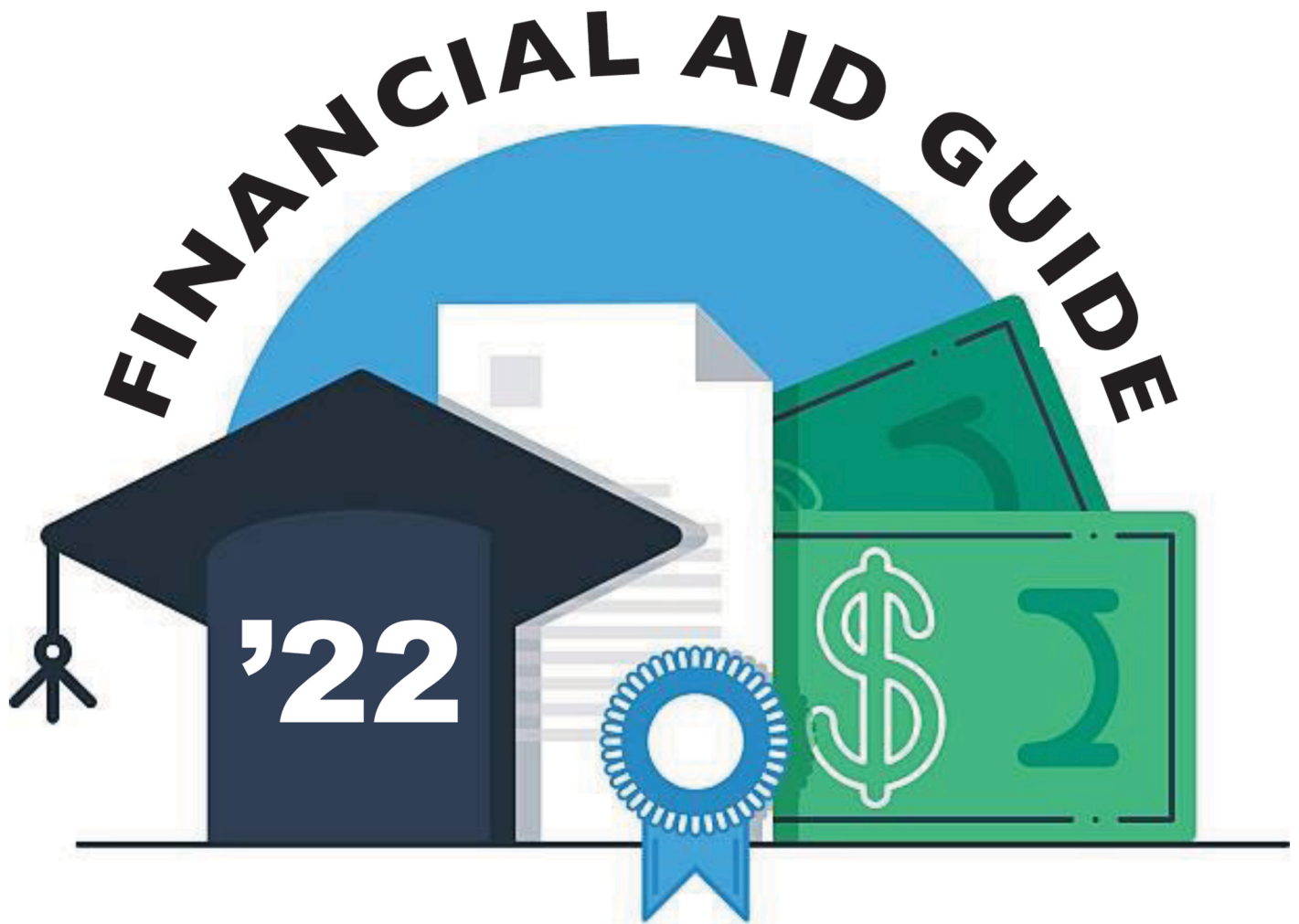


SYOSSET HIGH SCHOOL



September 2022

Guidance Department

SYOSSET HIGH SCHOOL

FINANCIAL AID PLANNING GUIDE

2022

The District gratefully wishes to acknowledge the following staff
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FINANCIAL AID GUIDE

September 2022

Our guest speaker is Joseph Sciame, Vice President for Government and Community Affairs at St. John's University, NY. Mr. Sciame brings a wealth of experience in financial aid at the local, state and national levels.

In addition to an overview of the financial aid process, Mr. Sciame will provide a step-by-step review of the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) on the Web Worksheet. A question-and-answer period will follow.

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7 Things You Need Before Filling Out the 2022–23 FAFSA® Form studentaid.gov

If you need financial aid to help pay for college, you must complete the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA) form. The 2022–23 FAFSA form is available beginning Oct. 1st. You should fill it out as soon as possible on or after Oct. 1 at the official government site, fafsa.gov.

It'll be easier to complete the FAFSA form if you gather what you need ahead of time. Here's what you'll need to fill it out.

1. Your FSA ID

If you haven't done so already, create an FSA ID, which is your account username and password. The FSA ID is a digital legal signature that lets you complete and update the FAFSA form, so create your own and keep it safe. Parents of dependent students will need to use their own FSA ID to complete the FAFSA process. We recommend creating your account early—even before you're ready to complete the FAFSA form. This extra step can avoid delays in the process especially since it can take up to three days before you can use your FSA ID.

Create an FSA ID

For step-by-step instructions, watch [How to Create an FSA ID \(Account Username and Password\)](#).

IMPORTANT: Do NOT create an FSA ID on someone else's behalf. This includes parents. A parent should not create an FSA ID for their children and a student should not create an FSA ID for their parents. It may cause issues signing and submitting the FAFSA form and lead to financial aid delays. (Also, it's against the rules.)

2. Your Social Security Number

You can find the number on your Social Security card. If you don't have access to it or you don't know where it is, you can [request a new or replacement card](#) from the Social Security Administration. If you are not a U.S. citizen but meet Federal Student Aid's other [eligibility criteria](#), you'll also need your Alien Registration number. Both parents and students need this information for the FAFSA form.

3. Your Driver's License Number

You'll need to enter your driver's license on the FAFSA form. If you don't have a driver's license, then don't worry about this step.

4. Your Federal Income Tax Return

On the 2022–23 FAFSA form, you (and your parents, if you are a dependent student) will report your 2020 income.

Since you probably filed your 2020 income tax return by the time the FAFSA form is available, you may be eligible to transfer your tax information into the FAFSA form right away using the IRS Data Retrieval Tool (DRT).

- Not everyone is eligible to use the IRS DRT
- The IRS DRT does not input all the financial information required on the FAFSA form. Therefore, you should have your 2020 tax return and 2020 IRS W-2 available for reference.

The IRS DRT is the fastest, most accurate way to input your tax return information into the FAFSA form. To address security and privacy concerns related to the IRS DRT, the tax return information you transfer from the IRS will not display on fafsa.gov. Instead, you'll see "Transferred from the IRS" in the appropriate fields on fafsa.gov.

- You **cannot use** your 2021 tax information. We understand that for some families, 2020 income doesn't accurately reflect your current financial situation. If you have experienced a reduction in income since the 2020 tax year, you should complete the FAFSA form with 2020 information, and then contact each of the schools to which you're applying to explain and document the change in income. Schools have the ability to assess your situation and adjust your FAFSA form if warranted.
- You cannot update your 2022-23 FAFSA form with your 2021 tax information after you file your 2021 tax return. The 2022-23 FAFSA form requires only 2020 tax information.

5. Records of Your Untaxed Income

The FAFSA questions about untaxed income, such as child support, interest income, and veterans' non-education benefits, may or may not apply to you. On the 2022-23 FAFSA form, you'll report 2020 tax or calendar year information when asked these questions. Find specific details that pertain to [parents](#) and [students](#).

6. Records of Your Assets (Money)

This section includes savings and checking account balances, as well as the value of investments such as stocks, bonds, and real estate excluding your primary residence. Report the current amounts as of the date you sign the FAFSA form, rather than reporting the 2020 tax year amounts.

Note: Misreporting the value of investments is a common FAFSA mistake. Please carefully review what is and is not considered a [student investment](#) and [parent investment](#) to make sure you don't over- or under-report. You may be surprised by what can (and cannot) be excluded.

7. List of the School(s) You Are Interested in Attending

Be sure to add any college you're considering, even if you haven't applied or been accepted yet.

- Even if there is only a slight chance you'll apply to a college, list the school on your FAFSA form. You can always remove a school later if you decide not to apply, but if you wait to add a school, you could miss out on financial aid.
- The schools you list on your FAFSA form will automatically receive your FAFSA results electronically. They will use your FAFSA information to determine the types and amounts of financial aid you may receive.
- If you add a school to your FAFSA form and later decide not to apply for admission to that school, that's OK! The school likely won't offer you aid until you've been accepted anyway.
- You can list up to 10 schools at a time on your FAFSA form. [If you're applying to more than 10 schools, here's what you should do.](#)

TIP: To be considered for state aid, several states require you to list schools in a particular order (for instance, you might need to list a state school first). [Find out whether your state has a requirement for the order in which you list schools on your FAFSA form.](#)

Ready to Start?

Once you're ready, you have [several ways to complete the FAFSA form](#), including the fafsa.gov website or the myStudentAid mobile app.

2021–22 Federal Student Aid at a Glance

WHAT is federal student aid?

Federal student aid comes from the federal government—specifically, the U.S. Department of Education. It's money that helps a student pay for higher education expenses (i.e., college, career school, or graduate school expenses).

Federal student aid covers such expenses as tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, and transportation.

There are three main categories of federal student aid: grants, work-study funds, and loans. Check with your school's financial aid office to find out which programs the school participates in.

WHO gets federal student aid?

Some of the most basic eligibility requirements for students are that you must

- demonstrate financial need (for most programs—to learn more about financial need, visit [StudentAid.gov/how-calculated](https://studentaid.gov/how-calculated));
- be a U.S. citizen or an eligible noncitizen;
- have a valid Social Security number;
- be registered with Selective Service, if you're a male (you must register between the ages of 18 and 25);
- be enrolled or accepted for enrollment in an eligible degree or certificate program;
- be enrolled at least half-time (for most programs); and
- maintain satisfactory academic progress in college, career school, or graduate school.

See the full list of eligibility requirements at [StudentAid.gov/eligibility](https://studentaid.gov/eligibility).

Completing and submitting the FAFSA® form is free and quick, and it gives you access to the largest sources of financial aid to pay for college or career school—federal, state, and school sources. If you need a print-out of the FAFSA® PDF, call 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243) or 334-523-2691 (TTY for the deaf or hard of hearing 1-800-730-8913).

HOW do you apply for federal student aid?

1. **To apply for federal student aid, you must complete the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) form at fafsa.gov.** The FAFSA form is available every Oct. 1 for the next school year. If you plan to attend college from July 1, 2021–June 30, 2022, submit a 2021–22 FAFSA form.
Fill it out as soon as possible to meet school and state deadlines. Schools and states often use FAFSA information to award nonfederal aid, but their deadlines vary. Check with the schools that you're interested in for their deadlines, and find state and federal FAFSA deadlines at [StudentAid.gov/fafsa](https://studentaid.gov/fafsa).
2. **Students and parents are required to use an FSA ID (an account username and password combination) to sign their FAFSA® form online and to access information about their financial aid on U.S. Department of Education websites.** Your FSA ID is used to confirm your identity and electronically sign your federal student aid documents. Your FSA ID has the same legal status as a written signature. Don't give your FSA ID to anyone or allow anyone to create an FSA ID for you. To create an FSA ID, visit [StudentAid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch](https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch).
3. After you apply, you'll receive a Student Aid Report, or SAR. Your SAR contains the information reported on your FAFSA form and usually includes your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The EFC is a number (not a dollar amount) used to determine your eligibility for federal student aid. Review your SAR information to make sure it's correct. The school(s) you list on your FAFSA® form will get your SAR data electronically.
4. **Contact the schools you might attend.** Make sure the financial aid office at each school you're interested in has all the information needed to determine your eligibility. If you're eligible, each school's financial aid office will send you an aid offer showing the amount and types of aid (from all sources) the school will offer you. You can compare the aid offers you received and see which school is the most affordable once financial aid is taken into account.

Federal Student Aid

Program	Program Information	Annual Award Amount (subject to change)
Federal Pell Grant	For undergraduates with financial need who have not earned bachelor's or professional degrees. For details and updates, visit StudentAid.gov/pell-grant .	Amounts can change annually. For the 2021–22 award year, the award amount is up to \$6,495.
Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)	For undergraduates with exceptional financial need; Federal Pell Grant recipients take priority; funds depend on availability at school. For details and updates, visit StudentAid.gov/fseog .	Up to \$4,000.
Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant	For undergraduate, postbaccalaureate, and graduate students who are completing or plan to complete course work needed to begin a career in teaching. To receive a TEACH Grant, a student must agree to teach for four years in a high-need field at an elementary school, secondary school, or educational service agency that serves low-income families. If a student doesn't complete the teaching service requirement, all TEACH Grants the student received will be converted to a Direct Unsubsidized Loan that must be repaid, with interest. For details and updates, visit StudentAid.gov/teach .	Up to \$4,000.
Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant	For undergraduate students who are not Pell-eligible and whose parent or guardian died as a result of military service in Iraq or Afghanistan after the events of 9/11. For details and updates, visit StudentAid.gov/iraq-afghanistan .	The grant award can be equal to the maximum Federal Pell Grant amount (see above) but cannot exceed your cost of attending school.
Federal Work-Study	For undergraduate and graduate students; part-time jobs can be on campus or off campus. Money is earned while attending school. Your total work-study award depends on when you apply, your level of financial need, and your school's funding level. For details and updates, visit StudentAid.gov/workstudy .	No annual minimum or maximum amounts
Direct Subsidized Loan	For undergraduate students who have financial need; U.S. Department of Education generally pays interest while the student is in school and during certain other periods; a student must be enrolled at least half-time. Interest rates for new Direct Subsidized Loans can change every year. Loans made to undergraduate students during the 2021–22 award year have a fixed interest rate of at 2.75% for the life of the loan. For details and updates, visit StudentAid.gov/sub-unsub .	Up to \$5,500 depending on grade level.
Direct Unsubsidized Loan	For undergraduate and graduate or professional students; the borrower is responsible for interest during all periods; a student must be enrolled at least half-time; financial need is not required. Interest rates for new Direct Unsubsidized Loans can change every year. Loans made to undergraduate students during the 2021–22 award year have a fixed interest rate of 2.75% for the life of the loan. Loans made to graduate or professional students during the 2021–22 award year have the rate fixed at 4.30% for the life of the loan. For details and updates, visit StudentAid.gov/sub-unsub .	Up to \$20,500 (less any subsidized amounts received for same period), depending on grade level and dependency status.
Direct PLUS Loan	For parents of dependent undergraduate students and for graduate or professional students; the borrower is responsible for interest during all periods; a student must be enrolled at least half-time; financial need is not required; the borrower must not have an adverse credit history. Interest rates for new Direct PLUS Loans can change every year. Loans made during the 2021–22 award year have a fixed interest rate of at 5.30% for the life of the loan. For details and updates, visit StudentAid.gov/plus .	Maximum amount is the cost of attendance minus any other financial aid received.

Try [StudentAid.gov/scholarships](https://studentaid.gov/scholarships) for tips on where to look and for a link to a free online scholarship.

TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID

GRANTS: Need-based and do not have to be repaid

The following are GRANTS:

- *Institutional Grants
- *Federal Pell Grants
- *Tuition Assistance Program (TAP)
- *Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants
- *Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH)
- *Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grants
- *Excelsior Scholarship
- *Enhanced Tuition Award (ETA)

SCHOLARSHIPS: Merit-based and do not have to be repaid

Scholarships are awarded yearly, may require separate application, and student may need to maintain GPA. Scholarships are available for special talents, athletics, leadership, specific major, community service, work-related, civic organizations, situational (i.e., Medical, 9/11).

LOANS: Must be repaid and include the following:

- *Federal Stafford Loan
- *Parent Plus Loan
- *Perkins Loan
- *Commercial Lenders

WORK STUDY: Need-based, awarded yearly, maximum 20 hours/week

FINANCIAL AID OVERVIEW

Federal aid is determined by completing the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)*, New York State aid is obtained through the *Tuition Assistance Program (TAP)*, and institutional aid is granted through either the *CSS/Financial Aid Profile* or the college's own financial form. Federal and college-based financial aid consists of institutional grants and scholarships (which are not repaid), work programs, and loans. New York State financial aid consists of the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP), scholarships, and other awards. If you are interested in obtaining federal, state or institutional aid, you must apply for financial aid each year, because changes in your family situation may affect your eligibility.

FEDERAL AID

In order to be considered for each of these programs, you must complete the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)* online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. You may be awarded the following types of assistance, depending upon your financial need:

Federal Pell Grant

- Does not have to be repaid
- Amount can change yearly.
- The maximum Federal Pell Grant award is subject to change. For the **2022-2023 award year, it is \$6,895.**
- Amount awarded depends on your financial need, cost of attendance, status as a full-time or part-time student, and plans to attend school for a full academic year or less.
- Each college that participates receives enough funds to award the full amount for which you qualify.
- Other aid you might receive does not affect the amount of this award.

Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants (FSEOG)

- Does not have to be repaid
- Administered directly by the financial aid office at each participating college
- Not all colleges participate so check with the college's financial aid office.
- You can receive between **\$100 and \$4,000** a year, depending on your financial need, when you apply, the amount of other aid you get, and the availability of funds at your school.
- Each participating college receives a certain amount of this type of aid; once the full amount has been disbursed, no more awards can be given so make sure you apply early.
- Be aware of each college's deadlines.

Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH)

- Does not have to be repaid
- Provides grants up to **\$4,000** for students who intend to teach in public/private elementary or secondary school that serves students from low-income families

Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant

- Does not have to be repaid
- For students who are not eligible for a PELL Grant, but whose parents/guardian was a member of the U.S. Armed Forces and died as a result of service performed in Iraq or Afghanistan after September 11, 2001

Excelsior Scholarship (Please see page 9 for details and restrictions)

- Must be NYS resident for 12 continuous months prior to beginning of term
- Plan to attend SUNY or CUNY two-or four-year degree program
- Be enrolled in at least 12 credits per term, take 30 credits/year
- Have a combined federal adjusted gross income of \$125,000 or less

Enhanced Tuition Award (ETA) (Please see page 14 for details and restrictions)

- Must be NYS resident for 12 continuous months prior to beginning of term
- Enrolled in a private college in NYS (not all private colleges participate)
- Be enrolled in at least 12 credits per term, take 30 credits/year
- Have a combined federal adjusted gross income of \$125,000 or less

Federal Stafford Loan Program

- Must be repaid
- Low interest rate
- Student must be a US Citizen or eligible non-citizen and be enrolled at least half time in an accredited academic program.

Stafford Subsidized Loans:

- Are based on financial need
- Do not accrue interest while a student is in school at least half-time
- The college determines final eligibility

Stafford Unsubsidized Loans:

- Federally guaranteed loans not based on financial need
- Interest accrues from time the loan is disbursed to the school
- Students have the option of either paying interest as it accrues or capitalizing the interest and paying it off along with the principal following graduation
- Interest or principal payments do not have to be made until six months after graduation, or six months after a student drops below a half-time status

Parent Loan For Undergraduate Students (PLUS)

- Maximum loan amount is the student's cost of attendance (determined by the college) less financial aid.
- Bank approval to borrow using a PLUS loan is subject to examination of credit history.
- Typically has a low interest rate
- Repayment period for a Direct PLUS Loan begins at the time the PLUS loan is fully disbursed.
- A parent may defer repayment while the student, on whose behalf the parent borrowed the loan, is enrolled on at least a half-time basis, and for an additional six months after the student ceases to be enrolled at least half-time.

The Federal Perkins Loan Program

- Low-interest federal student loans for undergraduate and graduate students with exceptional financial need
- Interest rate for this loan is 5%.
- Not all colleges participate in the Federal Perkins Loan Program (contact the college's financial aid office).
- Payments are made to the college as lender or the college's loan servicer.
- Funds depend on the availability of funds at the college.

The Federal Work-Study Program

- Provides part-time employment while enrolled in college
- Available to undergraduate, graduate, and professional students with financial need
- Available to full-time or part-time students
- Not all colleges participate in the Federal Work-Study Program (contact the college's financial aid office).

Information obtained at <http://studentaid.ed.gov>. Please see website for more complete information.

STATE AID

Tuition Assistance Program (TAP)

- Is a grant and does *not* need to be repaid
- Based on the family's New York State taxable income
- Award can be up to \$5,665
- An express preprinted TAP application, for New York State colleges only, must be completed to obtain New York State financial aid.
- If a New York State college is listed on your FAFSA, New York State Higher Education Services Corporation (NYS HESC) will send you the preprinted Express TAP Application (ETA).
- There is no fee for a TAP application.
- Go to: www.hesc.org for more information.

SCHOLARSHIPS

- Usually merit-based, but may be based on financial need
- Earned by meeting or exceeding certain standards set by the scholarship-giver
- Merit scholarships awarded based on academic achievement, special talent, athletics, trait, or interest
- Many geared toward particular groups of people, i.e., high school seniors
- Some are work-related, or because student come from a certain background, i.e., military family.
- Might cover the entire cost of tuition, or could be a one-time award of several hundred dollars
- Contact the college's financial aid office for information to apply for institution-specific opportunities.
- Not all colleges require a special application; applicants are sometimes automatically considered.
- College scholarships may require maintaining a minimum GPA in order to receive awards each year.
- Some scholarships require a financial aid application to be on file in order to be eligible.
- It is the student's responsibility to find out which financial aid forms are required.
- Complete all required applications before the deadline.
- Check the following free resources for information: local library's reference section; foundations, religious or community organizations; local businesses; civic groups; professional associations; ethnicity-based organizations.
- Check the Syosset High School Guidance Resource Center and the Senior Bulletin/Newsletters for more scholarship opportunities.

Be aware of potential scholarship scams online, by mail, in seminars or over the phone:

- "Buy now or miss this opportunity." Don't give in to pressure tactics. Remember, the "opportunity" is a chance to pay for information you could find yourself for free.
- "We guarantee you'll get aid." A company could claim it fulfilled its promise if you were offered student loans or a \$200 *scholarship*. Is that worth a fee of \$1,000 or more?
- "I've got aid for you; give me your credit card or bank account number." Never give out a credit card or bank account number unless you know the organization is legitimate. You could be putting yourself at risk of identity theft.

The official FAFSA website is: www.fafsa.ed.gov

- Several websites offer help filing the FAFSA for a fee.
- These sites are not affiliated with or endorsed by the U.S. Department of Education.
- If you are asked for your credit card information while filling out the FAFSA online, you are not at the official government site. **Remember, the FAFSA site address has .gov in it!**

The Excelsior Scholarship

The Excelsior Scholarship, in combination with other student financial aid programs, allows students to attend a SUNY or CUNY college tuition-free.

Eligibility - An applicant must:

- be a resident of NYS and have resided in NYS for 12 continuous months prior to the beginning of the term;
- be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen;
- have either graduated from high school in the United States, earned a high school equivalency diploma, or passed a federally approved "Ability to Benefit" test, as defined by the Commissioner of the State Education Department;
- have a combined federal adjusted gross income of \$125,000 or less;
- be pursuing an undergraduate degree at a SUNY or CUNY college, including community colleges and the statutory colleges at Cornell University and Alfred University;
- be enrolled in at least 12 credits per term and complete at least 30 credits each year (successively), applicable toward his or her degree program;
- if attended college prior to the 2022-23 academic year, have earned at least 30 credits each year (successively), applicable toward his or her degree program prior to applying for an Excelsior Scholarship;
- be in a non-default status on a student loan made under any NYS or federal education loan program or on the repayment of any NYS award;
- be in compliance with the terms of the service condition(s) imposed by a NYS award that you have previously received; and
- execute a Contract agreeing to reside in NYS for the length of time the award was received, and, if employed during such time, be employed in NYS.

Catching Up on Credits

A student who is not on track to complete an Associate's degree in two consecutive years or Bachelor's degree in four consecutive years (which requires completion of the equivalent of 30 credits each academic year) can catch up on missing credits to become eligible for an Excelsior Scholarship. If you successfully earn additional credits during a term or academic year and get back on track to completing your degree on time, you will be eligible to receive an Excelsior Scholarship for the remainder of your undergraduate degree program.

Opportunity Programs

If you are in an opportunity program, the Excelsior Scholarship program allows five years to complete your degree on time (which requires completion of the equivalent of 24 credits each academic year).

Five-Year Undergraduate Programs

If you are in an undergraduate program of study normally requiring five-years, the Excelsior Scholarship program allows five years to complete your degree on time (which requires completion of the equivalent of 30 credits each academic year).

Students with Disabilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990

To be eligible for an Excelsior Scholarship, students with qualified disabilities under the Americans With Disabilities Act who attend less than full time must register with their college office for students with disabilities.

If you are a student with a disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Excelsior Scholarship program requires that you be continuously enrolled and complete the number of credits you attempted each semester to fulfill the requirement for on-time degree completion. If you have not earned credits for all courses attempted, you can catch up on missing credits if you successfully earn additional credits during a Summer and/or Winter session(s) and get back on track for credits that were not previously completed.

Students with disabilities determined to be ineligible who can demonstrate good cause for completing fewer credits than attempted and/or a break in attendance may appeal the decision by completing the [Excelsior Scholarship Program Appeal Form](#) and uploading to <https://www.hesc.ny.gov/ExcelsiorAppeals>.

For more information, visit [NYS Student Financial Aid Programs and Students with Disabilities](#).

Appeals

Students whose current income or prior year adjusted gross income is \$125,000 or below due to the disability, divorce or separation of a parent, spouse or the student or the death of a parent or spouse may appeal their disqualification by completing the [Income Appeal Form](#) and uploading to <https://www.hesc.ny.gov/ExcelsiorIncomeAppeals>.

Students who are determined to be ineligible for failure to meet the annual credit or continuous enrollment requirements and who can demonstrate good cause may appeal the decision by completing the [Excelsior Scholarship Program Appeal Form](#) and uploading to <https://www.hesc.ny.gov/ExcelsiorAppeals>.

Award Amount*

A recipient of an Excelsior Scholarship may receive up to \$5,500. To determine the award amount, the 2016-17 resident tuition rate charged by SUNY (\$6,470) or CUNY (\$6,330) will be reduced by the amount of certain other student financial aid awards which an applicant has or will receive for the academic year, including a NYS Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) award and/or federal Pell grant. The Excelsior Scholarship will cover any remaining tuition liability up to \$5,500; and a tuition credit will cover any remaining tuition expenses not covered by the Excelsior Scholarship.

*Note: Any award payment received may have tax implications. Any questions regarding this should be directed to a tax professional, the Internal Revenue Service, or the NYS Department of Taxation and Finance.

Duration

A recipient of an Excelsior Scholarship is eligible to receive award payments for not more than two years of full-time undergraduate study in a program leading to an associate's degree or four years of full-time undergraduate study, or five years if the program of study normally requires five years, in a program leading to a bachelor's degree.

Payment

To receive award payments after the initial application year, an Excelsior Scholarship recipient must annually complete the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) and the [NYS Student Aid Payment Application](#) each year.

The Enhanced Tuition Awards (ETA) Program

The Enhanced Tuition Awards (ETA) program provides tuition awards to students who are New York State residents attending a participating private college located in New York State. Recipients will receive \$6,000 through a combination of their TAP award, ETA award and a match from their private college.

Eligibility - An applicant must:

- Be a resident of NYS and have resided in NYS for 12 continuous months prior to the beginning of the term
- Be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen
- Have either graduated from high school in the United States, earned a high school equivalency diploma, or passed a federally approved “Ability to Benefit” test, as defined by the Commissioner of the State Education Department
- Have a combined federal adjusted gross income of \$125,000 or less
- Be pursuing an undergraduate degree at a participating private college or university located in New York State
- Be enrolled in at least 12 credits per term and complete at least 30 credits each year applicable toward his or her degree program, through continuous study with no break in enrollment except for certain reasons that can be documented
- If attended college prior to the 2022-2023 academic year, have earned at least 30 credits each year (successively), applicable toward his or her degree program prior to applying for an Enhanced Tuition Award
- Be in a non-default status on a student loan made under any NYS or federal education loan program or on the repayment of any NYS award
- Be in compliance with the terms of the service condition(s) imposed by any NYS award(s) that you have previously received
- Execute a Contract agreeing to reside in NYS for the length of time the award was received, and, if employed during such time, be employed in NYS.

Catching Up on Credits

A student who is not on track to complete an Associate’s degree in two consecutive years or Bachelor’s degree in four consecutive years (which requires completion of the equivalent of 30 credits each academic year) can catch up on missing credits to become eligible for an Enhanced Tuition Award. If you successfully earn additional credits during a term or academic year and get back on track to completing your degree on time, you will be eligible to receive an Enhanced Tuition Award for the remainder of your undergraduate degree program.

Opportunity Programs

If you are in an opportunity program, the ETA program allows five years to complete your degree on time (which requires completion of the equivalent of 24 credits each academic year).

Five-Year Undergraduate Program

If you are in an undergraduate program of study normally requiring five-years, the ETA program allows five years to complete your degree on time (which requires completion of the equivalent of 30 credits each academic year).

Students with Disabilities Under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990

To be eligible for an Enhanced Tuition Award, students with qualified disabilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act who attend less than full time must register with their college office for students with disabilities.

If you are a student with a disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act, the ETA program requires that you be continuously enrolled and complete the number of credits you attempted each semester to fulfill the requirement for on-time degree completion. If you have not earned credits for all courses attempted, you can catch up on missing credits if you successfully earn additional credits during a Summer and/or Winter session(s) and get back on track for credits that were not previously completed.

Students with disabilities determined to be ineligible who can demonstrate good cause for completing fewer credits than attempted and/or a break in attendance may appeal the decision by completing and submitting the [Enhanced Tuition Awards Program Appeal Form](#). For more information, visit [NYS Student Financial Aid Programs and Students with Disabilities](#).

Appeals

Students whose current income or prior year adjusted gross income is \$125,000 or below due to the disability, divorce or separation of a parent, spouse or the student or the death of a parent or spouse may appeal their disqualification by completing and submitting the [Income Appeal Form](#).

Students determined to be ineligible for failure to meet the annual credit or continuous enrollment requirements and who can demonstrate good cause for completing fewer credits than required and/or a break in attendance may appeal the decision by completing and submitting the [Enhanced Tuition Awards Program Appeal Form](#).

Award Amount*

Recipients of Enhanced Tuition Awards will generally receive \$6,000 through a combination of their TAP award, ETA award and a match from their private college. The number of awards to be made under this Program is subject to available funding.

**Note: Any award payment received may have tax implications. Any questions regarding this should be directed to a tax professional, the Internal Revenue Service, or the NYS Department of Taxation and Finance.*

Duration

A recipient of an Enhanced Tuition Award is eligible to receive award payments for not more than two years of full-time undergraduate study in a program leading to an Associate's degree or four years of full-time undergraduate study, or five years if the program of study normally requires five years, in a program leading to a Bachelor's degree.

Payment

To receive payments after the initial application year, an Enhanced Tuition Awards recipient must annually complete the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) and the [NYS Student Aid Payment Application](#).

Participating Colleges

Adelphi university**
Alfred University
American Academy of Dramatic Arts
Berkeley College**
Boricua College*
Bryant & Stratton College*
College of Mount Saint Vincent**
College of Westchester²
Cornell University
Davis College
DeVry College of New York**
Dominican College*
Elim Bible Institute and College
Five Towns College
Hilbert College
Kings College
Laboratory Institute of
Merchandising**

Long Island University*
Manhattan College*
Manhattanville College**
Metropolitan College of New York
Monroe College**
Nyack College
The College of Saint Rose*
Touro College*
Vaughn College of Aeronautics and
Technology*
Villa Maria College of Buffalo
Yeshiva University

* Limit of Match

** Limit Number of Students

Enhanced Tuition Awards FAQs

What is the Enhanced Tuition Awards Program?

The Enhanced Tuition Awards program provides tuition awards to students who are NYS residents attending a private college located in New York State.

What does it mean to be a “NYS resident” for purposes of receiving this award?

To be considered a NYS resident for purposes of receiving this award, you must have resided in the State for 12 continuous months prior to the term for which the award is being sought.

Applicants who qualify for the award under the [NYS DREAM Act](#) must meet one of the eligible citizenship/immigration classifications as well as the high school or tuition charge requirements.

How much can I receive from the Enhanced Tuition Awards (ETA) Program?

An Enhanced Tuition Awards recipient can receive up to \$6,000 through a combination of their TAP award, ETA award and a match from their private college. For example, a student who receives a \$1,000 TAP award would generally receive an additional \$5,000 – half of which would be paid by the ETA and half by his or her college.

Will I be able to get an award for the fall?

Yes. Eligible students will receive Enhanced Tuition Awards this fall provided their college has opted to participate in the program.

How much income can my family earn to be eligible for an award?

Your household adjusted gross income can total up to \$125,000 to be eligible.

Can I use my family's current income if it makes me eligible for the award?

Your family's current adjusted gross income can be used to establish income eligibility if you, a parent or a spouse becomes disabled, divorced or separated or in the event of the death of a parent or spouse.

Can I get an award if I'm currently going to a private college?

Yes. Students who are currently attending college are eligible to receive an award, provided they are currently on track to complete their degree on time and their [college participates](#) in the ETA program.

How long can I get the award?

You are eligible to get an award for up to two years for students pursuing an associate's degree and up to four years for students pursuing a bachelor's degree. Students in an undergraduate program of study normally requiring five years are eligible to receive the award for five years.

Do I need a certain grade point average to get or keep the award?

Award recipients need to earn a passing grade to maintain their Enhanced Tuition Awards, provided they earn a total of 30 credits over the course of a year. Recipients should keep in mind that they may have other awards which also carry academic standards that differ from those required for the Enhanced Tuition Awards.

Can I get an award if I'm a transfer student?

A student who transferred between colleges is eligible for an Enhanced Tuition Award if they are on track to complete on time based on the number of credits accepted by their current college, the college is participating and they are selected to receive an award at that college.

Once I receive the scholarship, is it possible to lose it?

You can lose the scholarship if you do not continue to meet all eligibility requirements. For example, you must enroll in at least 12 credits per term and complete 30 credits per year to continue to receive the scholarship.

If I completed my associate's degree, can I receive this award to get my bachelor's degree?

Yes, provided the college that you are attending accepted all of the credits you earned in completing your associate's degree, and meet all other requirements for the Enhanced Tuition Award.

Are there any other requirements that I must meet after I complete my degree?

Yes. You must live in New York State for the number of years equal to awards you received. For example, if you received four Enhanced Tuition Awards while getting your bachelor's degree, you must live in New York State for four years after college. In addition, if you are working during those years, you must work in New York State. Failure to meet these requirements will result in the conversion of your award to a loan.

Do students with disabilities under the ADA need to complete 30 credits per year?

No. Students with disabilities under the ADA are allowed to attend on a part-time basis and their award will be prorated.

FINANCIAL AID TERMS

FAFSA: Apply for federal financial aid with the Free Application for Federal Student Aid after **October 1, 2022**. It must be completed **every** year the student is in attendance in order to secure funds for the upcoming school year. This application may be accessed at: www.fafsa.ed.gov

EXPECTED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION (EFC): The EFC is a measure of your family's financial strength. It is based on the information you submitted on the FAFSA, including income, assets, family size and the number of children in college. Your EFC represents the amount of money the federal government believes your family can contribute toward one academic year of college. It does not consider many types of consumer debt, such as credit card debt, student loan debt and auto loans. The actual amount your family ends up paying could be higher or lower than the EFC figure, depending on the sources of aid available to you.

FEDERAL STATE AID ID (FSA ID): Replaced Federal Student Aid PIN. FSA ID gives you access to Federal State Aid's online systems and can serve as your legal signature. To register for your FSA ID go to fafsa.gov

STUDENT AID REPORT (SAR): The SAR is the official notification sent about a week after filing the FAFSA online. This document includes your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The SAR also provides information about the colleges you are considering, such as graduation rates.

FINANCIAL AID PACKAGE: The financial aid package is a combination of multiple types and sources of financial aid available to you to help pay for college costs. It may include money from the federal government, state government, the college itself and private sources. It can include scholarships, grants, work-study and loans. The financial aid offered by each college may vary. The financial aid packages are typically summarized in financial aid award letters sent to you by your prospective colleges.

FINANCIAL AID AWARD LETTER: The financial aid award letter is the list of all the aid from multiple sources that you are eligible to receive through your prospective college, including terms and conditions. You are not required to accept every type of aid found in the letter. For example, you are not obligated to accept a loan offer. However, declining the loan will not increase the amount of grants and/or scholarships you may receive.

COST OF ATTENDANCE (COA): The cost of attendance includes the total price of tuition, fees, room, board, textbooks, supplies, transportation and personal expenses for one year of college. This is also known at some colleges as the "Student Budget." There may be separate student budgets for students who live on campus, off campus or with their parents. Some colleges will adjust the cost of attendance to include the cost of a computer, student health insurance and dependent care.

The information above was obtained at: www.fastweb.com

CSS/FINANCIAL AID PROFILE: The COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP SERVICE PROFILE is used by colleges, universities and scholarship programs listed on the form in the registration guide. It is used to award the institution's own private funds. Access this application through the CollegeBoard at:
<http://student.collegeboard.org/css-financial-aid-profile>

WHAT IS "FINANCIAL NEED"?

How much financial aid do you need, and who says so? The federal government uses a formula to help estimate what your family can pay for your college education. The formula takes into account family income and assets, family size, number of household members in college, age of parents, and special circumstances such as medical or employment problems. You send this information to the colleges and government on certain forms, and they calculate your Expected Family Contribution, or "EFC." Note that "family" includes you - student income or savings are part of the picture.

Here's the good news: Whether your dream college costs \$7,000 a year or \$70,000, the amount your family is expected to contribute—your EFC—stays pretty much the same. What changes is your "financial need," which is calculated like this:

$$\text{College Cost} - \text{Estimated Family Contribution (EFC)} = \text{Financial Need}$$

This formula means you'll have more "need" at a costly college—and because so much financial aid is based on need, you may be eligible to receive more aid at that college. Below are three financial needs examples:

	Nassau Community College	SUNY Albany	Lehigh University
Cost at a Given School	\$ 7,500	\$ 25,890	\$ 72,440
<u>- Expected Family Contribution</u>	<u>- 7,000</u>	<u>- 7,000</u>	<u>- 7,000</u>
Financial Need	\$ 500	\$ 18,890	\$ 65,440

***Please note that the total offer may not meet the total need of the family.**

--College Times

STRATEGIES TO MAXIMIZE YOUR AID ELIGIBILITY

(Reprinted from www.finaid.org)

- ❑ Save money in the parent's name, not the child's name.
- ❑ Pay off consumer debt, such as credit card and auto loan balances.
- ❑ Parents should go back to school to further their own education at the same time as their children. The more family members in college simultaneously, the more aid will be available to each.
- ❑ Spend down student assets and income first.
- ❑ Accelerate necessary expenses, to reduce available cash. For example, if you need a new car or computer, buy it before you file the FAFSA.
- ❑ Do not withdraw money from your retirement fund to pay for college. If you must use this money, borrow from your retirement fund.
- ❑ If you feel that your family's financial circumstances are unusual, make an appointment with the financial aid administrator at the college to review your case. Sometimes the college will be able to adjust your financial aid package to compensate using a process known as Professional Judgment.
- ❑ Minimize capital gains.
- ❑ Maximize contributions to your retirement fund.
- ❑ Minimize educational debt.
- ❑ Ask grandparents to wait until the grandchild graduates before giving the money to help with their education.
- ❑ Trust funds are generally ineffective at sheltering money from the need analysis process and can backfire on you.
- ❑ Prepay your mortgage.

SYOSSET HIGH SCHOOL RECOMMENDATIONS

- ❑ Read the Guidance Department Senior Bulletin emailed home monthly to all seniors. This bulletin gives you the name, selection criteria, contact person and deadlines for all scholarship information we receive. Extra copies are available in the Guidance Resource Center.
- ❑ Read the publications on financial aid available in the Guidance Resource Center and listen for school announcements regarding scholarship opportunities.
- ❑ Read the catalogs and financial aid bulletins of the colleges in which you are interested.
- ❑ Talk to your counselor, your teachers and coaches. If you have unique talents in art, music, and/or athletics, your teachers and coaches may be able to help.
- ❑ Ask your parents to explore scholarship opportunities at their places of business, clubs, union affiliations.
- ❑ File applications or enter any of the competitions for which you think you qualify. Watch deadlines!
- ❑ Remember the college is by far the most fruitful source of financial help.

Web Resources Guide

Information about Financial Aid

Fastweb

www.fastweb.com

FinAid

www.finaid.org

Fastweb's College Gold

www.collegegold.com

Federal Student Aid for Students

www.studentaid.ed.gov

Financial Aid Calculators

www.finaid.org/calculators

College Cost Information

<http://navigator.ed.gov>

College Affordability and Transparency Center

www.collegecost.ed.gov

FTC Project Scholarship Scam

ftc.gov/scholarshipscams

Guide to Federal Student Aid

studentaid.ed.gov/guide/

International Students

www.edupass.org

Mapping Your Future

www.mappingyourfuture.org

National Student Loan Data System

www.nslds.ed.gov

Sources of Aid

Scholarship Search

www.fastweb.com

AmeriCorps*

www.americorps.gov

Athletic Scholarships

www.ncaa.org

City Year*

www.cityyear.org

College Savings Plan Network

www.collegesavings.org

Job Corps

www.jobcorps.gov

State Resources

www.finaid.org/state

Student Tax Information

www.irs.gov/individuals/students

**Award upon successful program completion*

Financial Aid Applications

CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE

profileonline.collegeboard.com

FAFSA

www.fafsa.ed.gov

FAFSA FSA ID

<https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm>

FAFSA 4Caster

www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov

General Information

Social Security Administration

www.ssa.gov

Selective Service

www.sss.gov

Study Abroad

www.studyabroad.com

U.S. Department of Education

www.ed.gov

Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration

uscis.gov

Graduate and Admissions Testing

SAT & SAT Subject Tests

www.sat.collegeboard.org

ACT

www.actstudent.org

GRE

www.ets.org/gre

LSAT

www.lsac.org

GMAT

www.mba.com/mba

MCAT

www.aamc.org/mcat

Choosing a Career

MonsterCollege

www.monstercollege.com

Bureau of Labor Statistics

www.stats.bls.gov

Occupational Outlook Handbook

www.bls.gov/oco