

# Awarding of Financial Aid

The awarding of financial aid is a process involving many stakeholders including the Department of Education, the family and student, and many College offices to name a few. Processing financial aid is detailed and time-consuming. Filing the FAFSA starts the process and students are encouraged to apply early. The FAFSA opens October 1 each year. Once all completed documents are received in the Financial Aid Office, it can take up to 7 business days for a financial aid file to be complete.

Once all information is received and processed, the Financial Aid Office will provide the student with a financial aid offer. This notification and all subsequent notifications will be sent to the student's secure campus email account and is available in the student OneACCS student portal in accordance with college policy. The financial aid offer will include student eligibility for grant and scholarship aid, it is assumed the student accepts all grant and scholarship aid. The financial aid offer will also include loan eligibility that must be accepted by the student via the OneACCS student portal. All students are eligible and offered student loans, but the loans must be accepted to be used. Exceptions include students that have: (1) defaulted on a previous student loan, (2) academically ineligible to receive loans, or (3) have used their maximum loan amount eligibility.

Federal Financial Aid (Pell Grants, SEOG, Federal Work Study, and Direct Loans) are Title IV Funds. To qualify for federal student aid, a student must first enroll in Title IV eligible program of study and have a high school diploma or recognized equivalent, in accordance with College admissions policies. Once all documents have been received in Admissions and the student is unconditionally admitted and complete, financial aid may be awarded. No financial aid can be awarded until all Admissions requirements are met.

Any financial aid offer involving federal and/or state funds is tentative and conditional upon subsequent federal and state appropriations and actual receipt of the funds by the College. The Financial Aid Office reserves the right, on behalf of the College, to review and cancel an award at any time because of changes in the student's financial and/or academic status, including changes of academic program and/or changes in the institutional award level.