

The Oak Park & River Forest High School Guidance Department
presents

Class of 2009

Financial Aid Night

November 4, 2008



❖ **Basic Things to Remember**

- ✓ Yearly process for all financial aid
- ✓ Plan ahead
- ✓ Read everything carefully
- ✓ Ask for help if you need it
- ✓ MEET DEADLINES!!!!
- ✓ Keep copies of everything
- ✓ Watch out for SCAMS!!!!
 - Never pay to find financial aid
 - No application fees for scholarships

❖ **College Expenses**

- Tuition and Fees
 - Room and Board
 - Books and Supplies
 - Transportation at college
-
- Cost of travel
 - Other

❖ **Types of Financial Aid**

<u>Gift Aid</u> - Doesn't have to be repaid <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scholarships• Grants	<u>Self-Help</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work-Study: Earn money while in college• Loans
---	--

- Merit-based (Scholarships)
- Need based (Grants, Work-study, Subsidized Loans)
- Non Need-based (Non-subsidized Loans)

❖ **Useful Websites – (Just a few)** Never pay for these kind of services.

- www.collegezone.com (Illinois Student Assistance Commission)
- www.scholarships.com
- www.fastaid.com
- www.fastweb.com
- www.blackexcel.org (scholarship service for African-Americans)
- www.petersons.com/finaid
- www.scholarshipexperts.com
- www.srnexpress.com
- <http://go.salliemae.com/plan>
- www.illinoismentor.org/finaid/scholarship_search
- www.federalstudentaid.edu.gov
- www.ftc.gov/bcp/online/edcams/scholarship (\$Scholarship \$cams)

❖ **Scholarships**

A scholarship is a type of “gift aid” that rewards a student for grades, athletics, a unique skill, a special talent, financial needs or even a specific career interest. Scholarships do not typically need to be paid back, though some scholarships have program requirements and/or obligations. Make sure you understand the terms and

conditions before you accept any money. The money you receive may help you pay for tuition, books and/or room and board.

Scholarship money can come from many different sources, such as the college you want to attend, the government, or different public or private organizations (such as a workplace, church or not-for-profit group). However, watch for financial aid scams when doing your search.

- OPRFHS – Scholarship Bulletin, school’s website, Naviance, CCRC, Counselor
- Websites
- Public Library
- Check with colleges
- Corporations, Community Agencies, Employers, Religious Organizations

Illinois Scholarship Programs

- Merit Recognition Scholarship (MRS) Program
- Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program
- Illinois Future Teacher Corps (IFTC) Program (formerly David A. DeBolt Teacher Shortage Scholarship Program)
- Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program
- Nurse Educator Scholarship Program (NESP)
- Illinois Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver Program
- Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois (Illinois Scholars Program)
- General Assembly Scholarship
- MIA/POW Scholarship
- Department of Rehabilitation Services Education Benefits
- Medical Student Scholarship Program
- Nursing Education Scholarship Program
- Allied Health Care Professional Scholarship Program
- Illinois Dollars for Scholars®

When using books, be sure to check the publication dates to make sure the information provided is valid and current. Also, add to your search by contacting your college. They may offer institutional scholarships that you may not find anywhere else.

❖ Grants

A grant is a type of “gift aid” that does not need to be paid back. The amount awarded is usually based on financial need and is generally provided by the government or the college you plan to attend. After submitting your FAFSA, you are automatically considered for three types of grants – the State of Illinois Monetary Award Program (MAP) grant, (for Illinois residents), the Federal Pell Grant (Pell), and the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG). Contact your college’s financial aid department about the grants you’ll receive.

Illinois Grants

- Monetary Award Program (MAP)
- Monetary Award Program Plus (MAP Plus)
- Silas Purnell Illinois Incentive for Access (IIA) Program
- Illinois National Guard (ING) Grant Program
- Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG) Program
- Grant Program for Dependents of Police or Fire Officers
- Grant Program for Dependents of Correctional Officers
- Bonus Incentive Grant (BIG)
- Student to Student Program of Matching Grants
- Higher Education License Plate (HELP) Program

❖ Loans

A loan is a type of “self-help” aid that lets you borrow money from the government, banks or other lending institutions. Since it’s “self-help” aid, it must be paid back with added interest. Loans can be awarded based on financial need (subsidized loans) or not on financial need (unsubsidized loans). Your loan eligibility will be determined after your grants, scholarships and Federal Work-Study program(s) have been considered.

Know the borrowing basics and be sure to research your loan options carefully. Keep in mind there are student loans (which are generally long-term and have low interest), parent loans (for parents to help pay for college), alternative loans (from banks and lending institutions) and consolidation loans (which combine all your eligible student loans, for one easy payment with possible lower interest). Take note that federal student loans generally have the lowest interest rates and the greatest flexibility. Alternative loans are used to supplement federal loans and are closely based on your credit history. Also, remember to borrow conservatively, accepting only the amount of money you need. Loans can be a lot of help, but the more money you borrow, the more money you will have to pay back, *with interest*.

Loan Programs

- Federal Perkins Loan
- Federal Stafford Loan Program
- Federal PLUS Loan Program
- Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP) or William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program (Federal Direct Loans)
- Alternative Loans
- *College Illinois!* Capstone Loan Program (Pilot)

❖ Work-study

Federal Work-Study is a need-based financial aid program that allows you to work part-time to help pay for college. A Federal Work-Study job is different from other jobs for the following two reasons: (1) the hours are flexible to ensure that you have enough time to study, and (2) when you apply for financial aid the following year, the money you earned through this program isn't used to determine your financial need.

To be considered for Federal Work-Study, be sure to indicate that you're interested in this program on your FAFSA. Funds for this program are limited, so it is important to complete your FAFSA as soon as possible. If you are eligible, your college will list the amount you can earn on your financial aid award letter. If you have been awarded Federal Work-Study, you'll probably receive a packet of information with your award letter, explaining how the program works. Make sure you read all of the information you receive. Each college may have different rules. Here are some important questions to ask:

- Will I be assigned a Federal Work-Study job, or do I have to find a job on my own?
- Where can I find a list of Federal Work-Study jobs?
- When should I start looking for a job?
- How do I apply for a Federal Work-Study job?
- How often will I receive a paycheck?
- If I can't find a job, what should I do?
- How many hours do I need to work to earn the amount I have been awarded?

Once you find a job, you'll receive a paycheck for the hours you work. If you don't work enough hours, you may not earn all of the funds you have been awarded. The money you earn through the Federal Work-Study program is paid directly to you. It is up to you to use this money wisely.

In addition to the financial benefits, there are other reasons to consider a Federal Work-Study job. Working on campus allows you to meet other students, network with teachers and administrators, and may even give you the opportunity to gain career experience. If you're going to study biology, you may be able to find a job as a lab assistant. If art is your area of interest, there may be job opportunities in an on-campus gallery or studio.

There are even Federal Work-Study jobs in not-for-profit community outreach organizations. Money earned from a Federal Work-Study job will not be counted as income when you complete the next year's FAFSA.

Explore your options and find the job that works best for you. If you decide that you don't want to work while you're in college, let the financial aid office know that you no longer want to participate in the Federal Work-Study program. Keep in mind, even if you don't accept the Federal Work-Study award, most colleges will not increase your other financial aid awards.

Since eligibility for the Federal Work-Study program is limited, and is based on need, you may not qualify to participate in this program. If you are still interested in working on campus, your college may be able to offer other employment opportunities. Check with the financial aid office to see if non-work-study employment is available. Since non-work-study employment is not a type of financial aid, you may be directed to a different office on-campus, such as Student Employment, or Human Resources. Money earned from a non-work-study job will be counted as income on the next year's FAFSA.

Additional information regarding Federal Work-Study is available online via the Funding Education Beyond High School publication, provided by the U.S. Department of Education.

Note: Every scholarship, grant, loan, and work-study program - including those funded by the federal or state government, colleges, or other organizations - has its own unique awarding and processing cycle. If a student plans to use funds from one of these programs to pay the college, but those funds are not received by the scheduled due date(s), it is the student's responsibility to work with the appropriate office at the college to make satisfactory arrangements.

While some colleges may agree to temporarily postpone due dates (sometimes for a fee) until funds are received, others might require that the student make a full or partial payment by the established due date. If, once received, the scholarship funds are more than the remaining balance due to the college, the student may or may not receive the excess funds to reimburse out-of-pocket expenses or to apply toward other education-related costs. Students who are uncertain

❖ **FAFSA – Free Application for Federal Student Aid**

❖ **Where Do I Get the FAFSA?**

- ***Complete and submit online www.fafsa.ed.gov (recommended)***
- Download PDF version and mail it www.federalstudentaid.ed.gov
- Call 1-800-433-3243 to request a paper application

❖ **Timeline - Steps in the FAFSA Process**

November

- FAFSA & worksheets become available
- Apply for PIN

December

- Gather tax records and other financial info

January

- Submit FAFSA immediately online (for quickest response) as soon as you can after Jan. 1 because aid can be on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Submit additional college forms if required.

❖ **Need Help with the FAFSA?**

- Call 1-800-433-3243 (Dept. of Ed.)
- www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov
- Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC)
 - CollegeZone.com
 - Mr. Al Hogan ahogan@isac.org
312-814-3688 (PTO Family to Family List)
- Your high school counselor
- College financial aid officers
- Others

Information Needed to Complete the FAFSA - For the 2009-2010 school year you will need financial information from 2008. Below is a list of information needed to complete the FAFSA.

Student Information

- Your Social Security Number. Be sure it is correct!
- Your driver's license (if any)
- Your 2008 W-2 Forms and other records of money earned
- Your 2008 Federal Income Tax Returns for student and parents.
- Your 2008 untaxed income records
 - Social Security
 - Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
 - Welfare
 - Veterans benefits records
- Your current bank statements
- Your current business and investment mortgage information, business and farm records, stock, bond and other investment records
- Your alien registration or permanent resident card (if you are not a U.S. citizen)

Parent Information (if a dependent student)

- Level of education
- Income taxes & deductions
- Household assets
- Family members
- State residency
- Age

To organize your information, print and complete a FAFSA on the Web Worksheet before you begin entering your information online. **Keep these records! You may need them again. Do not mail your records to Federal Student Aid.**

The U.S. Department of Education will verify your information with different federal agencies including the Selective Service System to verify Selective Service registration status, if applicable. If the information you provide is inaccurate, the U.S. Department of Education will return your FAFSA. This will delay your application and could impact your financial aid award.

Selective Service Registration

To receive federal student financial aid, if you are a male born on or after Jan. 1, 1960, are at least 18 years old, and are not currently on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces, you must register, or arrange to register, with the Selective Service System.

Important Terms

Academic Year	A period of time schools use to measure a quantity of study. For example, a school's academic year may semesters or quarters during which a full-time undergraduate student must complete a certain number of credit hours. Academic years vary from school to school and even from educational program to educational program at the same school.
Accreditation	The school must have accreditation from an accrediting body recognized by the U.S. Department of Education to be eligible to participate in the administration of federal student aid programs. Accreditation means that the school meets certain minimum academic standards, as defined by the accrediting body.
Award Letter	An award letter from a school states the type and amount of financial aid the school is willing to provide if you accept admission and register to take classes at that school.
Eligible Program	A program of organized instruction or study that leads to an academic, professional, or vocational degree or certificate, or other recognized educational credential. To receive federal student aid, you must be enrolled in an eligible program*, with two exceptions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• If a school has told you that you must take certain course work to qualify for admission into one of its eligible programs, you can get a Stafford Loan for up to 12 consecutive months while you're completing that preparatory course work. You must be enrolled at least half time, and you must meet the usual student aid eligibility requirements.• If you're enrolled at least half time in a program to obtain a professional credential or certification required by a state for employment as an elementary or secondary school teacher, you can get a Federal Work-Study, Federal Perkins Loan, a Stafford Loan, or your parents can get a PLUS Loan, while you're enrolled in that program.
EFC - Expected Family Contribution	Your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is the number that's used to determine your eligibility for federal student financial aid. This number results from the financial information you provided in your FAFSA application. Your EFC is reported to you on your Student Aid Report (SAR).
Financial Aid Package	The total amount of financial aid (federal and nonfederal) a student is offered by the school. The financial aid administrator at a postsecondary institution combines various forms of aid into a "package" to help meet a student's education costs. Using available resources to give each student the best possible package of aid is one of the aid administrator's major responsibilities. Because funds are often limited, an aid package might fall short of the amount a student needs to cover the full cost of attendance. Also, the amount of federal student aid in a package is affected by other sources of aid received (scholarships, state aid, etc.).
Regular Student	A regular student is one who is enrolled or accepted for enrollment at an institution for the purpose of obtaining a degree, certificate or other recognized education credential offered by that institution. Generally, to receive federal student financial aid from the programs discussed in this guide, you must be a regular student. There are exceptions to this requirement for some programs.
Satisfactory Academic Progress	To be eligible to receive federal student financial aid, you must meet and maintain your school's standards of satisfactory academic progress toward a degree or certificate offered by that institution. Check with your school to find out its standards.
SAR – Student Aid Report	After you apply for federal student financial aid, you'll get your FAFSA results in an e-mail report within a few days after your FAFSA has been processed or by mail in a few weeks. This report is called a Student Aid Report or SAR. Your SAR details all the information you provided on your FAFSA. If there are no corrections or additional information you must provide, the SAR will contain your Expected Family Contribution (EFC), which is the number that's used to determine your eligibility for federal student aid. Whether you applied online or by paper, we will automatically send your data electronically to the schools you listed on your FAFSA.

NOTES