



The College at
BROCKPORT
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

F.A.N. MAIL

Financial Aid News

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FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ENROLLMENT SERVICES

Welcome! This is the first edition of *F.A.N. Mail* for the spring semester. This newsletter is published periodically and contains valuable information for all students. It includes deadlines, instructions for aid recipients, and possible aid sources. Be sure to review *F.A.N. Mail*, which is always available on the web, in the Financial Aid Office, Seymour College Union, and other locations.

CHANGES IN FEDERAL AID PROCESSING

New procedures have been implemented to simplify the filing of your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). We have always recommended that whenever possible, students and their families should file their tax returns prior to filing their FAFSA. A new service is now available to those that file their returns first, the IRS Data Retrieval Process (IDRP). When filing the FAFSA, applicants will be asked if taxes have been filed and if so, do they wish to use the IDRP. Upon checking yes, the financial data from the tax return will automatically be transferred to the FAFSA form, simplifying the process and improving accuracy. We strongly recommend use of the IDRP when filing your FAFSA. We have pushed back our FAFSA filing deadlines to accommodate tax filing before the FAFSA is filed (see below). Note: To utilize the IDRP, taxes should be filed at least two weeks before the FAFSA is filed.

2011–12 TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TAP)

If you have applied for a TAP Award more than two months ago and have not received a TAP award notice, you should check on the status of your application. The telephone number to call is 1-888-NYS-HESC, or check on the web at www.hesc.com.

TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

In order to apply for TAP, you must first file a FAFSA form. If you're filing your FAFSA on the web, you may follow the link at the end to electronically complete your TAP

application. You may also access the application directly at www.tapweb.org/totw.

2012–13 AID APPLICATION TIMETABLE

Below is the timetable for applying for financial aid for 2012–13. You must meet these deadlines to guarantee receipt of funds when you start the fall semester.

Deadline for Activity

January 1..... Begin filing forms

March 1 Recommended tax filing date.

March 15..... Recommended final filing deadline for FAFSA to guarantee processing before May 1 deadline. Summer financial aid applications available.

March–April...Supply any additional information or documents requested.

May 1 Final deadline for all information and applications to be received by the Financial Aid Office.

Any files completed after May 1 will be processed on a first-come, first-serve basis until funds are exhausted. We cannot guarantee that files completed after May 1 will be able to be processed in time for a fall student bill deferral.

DISTRIBUTION OF 2012-13 FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION FORMS

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

All financial aid applicants must file a FAFSA form. Most undergraduate students that filed for aid in 2011–2012 should be able to file a Renewal FAFSA on the web at www.fafsa.gov. Anyone who has not previously filed electronically or those that did not apply in 2011–2012 should access the above Federal website to apply.

ENTRANCE INTERVIEWS

All students receiving educational loans must have a pre-loan counseling session before they can receive any financial aid checks. This must be done only once while enrolled at The College at Brockport, SUNY. You may access the Federal website at <http://studentloans.gov> to meet this requirement. The personal computers in the STAR Center in the Financial Aid

Office may be used for this purpose.

SPRING PART-TIME STUDENTS

Aid for Part-Time Students (APTS) is a grant program for undergraduate students taking between 3 and 11 credits per semester. If you are independent and your New York State net taxable income is under \$34,250, or if you are dependent and your net taxable income combined with parents is under \$50,550, you may be eligible. Applications are available in the Forms Center on the financial aid home page. The deadline for submitting the application and supporting documentation is February 24, 2012. If you have already applied for APTS for the fall 2011 semester, you do not need to reapply. Your application will automatically be reviewed for the spring semester.

STUDENT FEDERAL INCOME TAX REMINDER

The 1986 Tax Reform Act affects all scholarships and fellowships including the New York State Tuition Assistance Program, Federal Pell Grants, Federal Supplemental Opportunity Grants (SEOG), Federal TEACH grants and institutional grants or fellowships, which are to be considered as federal taxable income. Student loans are not considered income for federal tax purposes. Candidates for a degree (i.e., matriculated students) may exclude amounts used for tuition and fees, books, supplies, and equipment required for courses of instruction. **It is very important that you keep receipts to document these expenditures.** The law places upon the student the obligation to determine the taxable amount of their scholarships and fellowships by offsetting the above allowable expense against the total of all grants received. Please contact the US Internal Revenue Service if you have any questions.

IS MY MONEY IN?

This is probably the most frequently asked question during the spring semester. You can check the status of your funds using the Banner Online Service at www.brockport.edu. You should be aware that all spring financial aid exchange checks are credited to your checking or savings account if you have arranged this with the Office of Student Accounts and Accounting, or are mailed to your local address by the Office of Student Accounts and Accounting. Again, be sure to supply the Registrar's Office with your current local address to avoid any delays. We hope that this will help to avoid long lines, multiple questions, and frustrations for all.

FINANCIAL AID APPEALS

Students should be aware that it is possible to appeal their financial aid awards due to changes in their family's financial circumstances. These could include a loss of income or other significant income reduction, loss of benefits, death, and separation or divorce of parents, etc. If you feel you have a circumstance that should be evaluated, please print an appeal form from our forms center at www.brockport.edu/finaid. Please note that March 15, 2012 is the deadline for all appeals

for this academic year.

SUMMER 2012 AID

All those wishing to apply for financial aid for next summer need to complete a separate summer application. It will be available in our office and on our website by March 15. Please remember that the summer is part of the 2011–2012 academic year. If you have already received your maximum Federal Pell and/or TEACH grant and Stafford Loans, you will not be eligible for additional funds from these programs for the summer. Private alternative loans would still be available.

2011–12 INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS

There are still a small number of students that have incomplete financial aid application files for the 2011–12 academic year. We will continue to process these as they become complete. However, there will be lengthy delays as 2012–13 processing is now given priority. Again, submit all outstanding information or documentation immediately to receive any consideration for aid for 2011–12. We will not process any 2011–12 files after May 1, 2012.

WANTED... FINANCIAL AID PEER ADVISORS

The Financial Aid Office is seeking to hire students to serve as Financial Aid Peer Advisors for this summer and the 2012–2013 academic year, contingent on budget approval. Applicants must be available for a minimum of 10–15 hours per week during the summer (37.5 hours maximum) for training and for 10–20 hours per week during the school year. The rate of pay will be \$8 during summer training and \$8.25 during the academic year.

Duties will include, but are not limited to:

- Serving as resource personnel in the STAR Center
- Working with students and families on a one-to-one or presentation basis in some of the following areas:
 - FAFSA on the Web
 - Scholarship searches
 - Debt management
 - Serving as receptionist and answering telephone or email inquiries as needed.
- Assist in the processing of financial aid files and documents.
- Performing various PC/software tasks (i.e., MS Office 2007, Excel, etc.)

Note: Work-Study eligibility is preferred, but NOT a requirement!

Information/applications are available in the Financial Aid Office or online at: www.brockport.edu/finaid/forms_center. All completed applications must be received in the Financial Aid Office by the March 9, 2012 deadline.