AWARD DETERMINATION

Policy and Procedures

The student must first complete the FAFSA at www.fafsa.gov and apply for financial aid by submitting the application. Financial aid applications are processed centrally by national processors. The processor does not award or deny funds. They assist in calculating your financial need.

The minimum qualifications for financial aid are:

- Enrollment in an accepted training program
- Good academic standing
- For most programs, demonstration of financial need
- U.S. citizenship or eligible non-citizenship (permanent resident)
- Certified compliance with Selective Service Registration requirements
- Not be in default on any education loan or owe a refund on any grant made under any Title IV program
- Valid social security number
- High school diploma or recognized equivalent

Step 1: Completing Verification
After we receive all supporting documentation, we cross-check information from all documentation (including the application) related to earned income, untaxed income, expenses, assets, liabilities and household size. This process is called "verification".

Step 2: Assigning Budgets – Attach the budget with this section
We assigned a standard student budget which includes basic costs of fees, books, supplies, room, board, transportation and personal expenses.

Step 3: Calculating Expected Contribution
We verify your student contribution and parent contribution where applicable as calculated by the Federal need analysis formula. This family contribution is the amount which the family may reasonably be expected to contribute toward meeting your college expenses. The formula assesses income, expenses, assets and debts as well as the size of the family and the number of family members attending college. This process is called "need analysis". The theory of need analysis is based on the following assumptions:

- Students have primary responsibility to pay for their education.
- Families should be evaluated in a consistent and equitable manner while recognizing that special circumstances can alter a family's ability to contribute.
All students (dependent and independent) are expected to contribute toward their education. Your expected contribution is determined by adding together all resources which include:

- Earnings from employment
- All other assistance such as Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), Social Security and Veterans' Benefits
- A percentage of assets such as savings and investments

**Step 4: Establishing Financial Need**

From the need analysis, we are able to determine the relative financial strength or ability to pay for postsecondary educational expenses. Financial need is determined by subtracting the amount of the expected contribution from the standard budget. The remainder equals financial aid eligibility or "financial need".

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\text{Cost of Attendance} - \text{Expected Family Contribution} = \text{Financial Need}
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- You may obtain an estimate of your EFC on your SAR. For students with no demonstrated need or limited need, there are federal student loan and parent loan programs to assist in meeting the expected family contribution.