

THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

GOALS Resources = CUNY

Funding Your College Education: A Guide to Financial Aid



ACADEMICS + ACCESS + AFFORDABILITY = **CUNY**

When you look at the quality and cost of a CUNY education, you see right away that it is a tremendous value. But still, the cost of a college education, whether at CUNY or any other college, is a significant investment and one to be carefully considered.

If you think you will need assistance to pay for educational expenses, we recommend that you apply for financial aid. While you and your family have the primary responsibility of paying for your education, funding is available from the federal, state and city government and from CUNY to help you pay college expenses. These expenses include tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, and transportation.

CUNY Undergraduate Tuition

(As of September 2009)

New York State Residents

Yearly full-time tuition at a four-year college is \$4,600 and \$3,150 at a community college.

Tuition for part-time students is \$195 per credit at a four-year college and \$135 per credit at a community college.

Out-of-State Residents

Tuition is \$415 per credit at a four-year college and \$210 per credit at a community college.

Fees at the various CUNY colleges range from \$150 to \$225 per semester.



An Affordable High-Quality College Education

Types of Financial Assistance

Grants—Money that does not have to be repaid and is usually based on financial need

Scholarships—Money that does not have to be repaid and usually is awarded on the basis of academic merit

Loans—Money for school that must be repaid with interest

Work-Study—Money earned from a job that is provided by the College Financial Aid Office

The Applications to Apply for Financial Aid

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) www.fafsa.ed.gov—

Application used to apply for financial aid from the federal government

TAP (Tuition Assistance Program)

www.tapweb.org—Application used to apply for financial aid from New York State

The only way you will know what financial aid you may be eligible for is by filling out the above applications. The entire process is free.

Seven Steps to Applying for Financial Aid



The following steps will provide you with information on how to apply for federal and New York State financial aid.

Collect the Documents Needed to Apply

Collect your income tax returns, Social Security number, W-2 form(s) and any other records of income and assets. If you are under 24 years old, you will likely need your parents' information as well. You can estimate your tax information if you have not yet completed your tax return and correct the information later. A FAFSA on the Web Worksheet is available at www.fafsa.ed.gov that allows you to complete the questions before entering your information online.

2.

Get a Federal Student Aid PIN at www.pin.ed.gov

Your PIN allows you to sign your FAFSA electronically. You can also make corrections to your FAFSA application once it's filed and access your application online. If you're under 24 years old, it is likely you and one of your parents will each need a PIN.



3.

Complete the FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov

The FAFSA is the application for federal student assistance. You can apply starting January 1 prior to the academic year you plan on attending. You can apply for financial aid before you have been admitted to CUNY. Apply online by going to www.fafsa.ed.gov. Internet access is available at the financial aid office at each CUNY college. A paper FAFSA is available by calling the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243).



4.

Link to TAP on the Web From Your FAFSA Application (New York State Residents Only)

The TAP application is used to apply for New York State student financial aid. Once you complete the FAFSA online you will get to the “FAFSA on the Web confirmation page.” Click on the link for New York State residents, and you will be directed to the New York State Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC) website in order to fill out your TAP application.

5.

Receive a Student Aid Report (SAR)

After your FAFSA is processed, you will be emailed a Student Aid Report (SAR) from the U.S. Department of Education within 3–5 days. The SAR contains the information you provided on your FAFSA and a calculation of your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). You can access your SAR and make corrections at www.fafsa.ed.gov with your Federal Student Aid PIN.

6.

Verify Your Data

The U.S. Department of Education selects a certain number of applicants for a verification process. If you have been selected (which will be indicated on your SAR), you will need to submit tax returns and other documents to your school’s financial aid office to verify the data you supplied on your FAFSA.

7.

Receive Your Financial Aid Award Letter

Once your FAFSA is complete and you demonstrate financial need, your selected college will send you an award letter indicating the financial aid programs for which you qualify.



Evaluating College Costs and Financial Aid Packages

The most important consideration when selecting a college should be whether the institution is going to meet your educational needs. However, you and your family must also consider costs associated with a college when deciding where to enroll.

Financial Need

Financial need is the difference between cost of attendance and your expected contribution.

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Cost of Attendance} \\ - & \text{Expected Family Contribution} \\ \hline = & \text{Financial Need} \end{aligned}$$

Cost of Attendance (COA)

When planning for college, you need to review the total cost of attendance (COA), which includes tuition and fees, housing (room and board), transportation, books and supplies, and personal expenses. The estimated cost for attending CUNY full-time for nine months is equal to the total in tuition and fees plus approximately \$6,242 for all other costs. Figure on a COA at CUNY of about \$11,200 per year if you are living at home while attending a four-year college.



Expected Family Contribution (EFC)

Your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is the amount you and your family can reasonably contribute toward yearly educational costs. The information you supply on your FAFSA is analyzed using a federal formula to determine your family's financial situation. The analysis considers your family's income, family size, certain assets, taxes paid and the number of family members who will be attending college.

For federal financial aid, your EFC is calculated in the same way for every college. Your EFC is used to determine the amount of federal financial aid you are eligible for, such as Pell, Federal Work-Study and federal loans. In addition, the EFC can be used to determine your eligibility for various college scholarships.

Financial Aid Package

Based on your financial need, CUNY will construct a financial aid package for you. Each financial aid package will be made

up of various types of financial aid to help cover all or part of your college costs. If you have financial need, you may be eligible for grants, work-study and subsidized loans.

CUNY Financial Aid Estimator

To assist you in determining the financial aid you may receive, there is a Financial Aid Estimator on the CUNY website. This tool will calculate your estimated financial aid awards while attending a CUNY college and show your estimated cost of tuition and fees. The Financial Aid Estimator can also help you compare costs at CUNY to other institutions so that you can determine which colleges are most affordable for you. In order to get a financial aid estimate, you will be asked to supply your Expected Family Contribution (EFC), which is found on your Student Aid Report (SAR). You will receive this when you file your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). To access the Financial Aid Estimator, go to the CUNY financial aid home page at www.cuny.edu/financialaid.

The following pages contain information on the financial aid programs that may be included in your financial aid package based on your eligibility.

Programs to Help Finance Your Education

CUNY Programs

Along with the application for admission, many CUNY scholarships require students to fill out the FAFSA and, for New York State residents, a TAP application.

CUNY Scholarship Programs

www.cuny.edu/scholarships

Many CUNY colleges have scholarships available to their students. Information about these scholarships can be found in the college catalogs, college websites or from www.cuny.edu/scholarships. In addition, you may find scholarship information from the office of admissions or the financial aid office at the college you plan to attend.

Macaulay Honors College

www.macaulay.cuny.edu

The Macaulay Honors College provides outstanding educational opportunities for academically gifted students. The program is designed for students who have demonstrated scholastic strength throughout their high school academic career. Students may apply online to the Macaulay Honors College at one of seven designated campuses. Accepted students receive a full tuition scholarship, study grants and a free laptop.

Peter F. Vallone Academic Scholarship

The Vallone Scholarship rewards high school graduates who have proven their ability to succeed academically. All students who apply to CUNY are automatically considered for a Vallone

Scholarship. Funding is determined by the New York City Council and is subject to change.

To qualify for a Vallone Scholarship, you must:

- Graduate from a NYC high school with at least an 80 academic average
- Pass at least 12 college preparatory courses in high school
- Enroll at a CUNY college as a full-time student within one year of graduating high school
- Attend CUNY before attending any other postsecondary institution

Tuition Payment Plan

CUNY colleges participate in the TuitionPay monthly payment plan to help families budget tuition and fee expenses. Details about the program may be obtained at www.tuitionpay.com/cuny or at the Bursar's office on your CUNY college campus.

New York State Programs for New York State Residents

www.hesc.org

To be considered for New York State programs you must:

- Be a New York State resident
- Submit the FAFSA and the TAP application
- Be admitted into a degree program
- Make academic progress toward your degree

Tuition Assistance Program (TAP)

TAP is a grant for New York State residents who attend college full time. TAP grants are based on the applicant's and his/her family's New York State net taxable income. Undergraduate TAP annual awards range from \$500 to full CUNY tuition. The first step in the TAP application process is the completion of the FAFSA.

Part-Time Assistance for New York State Residents

New York State provides two financial aid programs for students pursuing a degree while taking 6–11 credits: the Part-Time Tuition Assistance Program and the Aid for Part-Time Study Program. The amount of each grant is determined by the student's family income, number of credits being taken and the availability of funds from New York State.

Opportunity Programs at CUNY: SEEK and CD

SEEK (Search for Education, Elevation and Knowledge) is a New York State program available at CUNY's four-year colleges that is designed to assist students who are both academically and financially disadvantaged. CD (College Discovery) is the companion program, funded by New York City at community colleges. Admission into the SEEK or CD program is part of the CUNY admission process.

Other State Scholarships and Awards

New York State offers a number of special scholarships for students who excelled in high school or who may be pursuing particular academic objectives.

Information about these scholarships is available from the New York State Higher Education Services Corporation at www.hesc.org.

Federal Government Programs

www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov

To be eligible for federal financial aid programs, students must:

- Fill out a FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov
- Be accepted for admission into a degree-granting program
- Be in good academic standing and make satisfactory progress toward completing a degree
- Be a citizen of the United States or eligible non-citizen
- Not be in default on a federal student loan or owe a refund of financial aid
- Register with the Selective Service (for males between the ages of 18 and 25)

Federal Pell Grants

For the 2009–2010 academic year, Pell Grants provide up to \$5,350 per year. You can receive a Pell Grant while you are registered for as little as one credit. Students who are accelerating progress toward a degree may be eligible for additional Pell.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (FSEOG)

If you demonstrate exceptional financial need, CUNY may award you funds from FSEOG. Preference is given to students who receive a Pell Grant. In addition to exceptional need, CUNY requires that you demonstrate a willingness to assist in financing your education through part-time employment or by borrowing.

Federal Work-Study (FWS)

The Federal Work-Study program provides you with an opportunity to be placed into a part-time job that accommodates your academic schedule. If you are awarded Federal Work-Study, you may find an eligible off-campus or on-campus job. Each college's financial aid office can help you find a Federal Work-Study job.

Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG)

An eligible student may receive an ACG of up to \$750 for the first academic year of study and up to \$1,300 for the second academic year of study. To be eligible, you must:

- Answer the qualifying ACG questions on the FAFSA and be a Pell grant recipient
- Be enrolled for six or more credits in a degree program
- Be enrolled in the first- or second-year program at a community or four-year college
- Have completed an eligible, rigorous high school program

National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent (SMART) Grant

An eligible student may receive a National SMART Grant of up to \$4,000 for each of the third and fourth academic years of study. The grant is available to students who are majoring in designated courses in physical, life or computer science; engineering; mathematics; technology or a critical foreign language. To be eligible, you must:

- Be a Federal Pell Grant recipient
- Be enrolled for six or more credits at a four-year degree-granting program
- Have at least a cumulative 3.0 GPA in the coursework required for your major

Loans

What you need to know if you borrow a Federal Direct Loan:

- You must apply for financial aid using the FAFSA.
- You must request the loan from the financial aid office at the college you will be attending.
- You must complete an entrance interview, which provides you with information regarding the loan's terms and conditions.
- If you request a Direct Loan, you may decline the loan later by notifying the financial aid office.
- You do not need a co-signer to qualify for a Direct Loan, and there is no credit check.
- Interest rates on subsidized loans are 5.6 percent and will go down to 4.5 percent on July 1, 2010. Unsubsidized loans will remain at 6.8 percent.
- Your repayment period varies from 10 to 30 years.
- Repayment begins six months after you graduate, leave school or drop below half-time study.

Federal Direct Loans

If you find that you will need to borrow money to pay for some of the costs of your college education, there are federal loans available to you.

CUNY participates in the Direct Loan program where students borrow directly from the federal government. Just like any other loan, these loans must be repaid with interest. If you have financial need, you are eligible for a subsidized Direct

Loan and there is no interest charged as long as you maintain half-time enrollment. If you have any questions about loans, they can be answered in the college financial aid office.

Maximum Loan Amounts for Federal Direct Loans¹

	Subsidized	Total Subsidized & Unsubsidized
Dependent Undergraduate		
1 st Year	\$3,500	\$5,500
2 nd Year	\$4,500	\$6,500
3 rd Year and Beyond	\$5,500	\$7,500
Independent Undergraduate		
1 st Year	\$3,500	\$9,500
2 nd Year	\$4,500	\$10,500
3 rd Year and Beyond	\$5,500	\$12,500

¹Maximum loan amounts are based on eligibility.

Federal Perkins Loans

Federal Perkins Student Loans are low-interest loans for both undergraduate and graduate students who have exceptional financial need. CUNY serves as the lender, and funding is limited. The interest rate is set at 5 percent. The application is the FAFSA.

Federal PLUS Loans for Parents

If you are considered to be a dependent student, your parent(s) may be eligible to apply for a federal loan to help pay your college expenses.

Additional information about the Federal PLUS Loan for Parents:

- PLUS loan borrowers are subject to credit checks.
- The interest rate charged may be recalculated on July 1 each year.
- PLUS loan borrowers are currently charged 7.9 percent interest.
- Your dependent student must file a FAFSA.
- Request the loan from the financial aid office.

Private Organizations

There are thousands of private organizations that provide scholarship assistance to college students. These scholarships are based on a variety of factors. To search for scholarships, you should use Internet search programs such as *fastweb.com* and *collegeboard.com*. These are free services. You do not need to pay someone to help you with your scholarship search.

Information contained in this booklet is accurate at the time of publication.

FAFSA and TAP School Codes

When filling out your FAFSA and TAP application, you will be asked to supply a college code for the colleges where you would like to have your information sent. CUNY college codes are listed below.

College Name	Federal/ FAFSA Code	New York State/TAP Code
Four-Year Colleges		
Baruch College	007273	1409
Brooklyn College	002687	1410
The City College of New York	002688	1411
College of Staten Island	002698	1417
Hunter College	002689	1413
John Jay College of Criminal Justice	002693	1414
Lehman College	007022	1412
Medgar Evers College	010097	1415
New York City College of Technology	002696	1405
Queens College	002690	1416
SPS/CUNY Online Baccalaureate	004765	1420
York College	004759	1418
Community Colleges		
Borough of Manhattan Community College	002691	1404
Bronx Community College	002692	1400
Hostos Community College	008611	1401
Kingsborough Community College	002694	1402
LaGuardia Community College	010051	1403
Queensborough Community College	002697	1407

CUNY Offices of Financial Aid Contact Information

Visit www.cuny.edu/financialaid and click on “Financial Aid Offices”

COLLEGES

Baruch College

151 E. 25th St.
Room 880
New York, NY 10010
(646) 312-1360
www.baruch.cuny.edu

Brooklyn College

2900 Bedford Ave.
West Quad Bldg.
Brooklyn, NY 11210
(718) 951-5051
www.brooklyn.cuny.edu

The City College of New York/ Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education

160 Convent Ave.
Administration Bldg.
Room 104
New York, NY 10031
(212) 650-5819
www.ccnycuny.edu

College of Staten Island

2800 Victory Blvd.
N. Administration Bldg.
Room 401
Staten Island, NY 10314
(718) 982-2030
www.csi.cuny.edu

Hunter College

695 Park Ave.
Room 241 North
New York, NY 10021
(212) 772-4820
www.hunter.cuny.edu

John Jay College of Criminal Justice

445 W. 59th St.
Room 1280N
New York, NY 10019
(212) 237-8149
www.jjay.cuny.edu

Lehman College

250 Bedford Park Blvd. West
Shuster Hall, Room 136
Bronx, NY 10468
(718) 960-8545
www.lehman.cuny.edu

Medgar Evers College

1637 Bedford Ave.
Room S110
Brooklyn, NY 11225
(718) 270-6141
www.mec.cuny.edu

New York City College of Technology

300 Jay St.
Namm Hall Room NG-13
Brooklyn, NY 11201
(718) 260-5700
www.citytech.cuny.edu

Queens College

65-30 Kissena Blvd.
Jefferson Hall, Room 202
Flushing, NY 11367
(718) 997-5100
www.qc.cuny.edu

SPS/CUNY Online Baccalaureate

101 W. 31st St.
Room 905
New York, NY 10001
(212) 652-2895
www.cuny.edu/online

York College

94-20 Guy R. Brewer Blvd.
Room 1M08
Jamaica, NY 11451
(718) 262-2230
www.york.cuny.edu

COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Borough of Manhattan Community College

199 Chambers St.
Room N340
New York, NY 10007
(212) 220-1430
www.bmcc.cuny.edu

Bronx Community College

2155 University Ave.
Colston Hall, Room 504
Bronx, NY 10453
(718) 289-5700
www.bcc.cuny.edu

Hostos Community College

120 E. 149th St.
Room B112-115
Bronx, NY 10451
(718) 518-6555
www.hostos.cuny.edu

Kingsborough Community College

2001 Oriental Blvd.
Room U201
Brooklyn, NY 11235
(718) 368-4644
www.kbcc.cuny.edu

LaGuardia Community College

31-10 Thomson Ave.
Room C107
Long Island City, NY 11101
(718) 482-7218
www.lagcc.cuny.edu

Queensborough Community College

Springfield Blvd. &
56th Ave.
Library Bldg., Room 409
Bayside, NY 11364
(718) 631-6367
www.qcc.cuny.edu

Questions?

If you have questions about the financial aid application process, visit www.cuny.edu/financialaid or contact the financial aid office at the CUNY college you plan to attend. For help with your FAFSA and TAP application, refer to the websites and phone numbers listed below.

Useful Websites and Phone Numbers

The City University of New York (CUNY)

CUNY Financial Aid Information www.cuny.edu/financialaid
www.cuny.edu/scholarships
General Information on CUNY www.cuny.edu

Federal Government Resources

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) www.fafsa.ed.gov
Federal Student Aid Information 1-800-4-FED-AID
(1-800-433-3243)
www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov
Direct Loan Servicing Center 1-800-848-0979
Federal Student Aid Forecaster www.FAFSA4caster.ed.gov
College Planning www.college.gov

New York State Higher Education Services Corporation

General Information on Your TAP Grant 1-888-NYS-HESC
(1-888-697-4372)
www.hesc.org

COLLEGES

Four-Year Colleges

BARUCH COLLEGE
BROOKLYN COLLEGE
THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK
COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND
HUNTER COLLEGE
JOHN JAY COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE
LEHMAN COLLEGE
MEDGAR EVERS COLLEGE
NEW YORK CITY COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
QUEENS COLLEGE
YORK COLLEGE

**Community
Colleges**

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE
HOSTOS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
KINGSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
LAGUARDIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
QUEENSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**Honors College
and Graduate &
Professional
Schools**

MACAULAY HONORS COLLEGE
SOPHIE DAVIS SCHOOL OF BIOMEDICAL EDUCATION
CUNY GRADUATE CENTER
CUNY GRADUATE SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM
CUNY SCHOOL OF LAW
CUNY SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

For more information,
please visit www.cuny.edu/financialaid



CUNY Welcome Center
Grace Building
42nd St. between 5th & 6th Aves.
Manhattan

www.cuny.edu