

#### **Student Financial Aid**

What Students & Parents Should Know

#### What is Financial Aid?

- Financial aid helps pay the cost of attending college
- Financial aid may awarded based on
  - Financial need (need-based)
  - Other criteria, such as academic or athletic ability (merit-based)



# **Different Types of Aid**

Scholarships



- Grants
- Work Study
- Loans





#### **Sources of Financial Aid**

- Federal government
- New York State
- Colleges institutional aid
- Other sources
  - Businesses
  - Foundations
  - Clubs/organizations



#### **How Financial Need is Determined**

Cost of Attendance (COA)

Expected Family Contribution (EFC)

= Financial Need



# **Cost of Attendance (COA)**

- Tuition and fees
- Room and board
- Books and supplies
- Transportation
- Miscellaneous expenses

#### **COA – EFC = Financial Need**



# **Expected Family Contribution (EFC)**

- Amount the family is expected to contribute
- Calculated based on federal formula
- Includes parents' and student's contributions combined
- Stays the same regardless of college selected

#### **COA – EFC = Financial Need**



### **Examples of Need Determination**

	College	College	College
	A	В	С
COA	\$ 15,000	\$30,000	\$60,000
- EFC	5,000	5,000	5,000
= Financial Need	\$ 10,000	\$ 25,000	\$55,000



### **How to Apply**

- To be considered for financial aid, you may need to complete many different applications
  - Federal application, FAFSA
  - State application(s): NYS TAP Application,
     Excelsior Scholarship
  - Institutional application, e.g. the CSS Profile
  - Other forms as required



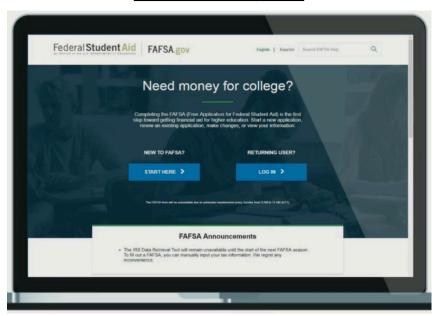
# **Applying for Aid: FAFSA**

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid
- The new application will be available starting October 1<sup>st</sup> of senior year
  - Applying online is easy and allows for corrections
  - Be sure to apply for the right academic year!
- Deadlines to submit are set by each college's financial aid office



### Apply on the Web or Use the Mobile App

#### FAFSA.gov



#### myStudentAid





#### Before Completing the FAFSA: The FSA ID

- Student and at least one parent each obtain Federal Student Aid ID (FSA ID) at FSAID.ed.gov
  - Used to access and electronically sign **FAFSA**

Create a New FSA II				
An FSA ID gives you acces	s to Federal Student Aid's online systems a	and can serve as your legal signa	ture.	
	ng your own personal information and for cluding a family member. Misrepresentati			
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#### **Questions the Student Answers on FAFSA**

- Demographic info (name, address, etc.)
- Eligibility for aid and dependency status
- Names of up to 10 colleges student is applying to
- 2017 tax return info and income, if applicable
- Asset values, if applicable



#### **FAFSA: Common Question**

- What are the citizenship status requirements?
  - Students must be US citizens or eligible noncitizens, such as a US Permanent Resident, to qualify for federal and NYS student financial aid
  - Students without this status should speak with their colleges about what programs may be available to them



### **FAFSA: Common Question**

- If a student is not living with their parents, how do they complete the FAFSA?
  - Students younger than 24 years old are usually required to apply with parent information
  - Exceptions are made for students with special circumstances, e.g. orphans, youth in foster care
  - Consult with your school counselor or the financial aid office to discuss your situation



#### **Questions the Parent Answers on FAFSA**

- Demographic info (marital status, names, dates of birth)
- Household size and number of children in college
- 2017 tax return information and income
- Asset values, if required



#### **FAFSA: Parent Marital Status**

- Divorced or separated parents, not remarried
  - Only the custodial parent needs to report info
  - Custodial parent is who the student resided with the most over the previous 12 months
- Both parents live together, married or unmarried
  - Both report info, even if taxes are filed separately
- Custodial parent is remarried
  - Both parent and stepparent must report their info and income

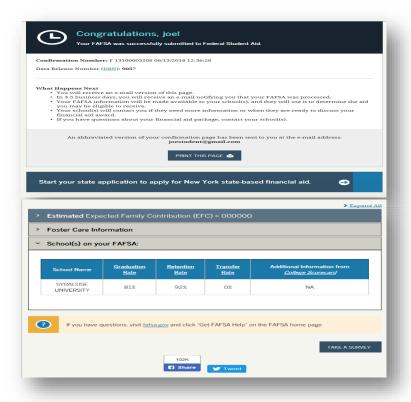


### **FAFSA: Common Question**

- What kind of assets are reported on the FAFSA?
  - Total cash, savings/checking accounts balances
    - Custodial (UGMA, UTMA) accounts are considered assets of the student
  - Investments and real estate net worth
    - Tax deferred retirement accounts, annuities, life insurance and value of primary residence is excluded
    - 529 plans must be reported as a parent asset
  - Business value, if more than 100 employees



# **FAFSA: Confirmation Page**



- Review carefully for
  - Estimated ExpectedFamily Contribution(EFC)
  - Federal student aid estimates
  - Next steps

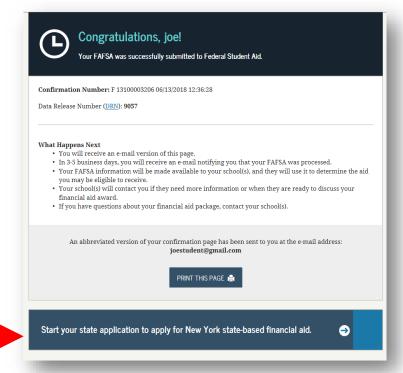


### **Federal Student Aid Programs**

- Pell Grant (currently up to \$6,095)
- Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)
- Work-Study
- Direct Stafford Loan
  - Subsidized or Unsubsidized
- Direct PLUS Loan

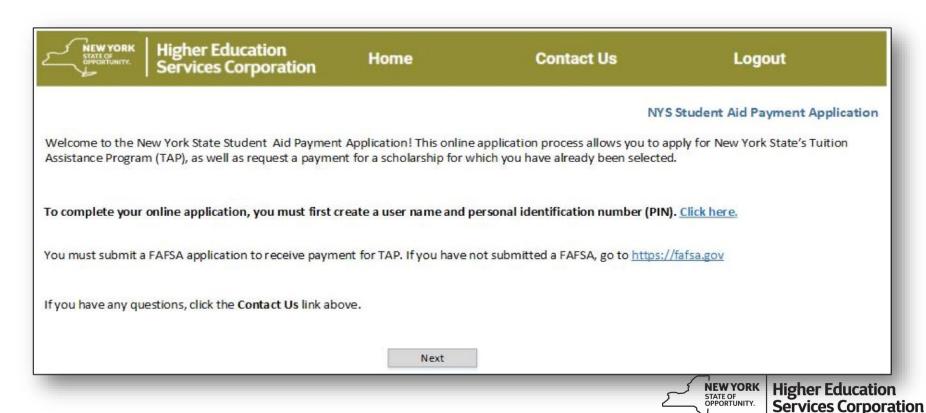


#### From FAFSA to New York State Aid





# **NYS Student Aid Payment Application**



### **NYS Student Aid Programs**

- Tuition Assistance Program (TAP)
- Excelsior Scholarship
- Enhanced Tuition Award
- STEM Incentive Program
- More programs and info at hesc.ny.gov



# NYS Tuition Assistance Program (TAP)

- Provides undergraduate students with grant funding to help pay tuition at colleges in NYS
  - Need-based, up to \$5,165/year
  - Full-time and part-time study
  - Based on 2017 NYS income tax information



# **Excelsior Scholarship**

- Provides full in-state tuition coverage for students attending SUNY or CUNY
  - Less Pell, TAP, or other aid covering tuition
- Applicants for 2019-20 must have combined federal adjusted gross income of \$125,000 or less for tax year 2017
- Must file FAFSA and NYS TAP applications prior to applying

### **Enhanced Tuition Awards (ETA)**

- Provides tuition awards up \$6,000 to NYS residents attending participating private colleges in NYS
  - Award reduced by TAP grant
  - List of participating schools available online
- Same income qualifications and application requirements as Excelsior Scholarship

#### **NYS STEM Incentive**

- Provides tuition scholarships for undergraduate students at SUNY, CUNY, private colleges in NYS
  - Up to annual tuition charged to NYS residents at SUNY
- Must pursue degree in science, technology, engineering or mathematics
- Merit-based, no income restrictions
  - Students ranked in top 10% of senior class
- Apply at hesc.ny.gov beginning October

  NEWYORK

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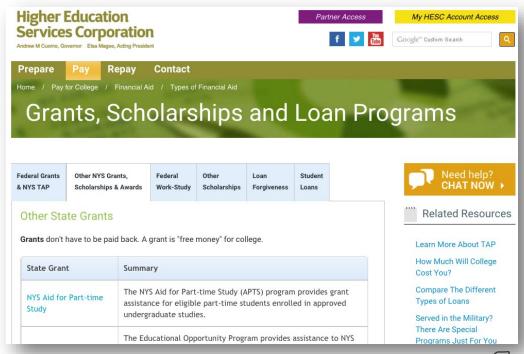
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### In-school and Post-award Requirements

- Excelsior, ETA require students to earn 30 credits per year, graduate on-time
- Former Excelsior and ETA recipients must live and work, if employed, in NYS for same period of time award was provided
- STEM recipients agree to live and work, if employed, in NYS for five years after college

# For More Financial Aid Info: HESC.ny.gov



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# **Applying for Institutional Aid**

- Depends on each college's requirements
  - Admissions application for merit-based awards
  - FAFSA for need-based institutional aid
- Does the college require the CSS Profile?
  - Available starting October 1st at CSSProfile.org
  - Requires a fee but fee waivers may be available



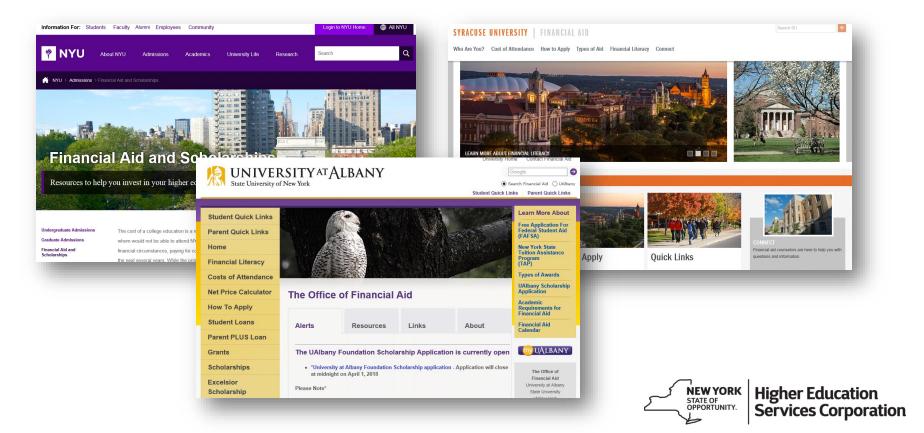
#### What is the CSS Profile?



- More detailed questions
- Collects asset values excluded by FAFSA
  - Home
  - Retirement accounts
- Non-Custodial Parent Supplement

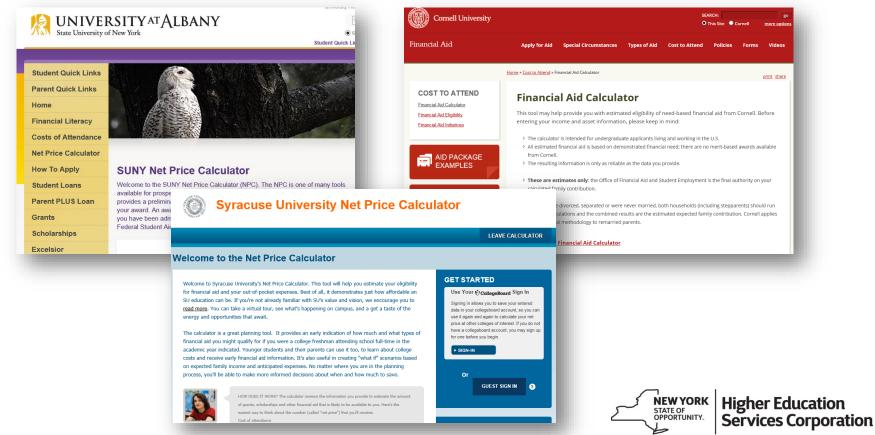


# Research College Financial Aid Websites



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#### **Use Net Price Calculators**



### Other Sources of Aid: Private Scholarships

- Online scholarship search websites
  - Fastweb.com
  - Collegeboard.org
  - Scholarships.com
- Check local library, employer or union
- Avoid scams
  - Unnecessary fees, ID theft
  - Go to studentaid.ed.gov/types/scams\_for tips

### **Financial Aid Tips**

- Apply for private scholarships now!
- Review/update your list of colleges on the FAFSA, TAP application
- Respond quickly to any request for missing information, verification
- The financial aid office is the best place to get questions answered



#### Questions?

NYS Higher Education Services Corporation 99 Washington Avenue Albany, NY 12255

HESC.ny.gov

1-888-NYSHESC (1-888-697-4372)

