HOW TO APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID

Apply online at: https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa

The FAFSA is available Oct 1st each year.

You will need your social security number or your alien registration number if you are an eligible non-U.S. citizen, prior-prior year federal income tax information, and any records of untaxed income.

If you are a dependent student, your parent(s) will need to provide this same information.

You should apply before February 1st to be considered for state grants.

If possible, import your tax data directly into your FAFSA.

Report accurate income and household size information to prevent delays in processing your financial aid.

After your FAFSA is processed FAFSA will send you an email with information on how to view your Student Aid Report (SAR).

The Financial Aid Office at OCCC will also send you an email, so be sure to check your OCCC email regularly. You may be required to submit documents to the financial aid office to complete your file review.

Login to your MyOCCC Portal Self-Service to view your financial aid status at: OCCC Login

Verification

Federal Student Aid selects a percentage of FAFSAs for Verification. The Financial Aid Office notifies all selected students by email, requesting the required documents. Students should submit missing documents as soon as possible to avoid delays in processing their financial aid.

Documents that may be required:

• 2017 Federal Tax Return Transcript or signed Federal Tax Return
• Non-Tax Filers - IRS Verification of Non-Filing Letter
• Non-Tax Filers 2017 IRS Wage & Income Transcript
• Verification Forms (Dependent or Independent)
• Proof of High school completion or the equivalent
• Proof of Identity-

You must appear in-person to the Financial Aid Office and present a valid government issued photo ID, such as a driver license, state issued photo ID, military ID or passport.

• Certifying Statement of Educational Purpose indicating that the 2019-2020 Federal Student Financial Aid received will only be used to pay the cost of attending OCCC. Students who are unable to appear in-person must provide a copy of a valid government issued ID with a notarized statement of educational purpose.

• If a student or parent has been granted an IRS filing extension, submit copies of IRS form 4868, W-2 and/or 1099 forms and a signed statement of Adjusted Gross Income (AGI).

What happens next?

Award notifications are sent to students' OCCC email. Students review their financial aid awards on MyOCCC Portal Self-Service for Students: OCCC Login

The Financial Aid Office does not award or disburse Federal or State Student Aid funds until Verification is complete.

Verification Exclusions

FAFSA applicants who are selected for verification may be exempt from this requirement if certain documented circumstances exist, such as:

* Applicant only eligible for unsubsidized loans
* Parents unavailable or deceased
* Spouse unavailable or deceased
* Selected after student is no longer enrolled and all funds are disbursed

Students who meet one of these criteria must contact the Financial Aid Office and document their circumstance. Due to the availability and use of electronic processes the Financial Aid Office seldom considers cases of parent or spouse unavailability.

TIMELINES/DEADLINES

Students who may be eligible for a Federal Pell Grant must have a FAFSA on file with the OCCC Financial Aid Office with a calculated EFC by their last date of enrollment for the academic year. If Verification is required, students must complete verification within 10 days of their last date of enrollment to receive payment for attempted courses. Deadline exceptions may be considered for eligible students with extenuating circumstances.