

WHAT IS FINANCIAL AID?

Financial aid is any source of funds, including loans, available to assist you, the student, in paying for your college education. If you need assistance beyond your own financial resources, you are encouraged to apply for financial aid.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR AID?

In order to be eligible to receive financial aid, you must:

- 1) Demonstrate financial “need” (except for some loan programs);
- 2) Be accepted to the University as a degree or certificate student in an eligible program;
- 3) Have a high school diploma or GED;
- 4) Be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen;
- 5) Have a valid Social Security Number;
- 6) Be registered with Selective Service, if required;
- 7) Be making Satisfactory Academic Progress;
- 8) Use student aid only for educational purposes; and
- 9) Not owe a refund on a federal grant or be in default on any federal educational loan.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID?

The FAFSA is the financial aid application used to apply for all financial aid that our office administers. FAFSA stands for **FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID**. The FAFSA is FREE and information about applying for financial aid is readily available on the Web, through our office, lenders or guarantors. Be cautious of any financial aid application that requires payment. If you need assistance with the FAFSA, please contact our office.

Submit the FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov. We recommend you submit the FAFSA after January 1 but before March 1 each year for maximum consideration for the upcoming academic year. If you apply after March 1st, you will be considered for any remaining funds as of the date we receive your application. Need-based gift aid is awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis to eligible students.

- Include our federal school code **002568**; University of Nevada, Reno, Reno, NV
- If you apply online, you can sign the FAFSA electronically with a Personal Identification Number (PIN). Your parent can also have his/her own PIN to sign your FAFSA if you are a dependent student. Go to www.pin.ed.gov to request your PIN.
- The paper version of the FAFSA is available by calling 1-800-4-FED-AID.

HOT TIP
Your e-mail address and phone message should be appropriate for colleges, future employers or scholarship donors. Is love2party@yahoo.com as your e-mail address the impression you want to give on a scholarship application?

After submitting your FAFSA, the federal processor checks your initial eligibility and determines your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). They automatically send our office your data electronically and we download FAFSA data approximately every ten days.

Simultaneously, the federal processor creates a Student Aid Report (SAR) for you to review your application and make corrections, if needed. This report details all the information you provided on the FAFSA. If the FAFSA is not rejected, the SAR will contain your Expected Family Contribution (EFC), which is the number that our office will use to determine your eligibility for federal student aid.

If your FAFSA is “rejected” by the federal processor, it is not considered “processed”. Our office cannot view FAFSA data or offer aid when a FAFSA is rejected. **The most common reason for a rejected FAFSA is missing a required signature(s).**

REAPPLY using the online FAFSA each year. A FAFSA is designated for an academic year term.

MISSING DOCUMENTS/VERIFICATION

Once we download your FAFSA data, we will send you an e-mail and a missing documents postcard if your file is incomplete and/or selected for verification. Verification is a process that double-checks the accuracy of household and financial data listed on your FAFSA. It ensures that need-based financial aid is distributed to the neediest students. If selected for verification, the documents and forms requested are required.

If you were already offered aid and then selected for verification, all requested information must be received by our office by **June 15**. If you do not submit the requested information, our office will cancel any need-based gift aid that was offered and offer those funds to other need-eligible students.

- If you miss the verification deadline, you are encouraged to submit the required documents as soon as possible. You may submit a letter to request to have the need-based aid re-considered. Requests will be considered in the order received and based on the availability of funds. There is no guarantee that any need-based gift aid other than the Pell Grant, if eligible, will be available to be re-awarded.
- If you applied later and have not yet been offered aid, you must submit the documents before any further processing will occur.

REGISTER FOR CLASSES

You register for classes per the timelines specified in the Class Schedule. If you are offered financial aid and/or scholarships, you must be registered at least half-time by **June 15** for fall semester or **January 4** for spring semester to indicate your intent to attend the University. If you miss a deadline, your need-based gift aid will be cancelled and offered to other need-eligible students.

If you delay your enrollment until the spring, your Offer Letter will not be held for you. You must inform our office of your request for reconsideration of your Offer Letter by submitting the “Reporting Resources and Changes” form.