

10 Things to Know About Financial Aid



1 Financial aid can help you pay for College.

Financial aid includes:

Grants: money you do not have pay back

Work-study: work part-time and earn money

Loans: money you pay back with interest. South Seattle Community College does not offer loans but you can apply for private educational loans on your own.

2 Apply early for financial aid.

You must complete all parts of the financial aid application process before the deadline of the quarter you plan on attending. The process can take months.

3 It's free to apply for financial aid.

The application for financial aid is called the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). You can apply online at www.fafsa.gov. Then you will receive more information on other forms you must fill out and give to the Financial Aid Office.

4 There is a lot of money available through financial aid.

The government and college set aside money to award students for college. It is best to apply for financial aid early and see if you are eligible for financial aid.

5 Financial aid is based on your financial need, and not your grades.

Financial need is how much you can pay for college, based on factors such as income & assets, and size of household. However, once you receive aid, you must meet Satisfactory Academic Progress requirements, such as keeping a 2.0 GPA every quarter.

6 You have to be a U.S. citizen or an eligible noncitizen with a eight- or nine-digit Registration Number.

Your parents' do not have to be U.S. citizens.

7 You can transfer your IRS Tax Return directly to the FAFSA application.

The FAFSA allows you to request and retrieve your income and tax data from the IRS online and automatically be transferred into your FAFSA application. However, you can skip this option if you choose.

8 Financial Aid is not all loans.

Our college does not include loans in our financial aid package. That means any financial aid you receive from our college will be free and not have to be repaid (if you complete your classes).

9 Financial aid is one way to pay for school.

Our college also offers scholarships in the Foundation Office. There are other ways to pay for school, including scholarships, private educational loans, volunteer programs such as *Americorps*, serving in the military, and working.

10 You can go to school part-time and get financial aid.

You can be less than full-time (less than 12 credits a quarter) and get financial aid. Notify the Financial Aid Office if you plan on taking less than 12 credits a quarter.



You can get help on financial aid.

There are many people you can ask for help, such as your high school counselor, someone at the college, or someone who has gone to college and applied for financial aid.

For more information on financial aid, go to www.studentaid.ed.gov or call their office at 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-4-333-243)