High School Financial Aid Workshop

2020-2021

FAFSA®
Topics We Will Discuss

• It’s Senior Year!
• What is Financial Aid
• Cost of Attendance (COA), Estimated Family Contribution (EFC), & Financial Need
• Types and Sources of Financial Aid
• Free Application for Federal Student Aid or FAFSA®
• Special Circumstances
It’s SENIOR YEAR!

Fall To Do List

• Apply to college and fill out the FAFSA®

• **Stay on top of deadlines**
  • Oct. 1 complete FAFSA® and any other required applications
  • March 1 for MD State Aid

• Sign up for SAT, ACT (study & prepare)

• Visit colleges and complete admission applications
  • Some applications may require essays, reference letters, and other documents

• Some schools have separate institutional scholarship applications – ask your college
It’s SENIOR YEAR!
Spring To Do List

• Review acceptance letters & compare financial aid offers/letters/notifications
• Contact financial aid staff at your preferred college
• Choose your college and notify them of your commitment
• Submit any required financial deposit
What is Financial Aid?

• Financial Aid consists of funds provided to students and families to help pay for postsecondary educational expenses

• Financial Aid can come in a variety of forms and from a variety of sources
Categories of Financial Aid

- Need-based aid
- Non-need-based aid
How is NEED determined for Financial Aid?

**How Your Financial Aid is Calculated:**

\[ \text{Cost of Attendance (COA)} - \text{Expected Family Contribution (EFC)} = \text{Financial Need} \]
What is Cost of Attendance (COA)?

- Tuition and fees
- Room and board
- Books and supplies
- Transportation
- Miscellaneous personal expenses
What is Expected Family Contribution (EFC)?

- EFC = Expected Family Contribution
- Two Components: Parent and Student Contribution
- Stays the same regardless of college
- EFC is NOT the amount of money you have to pay for college
- Index used to determine aid
- Calculated using data from the FAFSA®
### COA

\[
\text{COA} - \text{EFC} = \text{NEED}
\]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>COA</th>
<th>EFC</th>
<th>Need</th>
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<tr>
<td>Harford Community College</td>
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<td>Towson</td>
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<td>Johns Hopkins University</td>
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Sources of Financial Aid

- Federal Government
- State Aid
- Employers
- Private Sources
- Colleges and Universities
Federal Government

• Largest source of financial aid
• Aid awarded primarily on the basis of financial need
• Must apply each year using the FAFSA®
• Eligibility requirements must be met
• Lots of Info studentaid.gov
Federal Student Aid Programs

- Federal Pell Grant
- Federal Supplemental Grant
- Federal Work-Study (FWS)
- Iraq Afghanistan Service Grant

- TEACHGrant
- Federal Direct Student Loans
- Federal PLUS Loans (Parent Loan)
Criteria for State Aid

• Sign up for email alerts and/or text alerts
• Must have FAFSA completed by March 1st each year!
• Some grants have an application that must be submitted to the state and not the school
• Some grants require that you be enrolled full time, 12+ credits
• Most grants require student and parent must be a resident of Maryland
State Aid
mhec.state.md

- Rawlings Educational Assistance Grant
- Guaranteed Access Grant
- Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship
- 2+2 Transfer Scholarship
- Maryland Part-time Grant

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- Legislative Grants
- More MD aid at mhec.state.md.us
Legislative Grants

- https://maryland.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=177afa87a67746a4ac5496b2d0897fb7
Legislative Grant Instructions

• Most Delegates and Senators require a FAFSA
• Must apply directly to YOUR Delegates and/or Senator
• Each Delegate and Senator has a different application process.
• Inquire in January
• Senatorial is renewable without having to apply each year
• You will have to apply for a Delegate scholarship each year
MDCAPS  
(MD College Aid Processing System)  
mdcaps.mhec.state.md.us

• Establish a login and password on MDCAPS website
• Accept your grant(s) and tell the state the school you want to receive your grant(s)
• Will receive 3 emails and/or texts from state before grant is canceled
• You have about 4 weeks to accept grant
• If you don’t accept grant and grant is canceled you may go on a waitlist
MDCAPS
mdcaps.mhec.state.md.us
Free Community College?

• It’s not that simple
• More details at mhec.state.md.us
MD Community College Promise Scholarship

• Complete FAFSA® or MSFAA (MD State Financial Aid Application for eligible undocumented immigrants) by March 1st

• Last Dollar Award it’s awarded after all other aid
  • Max $5,000

• Unweighted GPA minimum 2.3 at the end of the first semester of your senior year in high school

• Annual 2018 adjusted gross income of not more than:
  • $100,000 single or resides in a single-parent household
  • $150,000 married or resides in a two-parent household
MD Community College Promise Scholarship

• Graduate from a Maryland high school within the last two years or complete a GED by July 31st prior to the start of the semester.
• Be enrolled full time, 12+ credits at Community College in your county.
• Pay for your own books
• Commit to working full time in the state of Maryland for every year that you received the grant.
• Refer to Maryland Higher Education Commission for further questions, updates and changes mhec.state.md.us
• Submit all documentation, if required, to MHEC by June 15, 2020
Colleges and Universities

• Merit, need and non-need aid awarded
• Use information from the FAFSA® and/or institutional applications
• May require CSS Profile (College Scholarship Service) Usually private colleges
• Deadlines and application requirements vary by institution
• Harford Community College awards approximately $1 million in grants and scholarships each year
• Schools use institutional funds/endowments for awards
Private Scholarships and Employers

- **Private Sources** - Foundations, businesses, churches, civic, and charitable organizations
  - Begin researching private sources early
  - Check with High School Counselor
  - Avoid Scams
  - [careeronestop.org](https://careeronestop.org) – link sent when FAFSA complete

- **Employers** - May have educational benefits for their employees and scholarships available to the children of employees

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) FAFSA.gov

- Primary Application for all aid and all colleges/universities
- Collects demographic and financial information
- Information used to calculate the expected family contribution (EFC)
- Colleges may use EFC to award financial aid (not just federal)
Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®)

• May be filed at any time during an academic year, but no earlier than October 1\textsuperscript{st} prior to the academic year for which the student requests aid

• For the 2020-21 academic year, the FAFSA\textsuperscript{®} may be filed beginning October 1, 2019

• Colleges may set FAFSA\textsuperscript{®} priority dates

• \textit{FAFSA4caster} can be done anytime

• Apply online at [FAFSA.gov](http://FAFSA.gov)
Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®)

- FAFSA on the Web (FOTW)
- myStudentAid mobile app
- Paper or PDF FAFSA
- FAFSA on the Phone (FOTP)
- FAA Access to CPS Online
Features of FOTW and myStudentAid App

- Built-in edits to prevent costly errors
- Skip-logic allows student and/or parent to skip unnecessary questions
- Link to IRS tax Data Retrieval Tool (DRT)
- Can check application status online
- Simplified application process in future
FAFSA® on the Web (FOTW)

FAFSA.gov
FAFSA® on the Web (FOTW)

FAFSA.gov

Login

Log in to the FAFSA

Only students may use their FSA ID to log in. Parents and others can start a FAFSA for a student by entering the student’s identifiers. Parents and others can also work on a FAFSA form or correction the student started using the Save Key that the student made. Help for parents.

☐ I am the student

OR

☐ I am a parent, preparer, or student from a Freely Associated State

NEXT

Site Last Updated: Sunday, June 30, 2019

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myStudentAid App
Go to App store on your phone to load FREE app

- Mobile ability to begin, complete, save, and submit the FAFSA®
- Information protected the same as FOTW
- Prompts applicant to create a save key, allowing completion at later time
FAFSA® Announcements

• Customers who are using an Apple device (mobile and/or desktop) may encounter errors on some FAFSA® fields if the “smart punctuation” feature is enabled. This feature changes apostrophes and quotation marks to invalid characters that the FAFSA® form cannot recognize.

• Check out the myStudentAid app for iOS and Android at App store
FSA ID  fsaid.ed.gov

• Used for FAFSA® completion and allows access to certain U.S. Department of Education websites

• May be used by students and parents throughout financial aid process, including subsequent school years

• Create your own FSA ID
FOTWWorksheet  studentaid.ed.gov

Preview of questions that may be asked regarding basic information for the student and parent.
IRS Data Retrieval Tool (DRT)

• STRONGLY RECOMMENDED

• Allows for certain tax return information to be transferred from the IRS database

• Uses “prior-prior year” tax information 20/21 is using 2018 taxes

• Participation is voluntary and student chooses whether or not to transfer data to FOTW

• IRS will authenticate taxpayer’s identity

• If tax record is found, IRS transfers information to populate the FAFSA®

• Reduces documents requested by financial aid office
IRS Data Retrieval Tool: Certain Tax Filers Cannot Use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool

• Did not indicate on FAFSA® a tax return was completed
• Marriage date is January 2019, or later
• First three digits of the SSN are 666
• Filed a non-U.S. tax return
• Married and filed as head of household, or filed separate returns
• Neither married parent entered a valid SSN
• Non-married parent or both married parents entered all zeroes for the SSN
General Student Information

- Social Security Number
- Citizenship status
- Marital status
- Drug conviction of possession or sale
- Selective Service registration
- Highest education level completed by father/mother
- Income earned, savings, checking account balances
Student Dependency Status

• FAFSA® asks questions to determine dependency status for federal student aid (not IRS) purposes

• If all “No” responses, student is dependent – first question is “Were you born before Jan. 1, 1997?”

• Visit studentaid.ed.gov for more info about dependency status

• If “Yes” to any question, student is independent
Parental Information of Dependent Students

• Income, taxes paid and other financial information

• Dislocated worker status

• Receipt of means-tested federal benefits in the previous two years

• Assets (savings, checking, investments, college savings plans- 529) Do not list value of primary residence

• Untaxed income (child support)
The following are examples of parent information:

- A legal parent is your biological or adoptive parent, or your legal parent as determined by the state (for example, if the parent is listed on your birth certificate). If you have a stepparent currently married to your legal parent, you generally also must provide information about him or her.

- There is a video and FAQ list for every possible parent scenario at: https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/filling-out/parent-info
Additional FAFSA® Information

• College information
• Housing plans
• FAFSA® preparer information (RARE)
• It’s a FREE application– do not pay!
Signatures

• Required on FAFSA®:
  • Student
  • One parent (dependent students)
• How to submit signature:
  • BEST: Electronic using FSA ID
    • fsaid.ed.gov
  • Signature page
  • Paper FAFSA®
10 Common FAFSA® Mistakes
Common Mistakes Dept. of ED blog

• Not completing the FAFSA® form
• Not filling out the FAFSA® form as soon as it’s available
• Not submitting the FAFSA® form by the deadline
• Not getting an FSA ID before filling out the FAFSA® form
• Not using FSA ID to start the FAFSA® form
• Not using the IRS Data Retrieval Tool (IRS DRT)
• Inputting incorrect information
• Not reporting required information
• Listing only one college
• Not signing the FAFSA® form
Frequent FAFSA® Errors

- Social Security Numbers
- Divorced/widowed/remarried parental information
- Income earned by parent/stepparent
- Untaxed income
- U.S. income taxes paid
- Household size
- Number of household members in college
- Real estate and investment net worth
Making Changes
Is it a correction or an update?

• FAFSA® is a snapshot of the DAY you completed it

• Do NOT make most updates!!!! For example:
  • Change in address
  • Change in family size
  • Change in balance in savings account
  • Marital status- speak to financial aid office to determine whether you can update

• Exception- you must update most things that change your dependency status – for instance if student is now pregnant or in legal guardianship. NOT MARITAL status– see above
Correction vs Update

• Corrections are okay. For example:
  • You made a mistake
  • You used the wrong SSN
  • You want to add or delete a school code
SAR Acknowledgement

- If valid email address is provided on FAFSA®, student given access to electronic SAR at FAFSA.gov
Special Circumstances

- Conditions exist that cannot be documented with the FAFSA®
- Send written explanation and documentation to your college’s financial aid office
- College will review and request additional information if necessary
- Decisions are final and cannot be appealed to U.S. Department of Education
Resources for Parents & Students

• Free Application Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®): fafsa.gov
• Federal Student Aid ID (FSA ID): fsaid.ed.gov
• Everything about Federal Aid and how to apply: studentaid.gov
• Maryland Higher Education Commission: mhec.state.md.us
• Harford Community College Financial Aid: harford.edu
• FATV-Financial Aid TV: harford.financialaidtv.com Series of short videos that explain financial aid in understandable terms
• Twitter.com/FAFSA
• Facebook.com/FederalStudentAid
• National Assoc. Student Financial Aid Admin. (NASFAAA) Financial Aid Award Comparison spreadsheet: Award Offer Comparison Spreadsheet from NASFAA
Contact Us!

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Bel Air, MD  21015
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Fax: 443-412-2169
Finaid@Harford.edu
Facebook @HarfordFinAid

More Financial Aid Including Tonight’s Presentation at: