



# Financial Aid Office Frequently Asked Questions

## HOW DO I APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID AND WHAT ARE THE DEADLINES?

You can apply by completing a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). To access the application, visit [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov). The FAFSA is an application that should be completed annually in order to determine eligibility for federal, state and institutional financial aid. Personal information, income information, and electronic signatures are required to complete the electronic application (i.e. taxes, W2s). After your application has been processed by the Federal Processing Center, your results are forwarded to the colleges that you select on your FAFSA within 1-2 weeks. If after two weeks of submitting your application our Financial Aid office has not received your results, you must contact the Federal Processing Center by calling 1-800-433-3243 and inquire about the status of your application. You must submit this application before the beginning of each academic year.

- The FAFSA takes approximately 20-30 minutes to complete.
- Each student must create and use an FSA ID and password to sign the FAFSA electronically. If you are a parent of a dependent student, you will need your own FSA ID to sign your child's FAFSA electronically. If you have more than one child attending college, you can use the same parent FSA ID to sign all applications. Please note: Each FSA ID user must have a unique email address. When completing the application, you will be prompted to create the FSA ID.
- To ensure that MCC receives your FAFSA, be sure to add MCC's school code: 001392.
- The application priority deadline for the fall is May 15 and for the spring is October 1.
- Completing the FAFSA does not guarantee eligibility, and it does not mean you have been awarded financial aid by the institution you will be attending.

## I DON'T THINK I QUALIFY FOR AID. SHOULD I APPLY ANYWAY?

Yes. Many students think they do not qualify and hinder their chances of receiving financial aid by failing to apply for it. Students who are not eligible for federal funds may be eligible for state or institutional funding, or possibly student loans. The application is free; therefore, there is no reason for not applying. Other external scholarships may also require you to complete the FAFSA and provide the Student Aid Report (which comes from completing the FAFSA) in order to determine your eligibility.

## DO I NEED TO BE ADMITTED TO THE COLLEGE BEFORE I CAN APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID?

No, you can apply for financial aid any time after October 1 (for students enrolling the next fall and spring semesters). However, for you to be awarded, you must be admitted and matriculated into a financial-aid-eligible associate or certificate program at MCC.

## DO I NEED TO BE ENROLLED FULL-TIME TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR FINANCIAL AID?

Financial aid is awarded based on full-time enrollment. If a student is enrolled less than full-time, generally the award will be adjusted according to the enrollment. For example, if you are enrolled half-time (6 credits), the amount disbursed will be half the amount awarded. Note that some students with high EFC (Expected Family Contribution) may need to register for a certain number of credits in order to be eligible for federal grants. If not enrolled full-time, the aid awarded may be adjusted after the start of the semester based on actual enrollment. This can sometimes result in an additional bill for the student.

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO "MAINTAIN SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS"?

Your financial aid status must indicate "Satisfactory Progress" in order for you to receive aid.

### Standards for Associate Degree Seeking Students:

Credits Attempted	Minimum Cumulative GPA	Minimum Completion Pace
0-11.99	0.0	0%
12-30.99	1.7	50%
31-49.99	2.0	50%
50-59.99	2.0	60%
60+	2.0	67%

### Standards for Associate Certificate Seeking Students:

Credits Attempted	Minimum Cumulative GPA	Minimum Completion Pace
0-11.99	0.0	0%
12+	2.0	67%

If you are on financial aid "warning" or "probation/waiver" you may receive aid; however, during that period of warning or probation/waiver, which will be your next semester of enrollment, you must pass all classes. If you fail to do so, it will result in a termination of your financial aid due to your "unsatisfactory progress" status.

## **DO I NEED TO PROVIDE MY PARENTS' FINANCIAL INFORMATION ON THE FAFSA?**

Federal regulations dictate that if you are under the age of 24 and you are not married, not a veteran, not a ward of the court, not a graduate or professional student, do not have children or legal dependents, and truthfully answered "No" to all of the dependency questions on the FAFSA, you are considered a dependent student and must provide parent information on the FAFSA. If you answer "Yes" to one or more of the dependency questions on the FAFSA, you may be asked to provide supporting documentation (i.e. legal guardianship court document, parent death certificates).

## **WILL FINANCIAL AID COVER TUITION, FEES, AND BOOKS?**

If you are eligible for financial aid, you will be awarded with a money package based on your enrollment (how many credits you register for each semester). This package may cover tuition, fees and books. After your financial aid has been fully processed and you've been awarded, you may register. If you register and your financial aid has not been processed, you will be responsible to pay for tuition, fees and books. Watch for deadlines and become familiarize with the fee policy available to you in the catalog.

## **HOW DO I VIEW MY FINANCIAL AID AWARD?**

After submitting your application, you will be able to track your financial aid status and award information by using the myCommNet student information system at <http://my.commnnet.edu>. When you have been awarded, you can use the following steps to view your financial aid award online:

1. Go to <http://my.commnnet.edu>
2. Log in with your student NetID and password (NetID: 01234567@student.commnnet.edu)
3. Click on "Banner Student & Faculty Self-Service"
4. Click on "Financial Aid"
5. Click on "Award Package"

## **HOW DO I CHECK IF I HAVE ANY PENDING REQUIREMENTS TO COMPLETE MY FINANCIAL AID RECORD AND MY SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS STATUS?**

1. Go to <http://my.commnnet.edu>
2. Log in with your student NetID and password
3. Click on "Banner Student & Faculty Self-Service"
4. Click on "Financial Aid"
5. Click on "Eligibility Requirements"

View your financial aid requirements under the "Student Requirements" tab and your Satisfactory Academic Progress status under the "Academic Progress" tab. Any holds will be listed under the "Holds" tab.

MyCommNet will list any outstanding documents required before we can determine your eligibility for financial aid. If you are selected for verification, you will be contacted by Inceptia, a third-party verification service, to complete your requirements online. It is your responsibility to complete the process with Inceptia in order to be awarded, should you be eligible.