

Dollar + Sense How to Finance Your College Education

Presenter:
Stacy Petrino, Director of Financial Aid



1

College Financial Planning 101

- Planning for 4 years
- Begin early
- How to Apply for Aid



2

FINANCIAL FACTS ABOUT DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY

- 100% of students receive some form of a scholarship or grant.
- Dominican College administers more than \$30 million in grants, scholarships and loans annually.
- Counselors are available to help families calculate the true out of pocket expense.



3

Applying for Aid

- Complete the FAFSA Application
- Scholarship Searches
- Complete Loan Applications
- Apply Annually

****FAFSA IS THE KEY THAT OPENS THE DOOR TO FINANCIAL AID****



4

FAFSA – What is it?

- FAFSA stands for the “**FREE** Application for Federal Student Aid.”
- It is the form that the federal government uses to determine your eligibility for federal aid, including grants, scholarships, work-study, and loans.



5

FAFSA-Eligibility

- U.S. Citizen or eligible noncitizen
- Have a valid social security number
- Be enrolled or accepted in a degree program
- Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress in College
- Have a high school diploma, GED or have been homeschooled in a setting approved under state law.



6

How It Works

Using the information you supply on the FAFSA, the federal processor determines:

- **Student Aid Index (SAI)**- the amount of money you and/or your parents can be expected to contribute to your college costs. The SAI figure which is calculated by the Federal Government takes the size of family, number in college, parent and student income & assets into consideration.
- Dominican University will then try to meet your need through a financial aid package which can include funds from federal, state and institutional resources.

Financial Need is Based on the following Equation:

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{Cost of Education} \\ - \text{Student Aid Index (SAI)} \\ \hline = \text{Need} \end{array}$$

7

FAFSA

Tip 1

- The FAFSA is now available **October 1st** of each year
- Dominican University's school code is 002713
- Complete the FAFSA on the Web at www.fafsa.gov
- Students and parents must each obtain their own FSA ID and Password which serves as their electronic signature.



8

FAFSA

Tip 2

- Use prior-prior year income information on FAFSA. (i.e, use 2021 income information on the 2023-2024 FAFSA)
***Best to link directly to IRS Data Retrieval tool from FAFSA.**
- Use the name listed on your social security card-Dept. of Education performs a data match with the Social Security Administration.
- If you are not required to file a tax return, you are still required to report income received to financially support yourself in.
- If student is living with both biological parents in the same household, but they are not married, both parent's income is required on the FAFSA.



9

FAFSA

Tip 3

- If a parent is divorced/separated only the custodial parent's income is required on the FAFSA.
- If the custodial parent is remarried the step-parent's income must be provided as well.
- Do not submit your tax return and/or W2 form with the FAFSA application.
- If you are selected by the Federal Government for a process known as verification, the Financial Aid Office will request these documents at a later time.



10

FAFSA

Tip 4

- If the student is residing with a Legal Guardian do not report that person's income on the FAFSA.
- **Submit the FAFSA whether or not you think you qualify for aid.**



11

FAFSA

Tip 5

- Read your Student Aid Report (SAR) carefully.
- The SAR is your official record that the federal processor received your FAFSA.
- If there is missing information on your application your financial aid eligibility may not be able to be determined until corrections are submitted to the Federal Student Aid Center.



12

FAFSA

Tip 6

- Each transaction allows for 10 schools to be listed
- List ALL schools applying to-do NOT wait for acceptance at each College before listing them
- If applying to over 10 schools, once the FAFSA is processed (Student Aid Report-SAR) received, Go back in to the FAFSA and make a correction. Delete schools and add additional schools
- ***Any correction made requires an electronic signature by both parent **AND** student.



13

[WWW.STUDENTAID.GOV](http://www.studentaid.gov)

The screenshot shows the FAFSA website interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs: UNDERSTAND AID, APPLY FOR AID, COMPLETE AID PROCESS, and MANAGE LOANS. The main content area features a dark blue background with the following text and buttons:

- Complete the FAFSA[®] Form**
- Use the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA[®])* form to apply for financial aid for college or graduate school.
- New to the FAFSA[®] Process?**
Completing the FAFSA form is free. Fill it out now.
- Returning User?**
Correct info | Add a school
View your *Student Aid Report (SAR)*

Below this, there is a section for **FAFSA[®] Announcements** with the heading **Changes to Your Family's Financial Situation** and a sub-heading: *If your or your family's financial situation has changed significantly from*



14

FAFSA Continued

Student's Info

- First Name
- Last Name
- SSN
- Date of Birth

15

IRS DATA RETRIEVAL

Linking to the IRS is quick, easy and may save the student and/or parent from having to get a copy of their Tax Return Transcript.

16

IRS DATA RETRIEVAL TOOL

- Some will be unable to use IRS DRT
- Examples include:
 - Filed an amended tax return
 - No Social Security Number (SSN) was entered
 - Student or parent married but filed separately



17

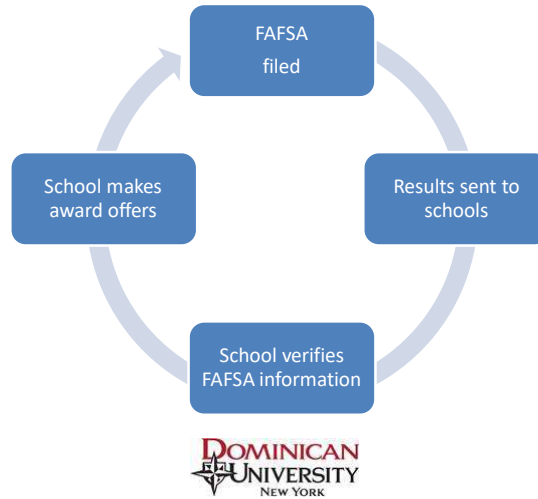
FAFSA Confirmation Page

<p>Start your state application to apply for New York state-based financial aid.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">→</p>	<p>Does your brother or sister need to complete a FAFSA?</p> <p style="font-size: small; color: white;">If so, you can transfer your parents' information into a new FAFSA for your brother or sister to save time. Your parents will have to provide a signature again, but that's all.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">→</p>
> Expand All	
<p>> Estimated Expected Family Contribution (EFC) = 000000</p>	
<p>> Foster Care Information</p>	
<p>> School(s) on your FAFSA:</p>	



18

FAFSA Processing Results



19

The 4 Forms of Financial Aid

- Grant – “Free Money” based on need
- Scholarship – “Free Money” based on merit and/or need
- Work Study – Student employment opportunity (based on need)
- Loan – Money borrowed

Resources

- Federal
- State
- Institutional
- Private





20

Federal Aid-Grants

(need based, do **NOT** have to be repaid)

- Pell Grant, designed for students with exceptional need. Maximum yearly award for 22/23 is \$6895. Amount awarded is based on SAI and enrollment status (Full-time, half-time, etc.)
- Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (**FSEOG**), designed for students with exceptional need. **Fund is limited.**



21

Federal Aid – Work Study

- Need based
- Does not have to be repaid
- Money is earned through work on or off campus while enrolled in school
- Prepares students for real world
- **Fund is limited**



22

Federal Aid –Student Direct Loans (must be repaid)

Subsidized

- Need based
- U.S. Department of Education will pay (subsidize) interest that accrues while in school
- Must be at least half-time
- As of July 1, 2022 interest rate is fixed at 4.99%
- Repayment begins after 6 month grace period
- Maximum repayment period between 10 and 30 years
- Annual loan limits apply

Unsubsidized Stafford

- Need is exhausted
- Must be at least half-time
- Interest accrues while in school
- As of July 1, 2022 interest rate is fixed at 4.99%
- Repayment begins after 6 month grace period
- Maximum repayment period between 10 and 30 years
- Annual loan limits apply

***Origination Fees apply to both loans.



23

Federal Direct Loans-Annual Loan Limits

Annual Loan Limits (combined subsidized and unsubsidized)

Classification	Dependent	Independent
Freshman	\$5,500	\$9,500
Sophomore	\$6,500	\$10,500
Each remaining year	\$7,500	\$12,500
Graduate/Professional	N/A	\$20,500

*Only borrow what is needed

*Look at loans as an investment in the future



24

Federal Parent Loan-PLUS Loan (must be repaid)

- Available to parents of dependent students only.
- Credit worthy parent.
- Interest rate is fixed at 7.54%
- Repayment begins immediately but can be deferred upon request.
- If a parent is unable to borrow (credit denied) a parent PLUS loan, a student may be eligible for additional unsubsidized loans.

****Origination fees apply.**



25

State Aid – Grants/Scholarships (does NOT have to be repaid)

Tuition Assistance Program (TAP)

- NY Residency Requirements
- Must be full-time
- Must complete TAP application (Either by linking to it directly from the FAFSA or by going to the State's website www.tapweb.org)
- Renewable annually based on continued eligibility and annual completion of application.
- Highest award amount is \$5665/yr



26

State Aid-Scholarship Programs

Excelsior Scholarship-Requirements

- Pursuing an undergraduate degree at SUNY or CUNY
- Be and stay on track for on-time completion
- Enroll in at least 12 credits per term and complete 30 credits per year
- Earn a passing grade
- Sign a contract agreeing to reside in NYS for the length of time award received, and if employed, be employed in NYS
- Maximum award amount is \$5500/yr
- If student receives TAP (State Grant) the TAP award is deducted from the \$5500 which will result in the Excelsior scholarship amount.



27

State Aid-Excelsior Scholarship (con't)

Duration

- Up to two years for pursuit of an associate's degree
- Up to four years for pursuit of a bachelor's degree (five years for five-year programs)
- Family household AGI per federal tax returns
2020: \$125,000



28

State Aid-Enhanced Tuition Award (ETA)

Overview

- For students attending a private, not-for profit college in NYS
- Up to \$6,000 through combination of TAP award, ETA award and private college match
 - Example:
 - \$1,000 TAP award
 - \$5,000 – half paid by ETA and half by college



29

Enhanced Tuition Award- (Con't)

Requirements

- Be and stay on track for on-time completion
- Enroll in at least 12 credits per term and complete 30 credits per year
- Earn a passing grade
- Must live in New York State for the number of years equal to awards received after graduation
- Sign a contract agreeing to reside in NYS for the length of time award received, and if employed, be employed in NYS



30

Enhanced Tuition Award (Con't)

Duration

- Up to two years for pursuit of an associate's degree
- Up to four years for pursuit of a bachelor's degree (five years for five-year programs)
- Family household AGI per federal tax returns
2020: \$125,000



31

Institutional Scholarships

- Range from \$6,000-\$18,000 per year at Dominican
- Must be enrolled full-time (12 credits or more)
- Awarded based on GPA upon entry



32

Direct Cost of Education (cont'd)

Dominican University uses these costs to prepare a financial aid package for you by using the following formula:

$$\text{Direct Cost} - \text{SAI} = \text{Need}$$



33

The Financial Aid Package

- Financial Aid packages are made up of grants, scholarships, loans, and/or work study.
- The package is based on the families financial strength (SAI).
- Most packages include loans.



34

Affording Your Dominican College Education What if the Financial Aid Package is not enough?

Financing Options

Federal Plus Loan

- Interest rate fixed at 6.28%
- Credit worthy parent
- Available to parents of dependent students only.

Student Alternative Loans

- Various Lenders, may need a credit worthy co-signer
- Option for deferred interest/repayment
- Can borrow up to the Cost of Attendance

Tuition Payment Plan

- **Interest free**
- Monthly Payments made over the course of each semester

35

CSS PROFILE

CollegeBoard CSS Profile Sign In Search

Apply for Financial Aid with CSS Profile

Nearly 400 colleges, professional schools, and scholarship programs use CSS Profile to award non-federal aid.

Sign In to Apply

Before You Apply How to Apply Fee Waivers International Applicants Info for Divorced Parents



36

CSS PROFILE

- Nearly 400 Colleges and Organizations use the CSS profile to determine how they will award institutional funds
 - Available 10/1 each year and collects more comprehensive income, asset and household information than the FAFSA
 - Home value • Retirement value • Non-custodial parent information • Aligns with the FAFSA's use of prior - prior year income (2020 for 22-23 award year)
- Costs money to file** - \$25 plus \$16 per college Register - Complete Application – Make payment - Submit



37

Special Circumstances

- Cannot report on FAFSA
- Send written explanation to financial aid office at each College
- Change in employment status
- Medical expenses not covered by insurance
- Change in parent marital status
- Unusual dependent care expenses



38

Private Scholarship Search

Free Internet scholarship search engines:

- The College Board
www.collegeboard.com
- Fast Web
www.fastweb.com
- Finaid.org
www.finaid.org
- Scholarship Experts
www.scholarshipexperts.com
- The Collegiate Webservice
www.gocollege.com



39

Helpful Web Resources

- FAFSA: www.fafsa.gov
- Federal FSA User ID: www.fsaaid.gov
- FAFSA Tutorial
<https://www.finaid.ucsb.edu/fafsasimplification/>
- Federal Student Aid on the Web:
www.studentaid.ed.gov
- NYS Higher Education Service (NYSHESC)
www.hesc.ny.gov
- U.S. Dept. of Education: www.ed.gov



40

RECAP-BE PROACTIVE

- Oct - February – Review deadlines, complete FAFSA application, NYS TAP application, college searches, college application process, and possibly CSS Profile
- November - May - Schools send award letters
- June -July - School sends Fall Semester bill



41

Questions?



42