

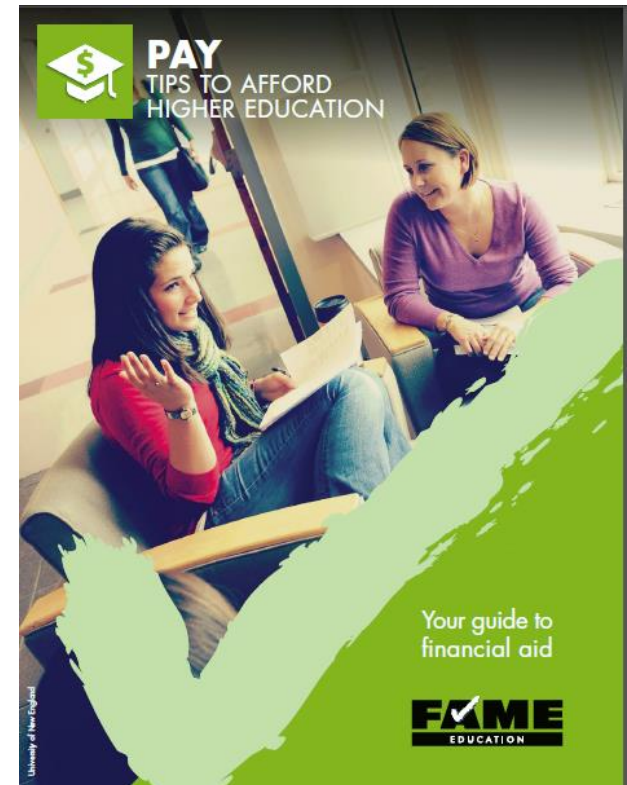


Financial Aid & College Financing Fall 2017



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK: FAME Education
for weekly scholarship and financial aid information
JOIN OUR MAILING LIST: FAMEmaine.com/join

- Financial Aid Overview
- Three Steps to Financial Aid
- Types of Financial Aid
- Your Award Letter
- Reducing Expenses
- When the Award Isn't Enough
- Saving for College
- Education Tax Credits & Deductions
- Additional Resources



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Financial Aid Overview

- Financial aid exists to help students pay for college
- Two categories of aid
 - Need based aid
 - Merit aid
- All schools must use the FAFSA to award federal financial aid
- Everyone should complete the FAFSA
 - Even if you think you won't qualify - FAFSA is required for many scholarships and federal loans

Step 1: Get Ready

- Research college costs and financial aid:
 - Use Net Price Calculator – found on each school’s website
 - Deadlines – they’re critical!
 - Use the School Requirements Tracking Sheet on page 25
 - CSS Profile or Institutional Forms - some schools use other financial aid applications to award institutional aid
 - For more information on the CSS Profile, visit cssprofile.org, where you will find an interactive presentation on the CSS Profile.

To learn more see page 7 in *Pay: Tips to Afford Higher Education*

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Step 1: Get Ready

- Create an FSA ID (username and password) at fsaid.ed.gov.
 - All student applicants need an FSA ID
 - For dependent students, one parent needs an FSA ID to sign the FAFSA
 - Use our FSA ID Information Tracking form to record information
- Research and apply for outside scholarships
 - Use free searches only
 - Links at FAMEmaine.com
- Save as much as possible!



To learn more see pages 6-7 in *Pay: Tips to Afford Higher Education*

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- Complete the FREE Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at fafsa.gov
 - FAFSA is FREE – do not pay anyone to submit it for you
 - Must be completed every year!



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- File on time – The 2018-2019 FAFSA becomes available on October 1!
 - Submit early to meet deadlines
 - The 2018-2019 FAFSA requires 2016 tax information
 - Use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool in the FAFSA
 - The FAFSA is a student application
 - Parental information – whose information is needed?
 - Asset information

To learn more see page 9 in *Pay: Tips to Afford Higher Education*

Deadlines Matter



**FAFSA Submitted:
October 1**

Award Amount:

Pell Grant	\$ 5,920
State Grant	\$ 1,500
SEOG Grant	\$ 2,000
University Grant	\$ 3,500
Work-Study	\$ 1,600
Direct Loan	\$ 5,500
Total:	\$ 20,020



**FAFSA Submitted:
after school's priority
deadline**

Award Amount:

Pell Grant	\$ 5,920
State Grant	\$ 1,500
Direct Loan	\$ 5,500
Total:	\$ 12,920

In this example, the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) was 0.



**FAFSA Submitted:
during summer**

Award Amount:

Pell Grant	\$ 5,920
Direct Loan	\$ 5,500
Total:	\$ 11,420

- Student Aid Report (SAR)
 - Summary of FAFSA information
 - Review and correct errors at fafsa.gov
 - FAFSA information and changes will be sent to the colleges electronically

Federal Student Aid
An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

PROUD SPONSOR of
the AMERICAN MIND®

FAFSA®
Free Application for Federal Student Aid

Home Help

Welcome, Nicole Logout

SEARCH

My FAFSA

Welcome, Nicole Vachon!

2017-2018 2016-2017

Current Application Status: Not Submitted

You started a correction to your 2017-2018 FAFSA but have not submitted it. Would you like to continue where you left off?

CONTINUE

OR

You can also start over.

START OVER

You can also:

- [View or Print your Student Aid Report \(SAR\)](#)
- [View Correction History](#) to view corrections made to your FAFSA

STUDENT

Original Application
Submitted: 01/09/2017
Processed: 01/10/2017

FSA ID

Last Time, Date FSA ID Used: 1:02, 08/22/2017

To learn more, see page 11 in Pay: Tips to Afford Higher Education

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■ Verification

- Students randomly selected....
 - However, using the IRS Data Retrieval Tool will reduce the likelihood of being selected
 - Consider filing a federal tax return, even if not required
- School is responsible for verifying information
- Schools may send requests for information by mail or email
- Be sure to meet your verification deadlines!

To learn more, see page 11 in *Pay: Tips to Afford Higher Education*

- Your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is calculated when you submit the FAFSA
 - Your EFC is...
 - Used as a measure of your family's financial strength
 - Used by your school to calculate your financial aid
 - The same at each school that you apply to
 - Your EFC is not...
 - The amount of money your family will have to pay for school
 - The amount of financial aid you will receive

To learn more, see page 11 in Pay: Tips to Afford Higher Education

Examples of How Need is Determined

	Low-Cost School EFC = \$2,000	Mid-Cost School EFC = \$2,000	High-Cost School EFC = \$2,000
Annual Cost of Attendance	\$ 8,600	\$ 22,500	\$ 58,000
- EFC	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
= NEED	\$ 6,600	\$ 20,500	\$ 56,000

Types of Financial Aid

- Scholarships/Grants
 - Federal
 - State (State of Maine Grant – May 1 deadline!)
 - Institutional (colleges and universities)
 - Private

- Work-study
 - Federal
 - Institutional

To learn more, see pages 13-14 in *Pay: Tips to Afford Higher Education*

Types of Financial Aid

- Student Loans
 - Federal Student Loans (Direct Stafford)
 - Institutional Loans
- Be sure to understand the differences with all the various loan programs!

Visit FAMEmaine.com for more information about programs for Maine residents.

- The financial aid office will send or email you an award notification
 - You must be accepted for admission
 - Many schools may not be able to send awards until at least February
 - Be sure to check student e-mail account regularly

- Review your award
 - Each financial aid package will be different
 - Compare types and amount of aid offered

To learn more, see page 15 in *Pay: Tips to Afford Higher Education*

FAME EDUCATION **COMPARING COSTS & FINANCIAL AID AWARDS**

Use this worksheet to compare estimated college costs and financial aid awards. Find the information you need to complete this worksheet on your financial aid award notice or your school's website. Costs and financial aid offers can vary significantly from one college or university to another.

College Name	Example School X	School 1	School 2	School 3
Direct Costs to Attend				
Tuition & Mandatory Fees	\$10,600			
Room & Board	+ \$9,277			
Direct Costs (Billed by School)	- \$19,877			
Financial Aid - Grants & Scholarships				
Grants & Scholarships	- \$8,750			
Net Cost Before Loans	- \$11,167			
Financial Aid - Loans				
Federal Direct Subsidized Loan	\$3,500			
Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan	+ \$2,000			
Federal Perkins Loan	+ \$0			
Total Loan Amount	- \$5,500			
Estimated Total Cost				
Balance Due (Direct Costs minus grants, scholarships, & loans)	- \$667			
Indirect Costs (Books, supplies, travel)	+ \$1,500			
Estimated Total Cost* (Out-of-pocket cost)	- \$7,167			
Financial Aid - Work Study				
Work Study†	\$1,500			

* Most schools do not list Federal PLUS or private loan eligibility on the award, as these loans are credit-based and may not be approved for everyone. If PLUS or private loan eligibility is listed, please exclude for the purposes of comparing awards.
† Estimated Total Cost would be the amount paid by the student and/or the student's family using savings, outside scholarships and/or loans.
‡ Federal Work Study funds are earned throughout the year so not available to help pay the fall balance.

Comparing Award Letters

Find a tool that works for you

- FAME's Comparing Award Letters worksheet
- Online tools
 - Finaid.org's *Advanced Award Letter Comparison Tool*
 - College Board's *Compare Your Aid Awards*
 - Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's *Compare college costs and financial aid offers*
- Smart gadget "App"
 - College Board's tool is mobile friendly

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- Respond to colleges as necessary
 - Some types of aid require additional steps, such as entrance counseling and promissory notes – be sure to follow up!
 - Inform colleges of your final decision
 - Notify financial aid offices of outside scholarships as soon as possible

To learn more, see page 15 in *Pay: Tips to Afford Higher Education*

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Special Circumstances

- The Financial Aid Office only has the information that was provided on the FAFSA.
- If that information no longer reflects your current situation, contact them directly to discuss changes.
- Examples of changes may include:
 - Unemployment
 - Divorce or separation
 - Loss of income
 - Unusual medical expenses
 - Parent(s) attending college

Reducing Expenses

- Enrollment charges
 - Can you save on tuition?
 - Transfer and AP credits
- Living & other expenses
 - On-campus or living at home?
 - Meal plans
 - Travel expenses
 - Health insurance
- Books and supplies
 - Buy used books or rent
 - Need a computer - look for student discounts

To learn more, see pages 17-18 in *Pay: Tips to Afford Higher Education* or check out FAME's *Manage: Making Your Money Work*.

Popular Online Textbook Sites

www.amazon.com

www.barnesandnoble.com

www.chegg.com

www.half.com

www.textbooks.com

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When the Award Isn't Enough

- Savings
 - Work and save during the summer to cover expenses

- Tuition Payment Plan
 - Make monthly payments to the college

- Federal Parent PLUS Loan
 - Credit based, fixed interest rate

- Private Loans
 - Credit based and typically require co-signer
 - Learn more about Private Loans at [TheLoanforME.com](https://www.theloanforme.com)

To learn more, see pages 19-21 in *Pay: Tips to Afford Higher Education*

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Saving For College

- Section 529 Plan
- Coverdell Education Savings Accounts (ESA)
- Traditional and Roth IRA withdrawals

To learn more, see page 22 in *Pay: Tips to Afford Higher Education*

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Education Tax Credits & Deductions

- State Tax Credit (maine.gov/revenue – credit for educational opportunity)
 - Educational Opportunity Tax Credit

- Federal Tax Credits and Deductions (see IRS Publication 970)
 - American Opportunity Tax Credit

 - Lifetime Learning Tax Credit

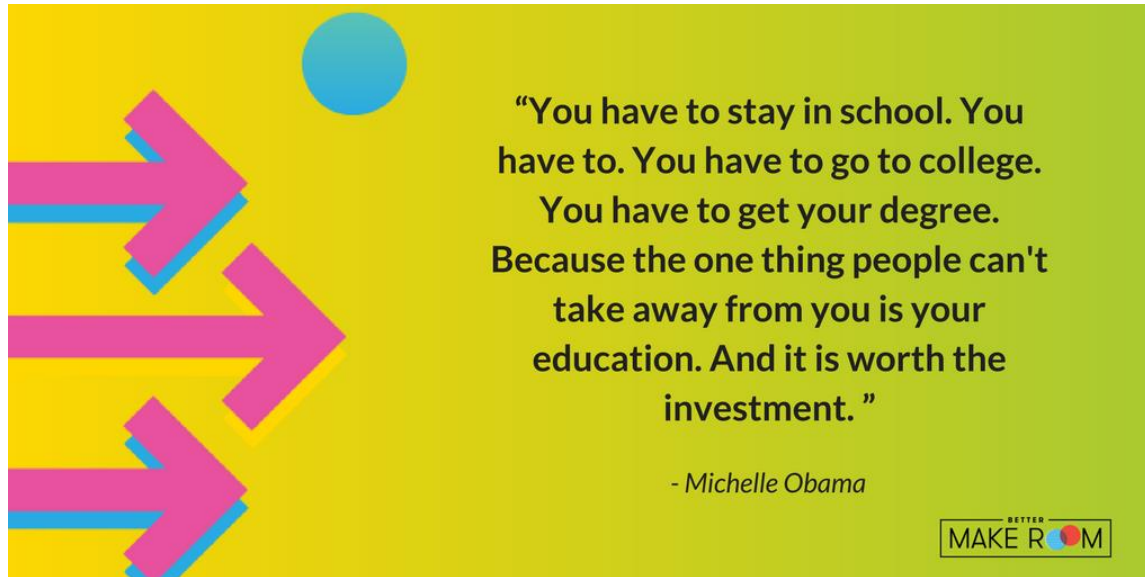
 - Student Loan Interest Deduction

To learn more, see page 22 in *Pay: Tips to Afford Higher Education*

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- Numerous web-based resources exist
- Talk with your school counselor & financial aid office
- FAME – FAMEmaine.com
- Join our mailing list – FAMEmaine.com/join
- FAME's FAFSA Completion Help
 - FAFSA labs throughout Maine in the Fall of 2017
 - Line by line FAFSA completion with help from experts - for more info, visit FAMEmaine.com/FAFSA

**Text your
FIRST and LAST NAME to : (240) 623-8319**



For more information go to www.bettermakerroom.org/up-next/

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FAME Financial Aid Hotline

1-800-228-3734



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Questions?

Finance Authority of Maine

5 Community Drive

P.O. Box 949

Augusta, ME 04332

1-800-228-3734

TTY: 207-626-2717

education@FAMEmaine.com

www.FAMEmaine.com



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