

THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

# GOALS + Resources = CUNY

**Funding Your College Education:** A Guide to Financial Aid



ACADEMICS + ACCESS + AFFORDABILITY = **CUNY**

When you look at the quality and cost of a CUNY education, you see right away that it is a tremendous value. But still, the cost of a college education, whether at CUNY or any other college, is a significant investment and one to be carefully considered.

If you think you will need assistance to pay for educational expenses, we recommend that you apply for financial aid. While you and your family have the primary responsibility of paying for your education, funding is available from the federal, state and city government and from CUNY to help you pay college expenses. These expenses include tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, and transportation.

## CUNY Undergraduate Tuition

### *New York State Residents*

Yearly full-time tuition at a four-year college is \$4,600 and \$3,150 at a community college.

Tuition for part-time students is \$195 per credit at a four-year college and \$135 per credit at a community college.

### *Out-of-State Residents*

Tuition is \$415 per credit at a four-year college and \$215 per credit at a community college.

Fees at the various CUNY colleges range from \$150 to \$240 per semester.



## An Affordable High-Quality College Education

### Types of Financial Assistance

**Grants**—Money that does not have to be repaid and is usually based on financial need.

**Scholarships**—Money that does not have to be repaid and usually is awarded on the basis of academic merit.

**Loans**—Money that is borrowed for school and must be repaid with interest.

**Work-Study**—Money earned from a job that is provided by the College Financial Aid Office.

### The Applications to Apply for Financial Aid

**FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)** [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov)—Application used to apply for financial aid from the federal government.

**TAP (Tuition Assistance Program)** [www.tapweb.org](http://www.tapweb.org)—Application used to apply for financial aid from New York State.

The only way you will know what financial aid you may be eligible for is by filling out the above applications. The entire process is free.

# Seven Steps to Applying for Financial Aid



The following steps will provide you with information on how to apply for federal and New York State financial aid.

## Collect the Documents Needed to Apply

Collect your income tax returns, Social Security number, W-2 form(s) and any other records of income and assets. If you are under 24 years old, you will likely need your parents' information as well. You can estimate your tax information if you have not yet completed your tax return and correct the information later. A FAFSA on the Web Worksheet is available at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov) that allows you to complete the questions before entering your information online.

## 2.

### Get a Federal Student Aid PIN at [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov)

Your PIN allows you to sign your FAFSA electronically. You can also make corrections to your FAFSA application once it's filed and access your application online. If you're under 24 years old, it is likely you and one of your parents will each need a PIN.



## 3.

### Complete the FAFSA at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov)

Applying for federal student aid is free; that's why the application is called the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). You can apply before you have been admitted to CUNY, starting January 1 prior to the academic year you plan on attending. Apply online by going to [[www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov)]. Internet access is available at the financial aid office at each CUNY college. For free help in completing your FAFSA or to obtain a paper FAFSA you can call the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1 (800) 4-FED-AID (433-3243).



# 4.

## Link to TAP on the Web From Your FAFSA Application (New York State Residents Only)

The TAP application is used to apply for New York State student financial aid. Once you complete the FAFSA online you will get to the “FAFSA on the Web Submission Confirmation” page. Click on the link for New York State residents, and you will be directed to the New York State Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC) website in order to fill out your TAP application.

# 5.

## Receive a Student Aid Report (SAR)

After your FAFSA is processed, you will be emailed a Student Aid Report (SAR) from the U.S. Department of Education within 3–5 days. The SAR contains the information you provided on your FAFSA and a calculation of your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). You can access your SAR and make corrections at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov) with your Federal Student Aid PIN.

# 6.

## Verify Your Data

The U.S. Department of Education selects a certain number of applicants for a verification process. If you have been selected (which will be indicated on your SAR), you will need to submit tax returns and other documents to your school’s financial aid office to verify the data you supplied on your FAFSA.

# 7.

## Receive Your Financial Aid Award Letter

Once your FAFSA is complete and you demonstrate financial need, your selected college will send you an award letter indicating the financial aid programs for which you qualify.



## Evaluating College Costs and Financial Aid Packages

The most important consideration when selecting a college should be whether the institution is going to meet your educational needs. However, you and your family must also consider costs associated with a college when deciding where to enroll.

### Financial Need

Financial need is the difference between cost of attendance and your expected family contribution.

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \text{Cost of Attendance} \\
 & - \text{Expected Family Contribution} \\
 \hline
 & = \text{Financial Need}
 \end{aligned}$$

### Cost of Attendance (COA)

When planning for college, you need to review the total cost of attendance (COA), which includes tuition and fees, housing (room and board), transportation, books and supplies and personal expenses. The estimated cost for attending CUNY full-time for nine months is equal to the total in tuition and fees plus approximately \$6,568 for all other costs. Figure on a COA at CUNY of about \$11,600 per year if you are living at home while attending a four-year college.



### Expected Family Contribution (EFC)

Your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is the amount you and your family can reasonably contribute toward yearly educational costs. The information you supply on your FAFSA is analyzed using a federal formula to determine your family's financial situation. The analysis considers your family's income, family size, certain assets, taxes paid and the number of family members who will be attending college.

For federal financial aid, your EFC is calculated in the same way for every college. Your EFC is used to determine the amount of federal financial aid you are eligible for, such as Pell, Federal Work-Study and federal loans. In addition, the EFC can be used to determine your eligibility for various college scholarships.

### Financial Aid Package

Based on your financial need, CUNY will construct a financial aid package for you. Each financial aid package will be made

up of various types of financial aid to help cover all or part of your college costs. If you have financial need, you may be eligible for grants, work-study and subsidized loans.

### CUNY Financial Aid Estimator

To assist you in determining the financial aid you may receive, there is a Financial Aid Estimator on the CUNY website. This tool will calculate your estimated financial aid awards while attending a CUNY college and show your estimated cost of tuition and fees. The Financial Aid Estimator can also help you compare costs at CUNY to other institutions so that you can determine which colleges are most affordable for you. In order to get a financial aid estimate, you will be asked to supply your Expected Family Contribution (EFC), which is found on your Student Aid Report (SAR). You will receive this when you file your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). To access the Financial Aid Estimator, go to the CUNY financial aid home page at [[www.cuny.edu/financialaid](http://www.cuny.edu/financialaid)].

## Programs to Help Finance Your Education

### CUNY Programs

Along with the application for admission, many CUNY scholarships require students to fill out the FAFSA and, for New York State residents, a TAP application.

### CUNY Scholarship Programs

[www.cuny.edu/scholarships](http://www.cuny.edu/scholarships)

Many CUNY colleges have scholarships available to their students. Information about these scholarships can be found in the college catalogs, college websites or from [[www.cuny.edu/scholarships](http://www.cuny.edu/scholarships)]. In addition, you may find scholarship information from the Office of Admissions or the Financial Aid Office at the college you plan to attend.

### Macaulay Honors College

[www.macaulay.cuny.edu](http://www.macaulay.cuny.edu)

The Macaulay Honors College provides outstanding educational opportunities for academically gifted students. The program is designed for students who have demonstrated scholastic strength throughout their high school academic career. Students may apply online to the Macaulay Honors College at one of seven designated campuses. Accepted students receive a full tuition scholarship, study grants and a free laptop.

### Peter F. Vallone Academic Scholarship

The Vallone Scholarship rewards NYC high school graduates who have proven their ability to succeed academically. All students who apply to CUNY are automatically considered for a Vallone

Scholarship. Funding is determined by the New York City Council and is subject to change.

To qualify for a Vallone Scholarship, you must:

- Complete a FAFSA.
- Graduate from a NYC high school with at least an 80 academic average.
- Pass at least 12 college preparatory courses in high school.
- Enroll at a CUNY college as a full-time student within one year of graduating high school.
- Attend CUNY before attending any other postsecondary institution.

### Tuition Payment Plan

CUNY colleges participate in the TuitionPay monthly payment plan to help families budget tuition and fee expenses. Details about the program may be obtained at [www.tuitionpay.com/cuny](http://www.tuitionpay.com/cuny) or at the Bursar's Office on your CUNY college campus.

### New York State Programs for New York State Residents

[www.hesc.org](http://www.hesc.org)

To be considered for New York State programs you must:

- Be a New York State resident.
- Submit the FAFSA and the TAP application.
- Be admitted into a degree program.
- Make academic progress toward your degree.

The following pages contain information on the financial aid programs that may be included in your financial aid package based on your eligibility.

### **Tuition Assistance Program (TAP)**

TAP is a grant for New York State residents who attend college full time. TAP grants are based on the applicant's and his/her family's New York State net taxable income. Undergraduate TAP annual awards range from \$500 to full CUNY tuition. The first step in the TAP application process is the completion of the FAFSA.

### **Part-Time Assistance for New York State Residents**

New York State provides two financial aid programs for students pursuing a degree while taking 6–11 credits: the Part-Time Tuition Assistance Program and the Aid for Part-Time Study Program. The amount of each grant is determined by the student's family income, number of credits being taken and the availability of funds from New York State.

### **Opportunity Programs at CUNY: SEEK and CD**

SEEK (Search for Education, Elevation and Knowledge) is a New York State program available at CUNY's four-year colleges that is designed to assist students who are both academically and financially disadvantaged. CD (College Discovery) is the companion program, funded by New York City at community colleges. Admission into the SEEK or CD program is part of the CUNY admission process.

### **Other State Scholarships and Awards**

New York State offers a number of special scholarships for students who excelled in high school or who may be pursuing particular academic objectives.

Information about these scholarships is available from the New York State Higher Education Services Corporation at [[www.hesc.org](http://www.hesc.org)].

## **Federal Government Programs**

[www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov](http://www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov)

To be eligible for federal financial aid programs, students must:

- Fill out a FAFSA at [[www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov)].
- Be accepted for admission into a degree-granting program.
- Be in good academic standing and make satisfactory progress toward completing a degree.
- Be a citizen of the United States or eligible non-citizen.
- Not be in default on a federal student loan or owe a refund of financial aid.
- Register with the Selective Service (for males between the ages of 18 and 25).

### **Federal Pell Grants**

For the 2010–2011 academic year, Pell Grants provide up to \$5,550 per year. You can receive a Pell Grant while you are registered for as little as one credit. Students who are accelerating progress toward a degree may be eligible for additional Pell.

### **Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (FSEOG)**

If you demonstrate exceptional financial need, CUNY may award you funds from FSEOG. Preference is given to students who receive a Pell Grant. In addition to exceptional need, CUNY requires that you demonstrate a willingness to assist in financing your education through part-time employment or by borrowing.

### **Federal Work-Study (FWS)**

The Federal Work-Study program provides you with an opportunity to be placed into a part-time job that accommodates your academic schedule. If you are awarded Federal Work-Study, you may find an eligible off-campus or on-campus job. Each college's financial aid office can help you find a Federal Work-Study job.

### **Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG)**

An eligible student may receive an ACG of up to \$750 for the first academic year of study and up to \$1,300 for the second academic year of study. The funding for this program ends after the 2010–2011 academic year. To be eligible, you must:

- Answer the qualifying ACG questions on the FAFSA and be a Pell grant recipient.
- Be enrolled for six or more credits in a degree program.
- Be enrolled in the first- or second-year program at a community or four-year college.
- Have completed an eligible, rigorous high school program.

## **Loans**

What you need to know if you borrow a Federal Direct Loan:

- You must apply for financial aid using the FAFSA.
- You must request the loan from the financial aid office at the college you will be attending.
- You must complete an entrance interview, which provides you with information regarding the loan's terms and conditions.

- If you request a Direct Loan, you may decline the loan later by notifying the financial aid office.
- You do not need a co-signer to qualify for a Direct Loan, and there is no credit check.
- Interest rates on subsidized loans are 4.5 percent and will go down to 3.4 percent on July 1, 2011. Unsubsidized loans will remain at 6.8 percent.
- Your repayment period varies from 10 to 30 years.
- Repayment begins six months after you graduate, leave school or drop below half-time study.

### **Federal Direct Loans**

If you find that you will need to borrow money to pay for some of the costs of your college education, there are federal loans available to you.

CUNY participates in the Direct Loan program where students borrow directly from the federal government. Just like any other loan, these loans must be repaid with interest. If you have financial need, you are eligible for a subsidized Direct Loan and there is no interest charged as long as you maintain half-time enrollment. If you have any questions about loans, they can be answered in the college financial aid office.

### Maximum Loan Amounts for Federal Direct Loans<sup>1</sup>

	Subsidized	Total Subsidized & Unsubsidized
<b>Dependent Undergraduate</b>		
1 <sup>st</sup> Year	\$3,500	\$5,500
2 <sup>nd</sup> Year	\$4,500	\$6,500
3 <sup>rd</sup> Year and Beyond	\$5,500	\$7,500
<b>Independent Undergraduate</b>		
1 <sup>st</sup> Year	\$3,500	\$9,500
2 <sup>nd</sup> Year	\$4,500	\$10,500
3 <sup>rd</sup> Year and Beyond	\$5,500	\$12,500

<sup>1</sup>Maximum loan amounts are based on eligibility.

#### Federal Perkins Loans

Federal Perkins Student Loans are low-interest loans for both undergraduate and graduate students who have exceptional financial need. CUNY serves as the lender, and funding is limited. The interest rate is set at 5 percent. The application is the FAFSA.

#### Federal PLUS Loans for Parents

If you are considered to be a dependent student, your parent(s) may be eligible to apply for a federal loan to help pay your college expenses.

Additional information about the Federal PLUS Loan for Parents:

- PLUS loan borrowers are subject to credit checks.
- The interest rate charged may be recalculated on July 1 each year.
- In the 2009–2010 academic year interest rates on PLUS Loans were 7.9 percent.
- Your dependent student must file a FAFSA.
- Request the loan from the financial aid office.

#### Veteran Education Programs

The City of New York (CUNY) welcomes and supports veterans, reservists, survivors and family members on its campuses. There are expanded programs to help veterans finance their education from the federal and New York State governments. For more information on these benefits and how to apply for them, visit [www.cuny.edu/veterans](http://www.cuny.edu/veterans) and choose “Financing Your Education.”

#### Outside Scholarships

There are thousands of private organizations that provide scholarship assistance to college students. These scholarships are based on a variety of factors. To search for scholarships, you should use Internet search programs such as [fastweb.com](http://fastweb.com) and [[collegeboard.com](http://collegeboard.com)]. These are free services. You do not need to pay someone to help you with your scholarship search.

## FAFSA and TAP School Codes

When filling out your FAFSA and TAP application, you will be asked to supply a college code for the colleges where you would like to have your information sent. The college codes for CUNY are listed in the chart below.

College Name	Federal/FAFSA Code	New York State/TAP Code
<b>Four-Year Colleges</b>		
Baruch College	007273	1409
Brooklyn College	002687	1410
The City College of New York	002688	1411
College of Staten Island	002698	1417
Hunter College	002689	1413
John Jay College of Criminal Justice	002693	1414
Lehman College	007022	1412
Medgar Evers College	010097	1415
New York City College of Technology	002696	1405
Queens College	002690	1416
SPS/CUNY Online Baccalaureate	004765	1420
York College	004759	1418
<b>Community Colleges</b>		
Borough of Manhattan Community College	002691	1404
Bronx Community College	002692	1400
Hostos Community College	008611	1401
Kingsborough Community College	002694	1402
LaGuardia Community College	010051	1403
Queensborough Community College	002697	1407

Information contained in this booklet is accurate at the time of publication.

# CUNY Offices of Financial Aid Contact Information

Visit [www.cuny.edu/financialaid](http://www.cuny.edu/financialaid) and click on “Financial Aid Offices”

## COLLEGES

**Baruch College**  
151 E. 25th St.  
Room 880  
New York, NY 10010  
(646) 312-1360  
[www.baruch.cuny.edu](http://www.baruch.cuny.edu)

**Brooklyn College**  
2900 Bedford Ave.  
West Quad Bldg.  
Brooklyn, NY 11210  
(718) 951-5051  
[www.brooklyn.cuny.edu](http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu)

**The City College of New York  
& The Sophie Davis School of  
Biomedical Education**  
160 Convent Ave.  
Administration Bldg.  
Room 104  
New York, NY 10031  
(212) 650-5819  
[www.cuny.edu](http://www.cuny.edu)

**College of Staten Island**  
2800 Victory Blvd.  
N. Administration Bldg.  
Room 401  
Staten Island, NY 10314  
(718) 982-2030  
[www.csi.cuny.edu](http://www.csi.cuny.edu)

**Hunter College**  
695 Park Ave.  
Room 241 North  
New York, NY 10021  
(212) 772-4820  
[www.hunter.cuny.edu](http://www.hunter.cuny.edu)

**John Jay College of  
Criminal Justice**  
445 W. 59th St.  
Room 1280N  
New York, NY 10019  
(212) 237-8149  
[www.jjay.cuny.edu](http://www.jjay.cuny.edu)

**Lehman College**  
250 Bedford Park Blvd. West  
Shuster Hall, Room 136  
Bronx, NY 10468  
(718) 960-8545  
[www.lehman.cuny.edu](http://www.lehman.cuny.edu)

**Medgar Evers College**  
1637 Bedford Ave.  
Room S110  
Brooklyn, NY 11225  
(718) 270-6141  
[www.mec.cuny.edu](http://www.mec.cuny.edu)

**New York City College  
of Technology**  
300 Jay St.  
Namm Hall Room NG-13  
Brooklyn, NY 11201  
(718) 260-5700  
[www.citytech.cuny.edu](http://www.citytech.cuny.edu)

**Queens College**  
65-30 Kissena Blvd.  
Jefferson Hall, Room 202  
Flushing, NY 11367  
(718) 997-5100  
[www.qc.cuny.edu](http://www.qc.cuny.edu)

**SPS/CUNY Online Baccalaureate**  
101 W. 31st St.  
Room 905  
New York, NY 10001  
(212) 652-2869  
[www.cuny.edu/online](http://www.cuny.edu/online)

**York College**  
94-20 Guy R. Brewer Blvd.  
Room 1M08  
Jamaica, NY 11451  
(718) 262-2230  
[www.york.cuny.edu](http://www.york.cuny.edu)

## COMMUNITY COLLEGES

**Borough of Manhattan  
Community College**  
199 Chambers St.  
Room N340  
New York, NY 10007  
(212) 220-1430  
[www.bmcc.cuny.edu](http://www.bmcc.cuny.edu)

**Bronx Community College**  
2155 University Ave.  
Colston Hall, Room 504  
Bronx, NY 10453  
(718) 289-5700  
[www.bcc.cuny.edu](http://www.bcc.cuny.edu)

**Hostos Community College**  
120 E. 149th St.  
Room B112-115  
Bronx, NY 10451  
(718) 518-6555  
[www.hostos.cuny.edu](http://www.hostos.cuny.edu)

**Kingsborough  
Community College**  
2001 Oriental Blvd.  
Room U201  
Brooklyn, NY 11235  
(718) 368-4644  
[www.kbcc.cuny.edu](http://www.kbcc.cuny.edu)

**LaGuardia Community College**  
31-10 Thomson Ave.  
Room C107  
Long Island City, NY 11101  
(718) 482-7218  
[www.lagcc.cuny.edu](http://www.lagcc.cuny.edu)

**Queensborough Community  
College**  
Springfield Blvd. &  
56th Ave.  
Library Bldg., Room 409  
Bayside, NY 11364  
(718) 631-6367  
[www.qcc.cuny.edu](http://www.qcc.cuny.edu)

# Questions?

If you have questions about the financial aid application process, visit [www.cuny.edu/financialaid](http://www.cuny.edu/financialaid) or contact the financial aid office at the CUNY college you plan to attend. For help with your FAFSA and TAP application, refer to the websites and phone numbers listed below.

## Useful Websites and Phone Numbers

### The City University of New York (CUNY)

CUNY Financial Aid Information . . . . . [www.cuny.edu/financialaid](http://www.cuny.edu/financialaid)  
[www.cuny.edu/scholarships](http://www.cuny.edu/scholarships)  
General Information on CUNY . . . . . [www.cuny.edu](http://www.cuny.edu)

### Federal Government Resources

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). . . . . [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov)  
Federal Student Aid Information . . . . . 1-800-4-FED-AID  
(1-800-433-3243)  
[www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov](http://www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov)  
Federal Student Aid Forecaster . . . . . [www.FAFSA4caster.ed.gov](http://www.FAFSA4caster.ed.gov)  
College Planning . . . . . [www.college.gov](http://www.college.gov)

### New York State Higher Education Services Corporation

General Information on Your TAP Grant . . . . . 1-888-NYS-HESC  
(1-888-697-4372)  
[www.hesc.org](http://www.hesc.org)

Please note: Macaulay Honors College students should contact the home college for any questions regarding Financial Aid.

**COLLEGES**

Four-Year Colleges

BARUCH COLLEGE  
BROOKLYN COLLEGE  
THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK  
COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND  
HUNTER COLLEGE  
JOHN JAY COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
LEHMAN COLLEGE  
MEDGAR EVERS COLLEGE  
NEW YORK CITY COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY  
QUEENS COLLEGE  
YORK COLLEGE

Community  
Colleges

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
HOSTOS COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
KINGSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
LAGUARDIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
QUEENSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
MACAULAY HONORS COLLEGE

Honors College  
and Graduate &  
Professional  
Schools

CUNY GRADUATE CENTER  
CUNY GRADUATE SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM  
CUNY SCHOOL OF LAW  
CUNY SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES  
CUNY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH



CUNY Welcome Center  
Grace Building  
42nd St. between 5th & 6th Aves.  
Manhattan

[www.cuny.edu](http://www.cuny.edu)