

Financial Aid Steps & Resources

Federal Student Aid

An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

<https://studentaid.gov/>

This is where all federal financial aid information and links are found. This site is where the FAFSA is completed, the FSA ID is created, borrowers will complete Entrance Counseling and Master Promissory Notes.



<https://www.hesc.ny.gov/>

HESC is the agency that administers NYS aid programs. This is where the TAP application, Excelsior application, and information about various other programs is found.

DREAMERS - <https://www.hesc.ny.gov/dream/>



<https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/>

Some colleges and universities require the CSS profile in addition to the FAFSA. Check the financial aid website at the prospective school to determine if this will be needed. The link above is where the profile is completed and provides information about the CSS profile, application steps, and additional resources.

Steps to Apply:

1. Complete the 2023-2024 FAFSA (available 10/1/22) using 2021 income information.
2. Complete the NYS Payment Application (TAP) using the link on the confirmation page of the FAFSA.
 - If you miss the link, just wait for the email from HESC indicating the application is available.
 - Dreamers complete application under Senator Jose Peralta New York State DREAM Act
3. Complete CSS Profile – again review to see if this is needed by school
4. Review financial aid awards on school portal – student should receive notification when available
 - Review portal to see if additional documentation needed
5. Complete the Excelsior Application. The application will be made available on the HESC website in spring 2023. You can enter an email address at the HESC website to be notified when the application open.
6. Compare award offers from different schools and review net costs
7. Once decision is made:
 - Ensure that school code is on NYS payment application (if attending NYS school)
 - Loan borrowers will need to complete Master Promissory Note and Entrance Counseling (school will also provide instructions)