

Federal Aid

Federal Pell Grant

- Need-based grant, determined by FAFSA
- Maximum for 2008–2009 was \$4,731
- No repayment, gift aid

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)

- Need-based grant, determined by FAFSA
- Awards are variable
- No repayment, gift aid

Federal Stafford Loan

- Need and non-need based loans, must be enrolled at least half-time
- Students may borrow up to \$3,500 as a first-year student and \$4,500 as a second-year student
- Repayment begins six months after the student graduates, leaves college, or drops to less than half time

Federal PLUS (Parent) Loan

- For parents of dependent students
- Amount available is cost of attendance less other aid
- Repayment begins within 60 days of loan disbursement

Federal Work-Study

- Need based, determined by FAFSA
- Amount varies with need
- No repayment, these are wages earned from working

State Aid

Iowa Vocational Technical Grant

- Need-based grant, determined by FAFSA
- For Iowa residents enrolled in a vocational, technical or career option program
- No repayment, gift aid
- FAFSA must be received by the processing center by July 1st preceding enrollment

Iowa Grant

- Need-based grant, determined by FAFSA
- Awards are variable

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State Aid continued...

All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship

- Priority is given to students who participated in the Federal TRIO Programs, graduated from alternative high schools, and to homeless youth.
- To apply students must file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- Students must also complete an application by May 1, 2009 which is available on the Iowa College Student Aid Commission's website at www.IowaCollegeAid.gov or by calling 877-272-4456.

All Iowa Opportunity Foster Care Grant and Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Programs

- These programs provide grants to students who have been in Iowa foster care and who plan to enroll in approved training programs in Iowa.
- To check eligibility requirements and apply, applicants must complete a FAFSA and obtain an application which is available on the Iowa College Student Aid Commission's website at www.IowaCollegeAid.gov or by calling 877-272-4456.

Institutional Aid

Scholarships are available through NCC's Foundation. Apply online at www.nwicc.edu. Deadlines for scholarships vary, but April 1 is the main deadline.

Other Website Resources

FastWeb www.fastweb.com

This site has a scholarship search service and helps students with information on choosing a college, paying for college and finding jobs.

Iowa College Student Aid Commission www.iowacollegeaid.gov

This site provides the latest information on scholarships, grants, loans, and work-study programs available for Iowa students.

College Planning Center www.ICANsucceed.org

This site has a comprehensive collection of information to help you prepare for college.

Questions

Call the NCC Financial Aid Office at
(712) 324-5061 or (800) 352-4907
or email
finaid@nwicc.edu

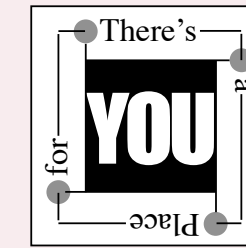


Financial Aid Information

*Walking you through the
Financial Aid process at
Northwest Iowa Community College*



There's a Place for YOU!



That's our slogan at Northwest Iowa Community College (NCC), and our Financial Aid Office can work with you to reach the goal of attending college. Federal and state financial aid programs, scholarships, and other funding sources, may be available to help you afford college. What are you waiting for? Let's get started!

GETTING STARTED

1. **Fill out a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).** There are three ways to apply: The quickest way to apply is online using FAFSA on the Web at www.fafsa.ed.gov

OR

If you prefer to complete a paper FAFSA go to www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov and download a PDF version of the FAFSA

OR

Call 1-800-4-FED-AID and request a paper application.

When you apply on the Web, you may want to apply for a PIN number to allow you to electronically sign the FAFSA. You and your parents may apply for a PIN at www.pin.ed.gov.

2. Remember to include NCC's financial aid school code **004600** on the FAFSA. **Submit the FAFSA** on the Web or mail in the paper version to the federal processor.
3. After the FAFSA is processed you and NCC will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR). **Review the information** on the SAR, check it for accuracy, and update estimated information, if necessary. You may make corrections or updates online at www.fafsa.ed.gov or on the paper SAR, if you receive one.
4. If your SAR indicates that you are selected for verification, you will need to **provide additional information** to the school. This will include providing copies of your tax returns. It is important for you to respond to NCC as soon as possible with all the documents.
5. Once your file is complete and you have been accepted by Admissions, NCC will send you an award letter indicating the types and amounts of aid for which you are eligible.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. How is eligibility for aid determined?

A. The FAFSA collects data that the federal government uses to determine your eligibility for federal and state aid, including grants, loans, and work-study.

Q. How long will the whole process take?

A. After you complete and submit your FAFSA, you will receive the Student Aid Report (SAR) in approximately 2–3 weeks. The NCC Financial Aid Office will begin processing in May 2009. We strive to get you information in a timely manner. However, if corrections must be made or if documentation is required, this process may take longer. Be patient, and complete all forms in a timely manner.

Q. What should I do after receiving my Student Aid Report (SAR)?

A. When you receive your SAR, review it carefully to make sure it is correct and complete. If it is correct, keep the SAR for future reference. If you need to make corrections and you applied electronically, you need to make corrections through FAFSA on the Web, using your PIN. If you applied using a paper FAFSA, correct the answers on the SAR, sign it, and mail it back.

Q. What is verification?

A. If your SAR has been selected for the verification process, this means the college must compare your SAR with documents, including tax returns, that verify your financial status. All requested documents must be received by the student's last day of enrollment or the end of the term, whichever is earlier. About one-third of all SARs are selected for verification.

Q. What steps could I be missing?

A. You need to complete the admissions process and be accepted for admissions before the Financial Aid Office can notify you of any financial aid eligibility.

Q. Why do I have to put my parent's information on the application when they are not helping me pay for school?

A. The federal government has established the criteria to determine whether you must report parental information. Your dependency is determined by answering dependency questions. If you answer "NO" to all of the dependency questions, you must provide parental information. If you answered "YES" to at least one of these questions, you may skip the questions asking for parents' information.

Q. My parents make too much money, so I know I won't qualify for financial aid. Do I still need to complete the FAFSA?

A. You are not required to complete the FAFSA, but we would encourage you to do so. A FAFSA is required to borrow a Federal Stafford Loan or if you want to have a work-study position. Some scholarships may also require a FAFSA to be filed.

Q. Do I have to be full-time to receive financial aid?

A. Students may be eligible for part-time aid; however, you must be enrolled at least half-time (6 credit hours fall and spring terms) to be eligible for a student loan.

Q. What if I don't receive enough financial aid to pay my bill?

A. If your financial aid is not enough to pay for your tuition and fee charges, you are responsible for paying the remaining amount by the day before the regular semester begins. If you are not able to pay the balance at that time, you will need to contact the Business Office to discuss payment plan options. You can set up a payment plan option for tuition and fees at www.nwicc.edu.

Q. What is the payment plan option?

A. FACTS provides an interest-free monthly payment plan that divides the tuition and fee bill into payments. The cost to set up this tuition payment plan is a \$35.00 per semester nonrefundable FACTS Enrollment Fee. To sign up for this you need to register online at www.nwicc.edu. You need to register and select your payment plan by the first day of class. Feel free to contact the Business Office for further information regarding your payment options.

Q. What do I do if my financial aid is not processed before my tuition is due?

A. You will need to pay for your books. Then talk to NCC's Business Office to discuss deferred pay-

ment options that are available for the tuition and fees bill. Deferred payment options will still require you to make a down payment.

Q. Does financial aid cover the costs of books?

A. If the amount of financial aid you are receiving is more than your total tuition and fees expense, you may use the surplus to help purchase your books. We recommend, however, that you have enough money to pay for your books.

Q. What happens if there is financial aid left over?

A. If your financial aid exceeds all charges (tuition, fees, books, dorms, etc.), a balance check will be issued to you several weeks after school starts.

Q. Does financial aid cover the cost of tools?

A. No. Financial aid cannot be used to purchase any tools. Even if you will be receiving a financial aid balance check, you may not use these funds to purchase tools. You need to make other arrangements to pay for any tool expenses.

Q. When should I complete the FAFSA?

A. It is a good idea to complete your FAFSA as soon after January 1 as possible. It is helpful to have your taxes done before you complete the FAFSA. Also, remember that financial aid is given on a year-by-year basis, and you must reapply each year.

Q. What is the deadline for applying for financial aid?

A. NCC's priority deadline is April 1. To qualify for state funded programs, submit the FAFSA to the processor by July 1 preceding your anticipated term of enrollment.

Q. What about scholarships?

A. Go to www.nwicc.edu to see what scholarship opportunities NCC has to offer. You can apply online. **WATCH DEADLINES.**

Q. Do my grades affect my financial aid?

A. If you receive financial aid (including loans and work-study) you need to:

1. Maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.0
2. Earn on a cumulative basis 67% of all credits ever attempted and,
3. Complete your course of study within the maximum time limit. Students must meet all of these requirements to maintain eligibility for financial aid.

Q. What is the online Loan Entrance Counseling all about?

A. Students who choose to borrow money by taking out a Federal Stafford Loan are required to complete a Loan Entrance Counseling session. This must be completed before the first loan disbursement can be released to the borrower.

APPLY EARLY

Q. Do I need to check my NCC email?

A. Every student receives a NCC email account. Students will be notified of pertinent campus information. The Financial Aid Office may also contact you via email throughout the semester, so it is important for you to check your email on a regular basis (at least once a week).

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE?

WHAT ABOUT BOOKS?

WHAT IS THE DEAD-LINE?

