

FINANCIAL AID 101



FAME's 16th Annual Financial Aid 101 Agenda

March 18th, 2022

Augusta Civic Center
with a virtual option

8:00 – 8:30	Breakfast		
8:30 – 9:25	Welcome & Keynote: Why FAFSA Completion Matters and How FAME Can Help Presenter: Mila Tappan, FAME		
9:30 – 10:20	A. Assisting Ineligible Students Presenters: Floreka Malual & Maria MacDougal, FAME	B. Navigating Merit Aid and Other Ways to Pay the Bill Presenter: Jessica Woods, Belfast High School Moderator: Nikki Vachon, FAME	C. FSA ID Creation, Tips & Troubleshooting Presenter: Jessica Whittier, FAME
10:20 – 10:35	Break		
10:35 – 11:25	D. Maine Educational Support Programs Panel Presenters from HOPE, TRiO, EMDC, Goodwill Industries & Embark Moderator: Jessica Whittier, FAME	E. Working with Independent Youth Presenter: Maria MacDougal, FAME	F. Filing the FAFSA – What You'll See Today and What to Expect in the Future Presenter: Mila Tappan, FAME
11:30 – 12:30	Lunch Break Quick Update: Student Loan Repayment Restart and PSLF Changes Presenters: Mary Dyer & Sarah Hinman Newcomb, FAME		
12:40 – 1:30	G. Changes to the New Mainer Experience When Applying for Financial Aid Presenters: Floreka Malual & Jessica Whittier, FAME	H. Peer Education & Digital Financial Wellness Tools Presenters: Mary Dyer & Sarah Hinman Newcomb, FAME	I. CSS Profile Overview Presenter: Jessica Bernier, Senior Director Financial Aid Methodology Moderators: Nikki Vachon & Maria MacDougal, FAME
1:30 – 2:00	J. Coffee Talk - Reset, Reconnect & Recommit		

Session Descriptions & Presenters

Welcome: Why FAFSA Completion Matters and How FAME Can Help

Presenter: Mila Tappan, College Access and Outreach Manager, FAME

There is so much more to financial aid than just FAFSA completion. But, FAFSA completion is the starting point to receiving financial aid. We'll kick the day off talking about the impact of FAFSA completion, the challenges related to completion, and the tools and resources available from FAME to help support you and your students and families. We can't wait to connect with you!

Assisting Ineligible Students

Presenters: Floreka Malual, College Planning Advisor & Maria MacDougal, College Access Counselor, FAME

Paying for higher education without financial aid is challenging without a plan. In this session, we'll discuss paths to paying for higher education for those who aren't eligible for federal financial aid. We'll explore resources available to students including, FAME's web resources for New Mainers, how to help students who have exhausted their eligibility, and different organizations to connect with.

Navigating Merit Aid and Other Ways to Pay the Bill

Presenter: Jessica J. Woods, M.Ed, Assistant Principal, Belfast Area High School

Moderator: Nikki Vachon, College Access Counselor, FAME

How do you help your students that won't qualify for need-based aid research colleges? How do you help students find schools that are a good fit AND meet full need? Join us as we talk about tools you can use to target schools as well as planning strategies to help your students find an affordable school. We'll also share how and when to start planning.

FSA ID Demonstration & Troubleshooting

Presenter: Jessica Whittier, College Access Counselor, FAME

A working FSA ID is critical to the FAFSA process. Unfortunately, challenges abound for many students and parents when it comes to the FSA ID. In this session we'll offer tips to help avoid problems, followed by problem solving strategies to try when the FSA ID has become locked, doesn't work or the username and password have been forgotten.

Maine Educational Support Programs Panel

Presenters from HOPE, TRiO, EMDC, Goodwill Industries & Embark

Moderator: Jessica Whittier, College Access Counselor, FAME

Maine has many dedicated professionals working to help students succeed in college and beyond. Join us as we hear from a few of the great educational support programs available to Maine students. Program representatives will give a program overview, let you know how to help students access their services and will be available after the session to answer questions.

Working with Independent Youth

Presenter: Maria MacDougal, College Access Counselor, FAME

Some of today's prospective college students are preparing for their higher education journey without family support. They may be homeless, self-supporting, and/or dealing with difficult family circumstances. In this session, we will discuss the financial aid process for students in these situations, including how to file the FAFSA and communicating the circumstances with the financial aid office. Bring your questions and examples!

Filing the FAFSA – What You'll See Today and What to Expect in the Future

Presenter: Mila Tappan, College Access and Outreach Manager, FAME

The 2022-2023 FAFSA received a facelift! It looks a little different, some process flows have changed, and navigating the site after submission (to find the SAR and add schools) has definitely changed! In this session, we'll walk through the current FAFSA and highlight the sections that present the most questions and confusion. We'll also discuss upcoming changes to the FAFSA as a result of FAFSA Simplification, most of which will be implemented with 2024-2025 FAFSA, available on October 1, 2023.

Lunch Update: Student Loan Repayment Restart and PSLF Changes

Presenters: Mary Dyer, Financial Education Programs Manager & Sarah Newcomb, Financial Education Program Specialist, FAME

Student loan payments have been on pause since March 2020 and repayment is scheduled to restart in May. There are many other changes happening behind the scenes that may impact a borrower's ability to successfully navigate repayment. There are also temporary changes to the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program that have enabled many borrowers to receive loan forgiveness who were not previously eligible. We don't want any Maine borrowers to be left behind! FAME has created an information hub that includes tools you can use to help get the word out.

Changes to the New Mainer Experience When Applying for Financial Aid

Presenters: Floreka Malual, College Planning Advisor & Jessica Whittier, College Access Counselor, FAME

When applying for financial aid, each experience is different for our New Mainers. We will review new changes and exciting ways to make this experience smooth for New Mainers by exploring tools and resources to serve this population.

Peer Education & Digital Financial Wellness Tools

Presenters: Mary Dyer, Financial Education Programs Manager & Sarah Newcomb, Financial Education Program Specialist, FAME

Join Mary Dyer, FAME's Financial Education Programs Manager and Sarah Newcomb, FAME's new Financial Education Specialist for an informative discussion on the power of peer education and using digital financial wellness tools to engage and inspire your students whether they are in the classroom, or at home.

CSS Profile Overview

Presenter: Jessica Bernier Senior Director Financial Aid Methodology, The College Board

Moderators: Nikki Vachon & Maria MacDougal, College Access Counselors, FAME

The CSS Profile is an institutional aid application used by close to 400 colleges, universities, and scholarship programs. In this session we'll start with an overview of the CSS Profile, including how it is different from the FAFSA, hear how College Board is doubling the number of students who complete CSS Profile™ for free, and learn how to help your students complete their application. Attendees will leave with tips and helpful resources regarding fee waivers, divorced and separated parents, independent and noncitizen students, and more.

Coffee Talk - Reset, Reconnect & Recommit

It's been far too long since you've had time to talk with your colleagues around the state. We miss you. We all wanted a time to be able to see how you are doing and to talk to each other.