The Financial Aid Process

Understanding the Steps for a Smoother Transition
Notification

NEST is Montclair State’s primary way of contacting students.

It is the students’ responsibility to regularly check NEST and their Montclair State email for any updates.
NEST

NEST allows students to review and manage their administrative activities including:

- Financial Aid
- Billing
- Registration
- Holds
- Direct Deposit
- Class Schedule
- Grades
What is Financial Aid?

- Financial Aid is a comprehensive term that includes:
  - Grants
  - Work Study
  - Loans
  - Scholarships
Grants – *(do not need to be paid back)*

- Eligibility is determined by your FAFSA application

- Includes:
  - Federal Pell and SEOG
  - NJ Tuition Aid Grant (NJ TAG)
    - For the state grant, students must complete the State Application at [www.hesaa.org](http://www.hesaa.org)
    - This process is required for NJ TAG, EOF, NJ Stars
Explanation of Awards

~Work

Work Study

- Based on EFC eligibility and awarded on a first come, first awarded basis

- Students must get a job on campus to receive these funds
  - Paid to the student biweekly, not to the bill
Stafford Loans –
- Federal loans for students enrolled at least half-time
- These loans carry a fixed interest rate
  - (3.76% current interest rate, 1.069% origination fee)
- Typically the most affordable type of student loans
- Awarded in the student’s name
- Go into full repayment 6 months after a student is no longer enrolled at least half-time

- **Subsidized**
  - Interest does not accrue while student is enrolled

- **Unsubsidized**
  - Interest does accrue while student is enrolled.

Students must go to www.studentloans.gov and sign their master promissory note and complete entrance counseling in order for loans to pay out
Explanation of Awards
~Parent Loans

**Parent PLUS loan** – Federal loan for parents of dependent undergraduate students to help pay education expenses

- To apply visit [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov)
- Credit check required

**Repayment Options:**
1. Immediate monthly repayment
2. Interest only repayment
3. Complete deferment
4. If PLUS loan is denied, an additional unsubsidized loan goes in the student’s name
• **Students** will use this website to sign their master promissory note and complete the entrance counseling for their Stafford loans

• **Parents** will use this website to apply for the Parent PLUS loan and sign the promissory note for the PLUS loan

www.studentloans.gov
Federal Student Aid
An Office of the U.S. Department of Education
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My Account | Getting Loans | Tools and Resources | Managing Repayment | FAQs | Contact Us

Log in to StudentLoans.gov

Log In

You now need an FSA ID instead of a PIN to log in. To create an FSA ID click HERE.

If you need assistance, call 1-800-557-7394.

Undergraduate Students
Graduate/Professional Students
Parent Borrowers
Repayment and Consolidation

Student Loan Process
Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) at www.FAFSA.gov.
This is your first step in getting student aid. You must do this every year.

What Can I Do When I Log In?
- Complete Entrance Counseling
- Complete Direct Subsidized/Unsubsidized Loan Master Promissory Note (MPN)
- Complete Financial Awareness Counseling
- Complete Exit Counseling
- Use the Repayment Estimator
- Complete TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve and TEACH Counseling

Watch to Learn More!

- Myths About Financial Aid
- Overview Of The Financial Aid Process
Explanation of Awards
~Private Loans

**Private loans** – Student loan funds that are offered through banks or educational loan lenders
  - Can be borrowed by student and/or parent
  - Students will need a co-signer

**ELMselect.com** – resource tool
  - a list of historical private lenders
  - compare private loan interest rates

**Truth in Lending Act** – requires a number of steps to be taken by the borrower and the lender before a loan can be disbursed
  - Private loans can take a month or longer to process
When Should I apply?

Our Recommendations:

• Do not apply for Parent PLUS or private loans until July
  • Credit checks expire
• Apply for the whole academic year
• Have your finances sorted out no later than July
  • Bills are due in August

Start researching now!
Types of Scholarships

• Merit based scholarships
  ▫ offered by the Undergraduate Admissions Office

• Departmental scholarships
  ▫ Based on your major
  ▫ students can apply after 1st semester or Freshman year

• Outside scholarships (private foundations/groups)
  Check with your:
  High School Guidance Office
  Parent’s place of employment
  Church
  Companies you frequently do business with
  www.montclair.edu/financialaid
Can My Student Be Considered Independent?

There are only a few cases in which the federal government considers a student independent:

- 24 years old or older
- Married
- Have a child of their own which the student supports
- Veterans
- Orphan or ward of the court
- Homeless
- In a legal guardianship
- Graduate Student
We Have a Special Circumstance...

The Federal Government allows review of a financial aid award package if there was a loss of income due to:

- Unemployment
- Loss of untaxed benefit (social security benefits, child support, etc.)
- Separation/Divorce
- Death of a wage earner
- Medical expenses that have been itemized on your federal tax return

www.montclair.edu/financial-aid/request-for-review
Why Doesn’t Montclair Have My FAFSA?

- Parent AND/OR student did not sign the FAFSA
- You did not apply Montclair’s school code on FAFSA

It is important that student go back to the FAFSA 48 hours after completing it to ensure that it was correctly processed
Excess funds can be moved to Red Hawk Dollars or returned back to the student via check or direct deposit.
Contacting the Financial Aid

Email – financialaid@montclair.edu
Location – College Hall, Room 208
Phone – (973) 655-4461
Fax – (973) 655 - 7712

*Please have the ID number available when contacting our office*

Visit us on the web!
www.montclair.edu/financialaid
Questions?