FINANCIAL AID GLOSSARY

Award Letter/Package – An official notification from a school where you have been accepted that outlines your financial aid award package.

EFC – Estimated Family Contribution – the amount of money the government believes your family can afford towards your higher education.

FAFSA – Application used by U.S. citizens and permanent residents to apply for financial aid from U.S. federal and state governments.

Grant - A type of financial aid that consists of an amount of gift aid (free money) given to a student, often by the federal or a state government, a company, a school or a charity.

Loan – A type of financial aid that consists of an amount of money that is given to someone for a period of time, with an agreement that it will be repaid later usually with interest.

Merit Scholarship – A scholarship awarded to a student based of their academic ability in high school.

Net Price Calculator – This is found on the college or university website. This calculator helps you to estimate your financial aid options.

Payment Plan – usually operated by the college or university. This allows students to use an installment payment plan to assist out-of-pocket payments.

Room and board – The amount of money necessary for combined expenses for living on campus in a residence hall and a meal plan.

Scholarship – A type of financial aid that consists of an amount of free money (gift aid) given to a student by a school, individual, organization, company, charity, or federal or state government.

Subsidized Loan – Loans for undergraduate students with financial need. These loans do not accrue interest while you are in school at least half-time or during deferment periods.

TAP – New York State Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) helps eligible New York residents pay tuition at approved schools in New York State.

Tuition – The amount of money it costs to attend a specific college or university. This amount usually does not include room and board or fees.

Unsubsidized Loan – Loans for both undergraduate and graduate students that are not based on financial need. Interest is charged during in-school, deferment, and grace periods.

Work Study – A financial aid program funded by the U.S. federal government that allows undergraduate or graduate students to work part time on campus. To participate in work-study, students must complete the FAFSA.