Welcome to Virtual College Week

Earn a Degree Without the Debt
October 29, 2019
5:00 p.m. E.T.
Please type all session questions in the Q&A box.
For live *Closed Captioning* please click on or copy the link in the chat box!
Follow @FLShines on Facebook and Twitter during Virtual College Week.
Welcome to Florida's student hub of innovative educational services.

One destination, many dreams.

Go to College
How to Get into Colleges and Universities in Florida

Succeed in College
Find Out How to Succeed in College | Florida College Success

Find a Career
What Career Should You Go Into After Graduating from College
Daniel Barkowitz
Assistant Vice President, Financial Aid and Veterans’ Affairs
Valencia College
Introduction

Today you will learn:

- What Financial Aid is
- Sources of Financial Aid
- The formulas used in determining your eligibility
- When and how to apply
Who am I?

• Nearly 30 years of financial aid and college financing experience
  • Public and Private
  • Undergraduate and Graduate
  • Small and Large
Who Are You?

• Where are you / your son or daughter thinking about attending college?

• What is the cost of that institution?

• How will you pay for it?
Overview

- Over $194 Billion given out in Undergraduate Financial Aid in 2017-18
- Percentage in student and parent loans is reducing over time!
- Parents in the same circumstances should be able to afford the same amount for college; those in different circumstances, different amounts
- Parents & Students have the primary responsibility for financing college cost
- This is a manageable process!

Source: College Board, Trends in Student Aid 2018 (http://trends.collegeboard.org)
Is it worth it?

**Unemployment rates and earnings by educational attainment, 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educational Attainment</th>
<th>Unemployment Rate (%)</th>
<th>Median Usual Weekly Earnings ($)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doctoral degree</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>1,825</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional degree</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1,884</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master’s degree</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>1,434</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s degree</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>1,198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate’s degree</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>862</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some college, no degree</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>802</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school diploma</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>730</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than a high school diploma</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>553</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>3.2%</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>All workers:</strong></td>
<td><strong>$932</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Vocabulary

• **COA** = Cost of Attendance - Includes tuition, room, board, fees, books, supplies, transportation, personal expenses

• **EFC** = Expected Family Contribution - Measure of what a family is expected to contribute over a year

• **Financial Need** = Difference between COA and EFC
So what is my college’s price?

SAMPLE COAS (2019-20)
How this Formula Works

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th>Need</th>
<th>EFC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>$70,000</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Financial aid is:

- **Grants** (or Scholarships)
  - Money that doesn’t need to be repaid
- **Loans**
  - Money which must be repaid; may be borrowed by student, parent, or both
- **Work**
  - Money which the student is given the potential to earn
The Forms You Need to Know

**Applications Open:**

October 1!

- **FAFSA** - Free Application for Federal Student Aid
  - Required by all colleges
  - Free form
  - [http://www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) or myStudentAid app

- **PROFILE**
  - Some colleges need this
  - Electronic only
  - Paid form / Waivers available

- **Institutional Application**
  - One per school
  - Usually part of admissions packet
What about Florida?

- Florida has 12 different state scholarship / grant / work programs
- Some are need-based, others are not!
- Applications open October 1 for Bright Futures
- For more info, go to [http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/](http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/)
The FSA ID (your electronic signature)

• Used for all Federal Student Aid Websites
• One required for student and a different one for parent
• Must use two different email addresses
• Set it up at https://fsaid.ed.gov/
It’s Not Apparent who is a Parent...

• For FAFSA:
  • Custodial Household
    • Who does the child live with?
    • THEN, who provides more support?

• For Some Colleges (mainly private):
  • Non-Custodial Parent Profile
What Year’s Information am I using?

• For Students attending 2020-21:
  • FAFSA online October 1, 2019
  • Income information based on 2018 Tax Year
  • Assets and Family Information as of filing date

• What if 2019 or 2020 income will be dramatically different?

Income Earned from January to December 2018

FAFSA Filed starting October 2019

Tax Return filed January – April 2019

School year starts August 2020 (bill due June 2020 / December 2020)
How does my tax information get to my FAFSA?

- Use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool
- Once for parent(s) / student
- Will not work if:
  - You have not filed a tax return / you filed PR or Foreign return
  - You don’t have a valid SSN
  - Your marital status changed after 12/31 of last year
  - Your marital status for FAFSA does not match your marital status for the IRS
- You will not see your data if you transfer it ($ #,### vs. $ 1,234)
- You can choose to enter by hand, but you may be selected for verification
What is Verification?

• About 35% of student applicants nationwide selected
• Prove what you submitted on the FAFSA
• May require:
  • Copies of tax forms (use the DRT)
  • Verification Form
  • Proof of Identity / HS Grad / Immigration Status
Federal Methodology
(The method behind the madness)

- Used to award all federal aid
- Must file FAFSA
- Uses both parent and student information (for dependent students)

The Financial Aid Funnel

*Income*
*# in family*
*Taxes*
*# in college*
*Assets*
Am I Dependent or Independent?

- What if my situation is unique?
  - Appeal for independent override
  - Fill out the FAFSA with no parent information
  - Borrow Unsub Loan

Will you be 24 or older by Dec. 31 of the school year for which you are applying for financial aid?

Will you be working toward a master’s or doctorate degree (such as M.A., M.B.A., M.D., J.D., Ph.D., Ed.D., etc.)?

Are you married or separated but not divorced?

Do you have children who receive more than half of their support from you?

Do you have dependents (other than children or a spouse) who live with you and receive more than half of their support from you?

At any time since you turned age 13, were both of your parents deceased, were you in foster care, or were you a ward or dependent of the court?

Are you an emancipated minor or are you in a legal guardianship as determined by a court?

Are you an unaccompanied youth who is homeless or self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?

Are you currently serving on active duty in the U.S. armed forces for purposes other than training?

Are you a veteran of the U.S. armed forces?
Institutional Methodology

• Some schools will use the Profile and/or their own application form
• Used by colleges to give out their own money
• Formula will vary school by school
• Often includes home equity
• Generally more strict than Federal Methodology
• Generally has a minimum Student Contribution (minimum of $2000 - $3500)
• May include only birth parents in divorced/separated situations
What is my EFC?
I need an easy way to figure this out!

- Net Price Calculator
  - Required of each college
  - Usually on the Admissions or Financial Aid Page
  - Provides an estimate of EFC and financial aid award
  - GI=GO
How do I Pay My EFC?

- Past Income
  - Savings
- Present Income
  - Salary
  - Payment Plans
- Future Income
  - Loan Programs
The Financial Aid Barrel

Cost of Attendance = $15,000
Unmet Need = $1,500
Work = $1,200 Work Study
Loan = $3,500 Direct Loan
Gift Aid = $2000 Grant + $1800 Scholarship
EFC = $5,000

Remember: COA - EFC = Need
$15,000 - 5,000 = 10,000
“Insider” Tips

• Find out the deadlines and comply!
  • Use a matrix
  • Keep copies of what you send
• If you have questions, ask!
• Don’t rule out a school just because of its cost
• Look at all of your financing options
Sources of Financial Aid

- Federal Government
- State Government
- College / University
- Private Agencies (Rotary, Elks, church or synagogue group)
- Professional associations
- Parent’s employer
Scholarship Searches

• Is there money out there?
• Can I get any of it?
• Fastweb www.fastweb.com
  • 1.5 Million Scholarships
  • $3.4 Billion
  • Set up a profile
  • Set up your own unique email address for scholarships
  • Scholarships with essays have less applicants

• Don’t forget that your school may have its own scholarship program / application!
The Financial Aid Calendar

- **October 1:** FAFSA and CSS Financial Aid Profile are available
- **November 1:** Many College Early Decision deadlines for Profile / FAFSA
- **November - December:** Complete forms
- **December:** Early Decisions are mailed
- **December - February:** Many school’s deadlines for forms (?)
- **Late February - March:** Schools may call you with questions
- **End of March - Early April:** Admissions and Financial Aid notification mailed
The Financial Aid Calendar (continued)

- **April**: Compare award letters from different schools
- **May 1**: DECISION DEADLINE - Tell all schools yes or no
- **May**: Pay deposits (tuition, room and board) - about $500
- **June**: Bill for the Fall semester, due by 8/1 or so
- **October**: FAFSA and CSS Profile for the next year are available
- **November - December**: Bill for the Spring Semester
“I need more help!...”

- [http://www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) - FAFSA on-line
- [http://www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org) - great all around information page; includes links to free scholarship searches
- Each college’s financial aid office
- Your high school guidance office
And your last source...
(Let this be the beginning of a beautiful friendship...)

• CONTACT ME!
  • E-Mail: dbarkowitz@valenciacollege.edu
Questions........
Thank you for attending Virtual College Week. For additional information or questions please visit FloridaShines.org or email us, help@flvc.org