



# ECKERD COLLEGE

PROGRAM FOR EXPERIENCED LEARNERS

## Applying for Financial Aid

### **Step #1 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA):**

To be eligible for Financial Aid Funds, students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) each academic year.

### **To complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid for 2007/08, you will need:**

- a. A completed copy of your and, if you are married and filing separately, your spouse's 2006 1040 federal income tax return.  
You may request a copy or a transcript of your filed tax return:  
[www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).
- b. Records of any untaxed income, such as Social Security, VA benefits, Welfare Benefits, etc.
- c. The value of your (and your spouse's) cash on hand, savings and checking accounts.
- d. Records of your investment value.
- e. Records of the net worth of your business and business assets.

### **You may complete the FAFSA on line:**

- a. Apply for a PIN at [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov). Use your PIN to electronically sign your FAFSA on the web.
- b. Use the FAFSA on the Web Worksheet which you can view and print: [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).
- c. If a question on the FAFSA does not apply to you, fill in "0".  
Do not leave BLANK.
- d. Request that your Federal Student Aid Report be sent to Eckerd College:  
Federal School Code: 001487.
- e. When you submit your application, you will receive a confirmation number. Keep this number for your records.
- f. You will receive an e-mail with a link to your Student Aid Report (SAR) when your application has been processed.
- g. If you do not get a response within three weeks, go to [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) and select "Check the Status of a Submitted FAFSA."

### **If your FAFSA is selected for Verification:**

The verification processes must be completed and certified before you will be eligible for federal and need based state student aid awards.

To verify your FAFSA information, you must submit a signed copy of your, and, if married and filed separately, your spouse's federal income tax return and a completed and signed Verification Worksheet to the Eckerd College Financial Aid Office for review.

## **Step #2 Register for Classes.**

**a. Most PEL classroom courses are offered in an 8 week term format.**

There is a one week break between the end of the first 8 week term and the start of the second 8 week term of the Fall and Spring Semesters.

**b. Independent Study and Directed Study Courses are offered in a 16 week format and must be completed by the end of the registration semester.**

**c. Semester Dates:**

**There are two 8 week terms in the 16 week Fall and Spring Semesters.**

**\*Fall Semester** (16 weeks) starts on 8/18/07 and ends on 12/16/07.

Registration Deadline for Fall Semester Financial Aid eligibility: Aug. 18

**\*Spring Semester** (16 weeks) starts on 1/12/08 and ends on 5/11/08.

Registration Deadline for Spring Semester Financial Aid eligibility: Jan. 12

**\*Summer Semester** (8 weeks) starts on 5/31/08 and ends on 7/27/08.

Registration Deadline for Summer Semester Financial Aid eligibility: May 31

Students must be seeking a BA degree and attending Eckerd College **at-least-half-time, 2 classes in the Semester\***, to be eligible for Federal Financial Aid. Students with low EFC s may qualify for Pell Grant for less than half time enrollment.

**The Florida Financial Aid Programs, FRAG and FSAG, require full-time attendance: 4 classes in the Fall and/or Spring Semesters\*.**

Florida Programs are not available for Summer.

## **Financial Aid Award:**

When your eligibility has been determined, a Financial Aid Award Letter will be mailed to you.

- a. **The awards on this award letter are based on full time enrollment.**
- b. **The award will be adjusted to your actual enrollment at the time of disbursement.**
- c. **Carefully** examine your Financial Aid Award Letter and any attachments, comments and enclosures.
- d. **Complete and return** all enclosed forms to the Financial Aid Office.

- e. You may complete the forms online: [www.eckerd.edu](http://www.eckerd.edu)

**If you wish to decline or reduce the Federal Stafford Loan** that appears on your award, you may do so by contacting the Financial Aid Office in writing or via email to: [kaplanmj@eckerd.edu](mailto:kaplanmj@eckerd.edu).

**Financial Aid Awards are disbursed to Student Accounts:**

**Fall Semester:** approximately the second week of November

**Spring Semester:** approximately the second week of April

**Summer Semester:** approximately the second week of July

**Please contact the Student Accounts Office: 727 864-8352 or 727 864-8321 if you have any questions about your Student Account or Credit Balance Refunds.**

**IMPORTANT - Renewal of Financial Aid Awards:**

**To be eligible to renew Federal and State financial aid awards for the subsequent year, the student must:**

- a. **Complete *all registered courses, including Directed Study*, taken in the academic year no later than June 1.**
- b. **To be counted as complete, a grade of A, B, C, or D must be earned in *all classes including Directed Study* courses**
- c. **Incomplete grades and grades of W, IP, NR, and F do not count toward completed hours for renewal.**
- d. **Failure to complete courses may result in a probationary status or termination of Federal and/or State financial aid awards for the subsequent year.**

**Florida Financial Aid Programs:**

**Florida Resident Access Grant – FRAG**

**Florida Student Assistance Grant – FSAG**

**To be eligible**, the student or parent of a dependant student, must have established residency in the State of Florida for at least 12 months prior to the beginning of the semester.

**The student must:**

Be attending full time – four classes in the Fall and/or Spring semester.

Be making satisfactory progress toward a first Bachelor degree.

Not be in default on a Federal or State loan or owe a repayment on any Federal or State grant or scholarship.

**To renew the award**, the student must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 and complete 12 hours for each semester in which FRAG and/or FSAG funds were received.

**The Florida Resident Access Grant (FRAG)** is a tuition only benefit. Students who receive tuition benefits from employers or other tuition based grants or scholarships may not be eligible for the FRAG.

**The Florida Student Assistance Grant (FSAG)** is a need based grant. To be eligible the student must have an Estimated Family Contribution figure (EFC) from the FAFSA which falls into the EFC cut-off established by the State. Funds are limited. Apply Early.

A student may receive the FRAG and/or FSAG for a maximum of 9 semesters

## **Federal Financial Aid Programs:**

**Pell Grant**

**Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant**

**Federal Stafford Loans**

To be eligible for Federal and Need-Based Financial Aid funds, the student must:

Be attending classes at Eckerd College as a degree-seeking student.

Have a valid Federal Student Aid Report (FSAR) for the academic year on file at Eckerd College prior to the last semester of half time attendance.

Complete classes and progress at yearly increments toward a Bachelor's degree. To be counted as "complete" a grade of A, B, C, or D must be earned in the course. Grades of I, IP, NR, W, and F will not count as completed courses.

### **Federal Stafford Loans**

Stafford Loan limits are determined by the student's grade level:

The Independent Student may qualify for a maximum loan amount of:

\$7500\* at Freshman level

\$8500\* at Sophomore level

\$10,500\* at Junior and Senior levels

\*Loan funds may be subject to lender fees of up to 3%.

### **Federal Refund to Title IV Program (R2T4)**

A student with federal financial aid awards who withdraws from all classes\*in the semester, stops attending classes or does not complete enrolled classes by the end of the semester may be subject to a Return of Federal Title IV Funds (R2T4) calculation.

The R2T4 is a federally mandated mathematical formula which determines the federal funds the student "earned" for the time "attended" in the semester.

If the R2T4 calculation determines that funds that have been disbursed to a student's account must be refunded to the Federal Programs and the student has drawn a credit balance from his/her student account, the student must return the "unearned" funds to the school.

Any unearned federal funds which have been awarded but not disbursed to the student's account will be returned to the Federal Programs by the school.

No Student Account adjustments will be made to tuition charged.

If you have questions about the FAFSA, the Verification Process or your Financial Aid Award, please contact Joan Kaplan in the Financial Aid Office:

[kaplanmj@eckerd.edu](mailto:kaplanmj@eckerd.edu) 727-864-8855

If you have questions about the FAFSA, enrollment or dropping classes, please contact the Program for Experienced Learners Financial Services Specialists:

727 864-8226 or 800 234-4735.