



Mount Wachusett
Community College

444 Green Street, Gardner, MA 01440-1000

GENERAL FINANCIAL AID QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. How do I apply for Financial Aid?

- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) www.fafsa.ed.gov on-line or Using the paper application. For the Fall semester, you can apply as early as January 1. Some colleges also require you to complete the CSS PROFILE FORM. Contact the Financial Aid Office at your prospective college(s) for more information.

2. Who is eligible to apply for financial aid?

Eligibility Criteria:

- Be accepted to the college in a degree or certificate program
- Be a US citizen or permanent resident
- Demonstrate financial need by completing the FAFSA
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress according to college policy
- Not be in default on a previous student loan or owe a refund on a federal grant

3. When do I apply for Financial Aid?

- NOW if you will enroll in school for January. Complete the current year FAFSA.
- As soon as possible after January 1 if you will enroll in school for September.
- Check with the college regarding Summer aid.

4. Do I have to re-apply for Financial Aid each year?

- YES! Don't forget to complete a renewal FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1 of each year. Be sure to list the Federal School Code for each college in which you are interested. Then, the school will electronically receive the results of your FAFSA.

TURN OVER FOR MORE INFORMATION...

5. What happens after I send in my FAFSA?

- There will be forms for you (and your parent, if applicable) to complete once your college(s) receive the FAFSA results. These forms will usually be sent to your home, some colleges will communicate with you on-line...contact your college for more information. Once the Financial Aid Office receives the required forms back from you, the Financial Aid Office will determine your eligibility for financial aid within a reasonable amount of time. A Financial Aid Award Letter and information about aid will be sent to your home or could possibly be sent to you via e-mail.

6. What are some other sources for additional help for college costs?

- Internet: www.fastweb.com www.students.gov www.finaid.org

Don't forget to look at the website for your prospective college(s)

- Contact your: employers, churches, civic organizations, clubs, high school guidance office

7. How many credits must I register for?

- Usually you must enroll in a minimum of 6 credits each semester. There is limited amount of financial aid for students who enroll in 1-5 credits.

8. Do my grades matter?

- Yes, the government has required academic standards for students. Each college has its own requirements that you must achieve to remain eligible for financial aid. Failure grades or withdrawing from classes will affect the aid you receive during the semester and future financial aid eligibility.
- Only enroll in the number of classes that you can feel you can successfully complete.

9. What if I have special circumstances within my family?

- Contact the Financial Aid Office as soon as possible to discuss your particular family situation.