Subsidized, Unsubsidized Direct Stafford Loan – \$5,500 for 1st year undergrads, with no more than \$3,500 subsidized

Direct PLUS Loan – Borrowed by parent, can be up to full cost of attendance minus other financial aid Work Study – Grant earned by student via employment at college

For More Info: studentaid.ed.gov





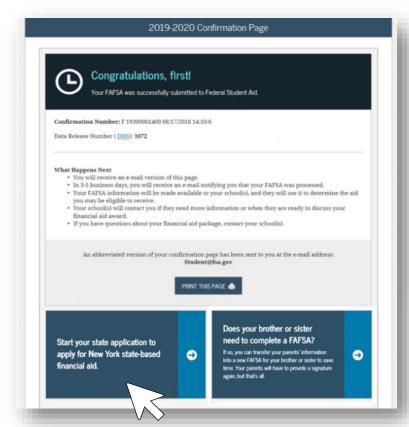
Going to College in New York State?

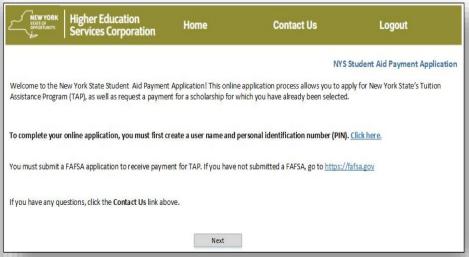


Higher Education Services Corporation



From FAFSA to New York State









Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) is NYS largest financial aid program

- Provides up to \$5,165 per year
- Undergraduate full and part-time study to students attending a SUNY, CUNY, or eligible private colleges in New York State
- Need-based grant based on having \$80,000 or less in NYS taxable income (2019 NYS taxes)

Excelsior Scholarship / ETA

EXCELSIOR SCHOLARSHIP	ENHANCED TUITION AWARD (ETA)
Public colleges (SUNY, CUNY, Cornell, & Alfred)	Participating private colleges
Up to \$5,500	Up to \$6,000

- Federal AGI and/or income of \$125,000 or less (student and parents)
- For full-time, undergraduate study only (exceptions for students with disabilities)
- Must complete at least 30 credit each year to remain eligible
- Must live in NYS for the number of years equal to the award after college

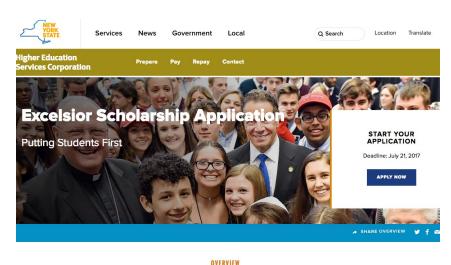
Excelsior/ETA: Common Question

- If I have two kids going to college, can I make up to \$250,000 and still qualify for the program?
 - No, the student/parent income/federal AGI cap is still \$125,000 regardless of the number of children in college



Excelsior/ETA: Application Process

- Students must first apply for FAFSA, TAP
- First time recipients
 must complete the
 Excelsior Scholarship
 application online at
 hesc.ny.gov in Spring
 2021



New York is now home to the Nation's first accessible college program - The Excelsior Scholarship.



STEM Incentive Program

- Provides scholarship worth value of in-state tuition at SUNY or CUNY colleges
 - For undergraduate study only at a SUNY, CUNY, or eligible private college in NYS
 - Must pursue degree in Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics
- Merit-based, no income restrictions
- Must apply before college, student must be ranked in the top 10% of their high school senior class qualify
- Application available online at hesc.ny.gov in October



Common Question: High School Ranking

- If our high school does not rank seniors, then how will we know if we qualify for the STEM program?
 - Talk to high school counselor, administration about how they determine eligible students



More Programs at hesc.ny.gov

scholarships for Academic Excellence

NYS Memorial Scholarship

Military Enhanced
Recognition Incentive &
Tribute Scholarship

PART-TIME SCHOLARSHIP

NYS Math and Science
Teaching Incentive Scholarship



Sources of Financial Aid

Federal Aid





State Aid

Private Scholarships





Institutional Aid



Applying for Institutional Aid



- Depends on each school's requirements
 - Admissions application for merit-based aid
 - FAFSA and/or institutional application for need-based aid



What is the CSS Profile?



- More detailed questions
- 2021-22 application available October 1st at CSSProfile.org
- Requires a fee but waivers may be available



FAFSA versus CSS Profile

FAFSA

- Non-custodial parent information <u>not</u> required
- Retirement accounts, value of primary residence excluded
- Does not factor in debts or expenses
- EFC given upon submission

CSS Profile

- Non-custodial parent information <u>may be</u> required, depending on college
- Home values, retirement account balances are part of asset review
- Some debts, expenses are factored in
- EFC not given

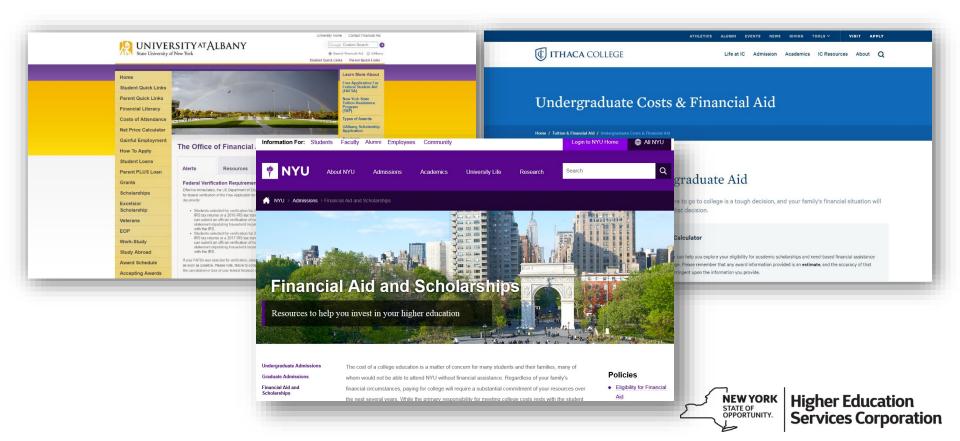


Tips for Earning Merit-Based Aid

- Apply where you rank high academically
 - where student's grades put them in the top 10 percent of the student body
- Diversify college applications by college acceptance rates and consider out-of-state options
- Negotiate merit aid offers from competing schools



For More Info: Research School Websites



Sources of Financial Aid

Federal Aid





State Aid

Private Scholarships

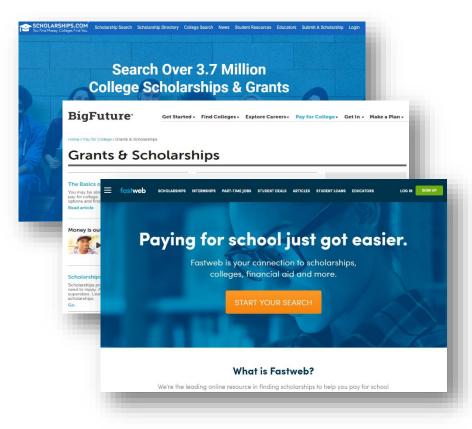




Institutional Aid



Apply for Private Scholarships



- Online scholarship search websites
 - Fastweb.com
 - Collegeboard.org
 - Scholarships.com
 - Careeronestop.com
- Check local library, employer or union



Things to Do Now...

- Create your FSA IDs and start filing FAFSA
- Make sure to use the "Start Your State Application" link on the FAFSA confirmation page to apply for NYS aid
- Check if any of the colleges you are applying to require the CSS Profile and complete it if necessary
- Start applying for private scholarships



After applications are filed...

- View your Student Aid Report (SAR) and make FAFSA corrections if necessary
- Look out for verification requests from colleges
- College financial aid offers are issued in late fall/early winter for early admitted students, spring for regular decision
- Look out for the Excelsior Scholarship and ETA application in Spring 2021



Questions?

NYS Higher Education Services Corporation 99 Washington Avenue Albany, NY 12255 www.hesc.ny.gov

(email or scheduled call appointments only)

