

Questions about Applying for Financial Aid

? How do I apply for Federal financial aid at SUNY Potsdam?

Please use the following link to access our “How to Apply for Aid” checklists for both new and continuing students: [Apply for Aid](#).

? My tax returns are not complete yet. Should I wait to file the FAFSA?

No. You may estimate your tax information by using information from your W2 and/or last year’s tax forms. You will need to update the FAFSA information on line as soon as your tax return is complete.

? What are the advantages of applying early?

Campus-based funds are limited and awarded on a rolling basis until available monies have been depleted. Once SUNY Potsdam receives the results of your FAFSA, we will provide you with a breakdown of your aid eligibility. In addition to faster notification of your eligibility, early completion will also allow confirmed aid to be used to pay for tuition, fees, and room/board (if applicable) on your bill.

? What is the Renewal FAFSA?

A renewal FAFSA is designed for students who applied for aid the previous year.

? Do I have to reapply for financial aid every year?

Yes. You must reapply for financial aid each academic year by completing either the Renewal FAFSA or the [FAFSA](#) (both may be completed on line). The academic year at SUNY Potsdam begins with the summer and includes the fall and spring terms.

If you received TAP the year before and the application information is unchanged, you may only have to file a Renewal FAFSA to get TAP in subsequent years. HESC (Higher Education Services Corporation, the organization that funds TAP, will notify you via email if you need to complete a [TAP application](#).

? Should I wait until I am admitted to the college before applying for financial aid?

No. You should file the [FAFSA](#) as soon as possible after January 1. You must, however, be admitted to the college before a financial aid award notice will be sent to you.

? I only want a student loan so why do I need to apply for financial aid?

Student loans are considered financial aid. The FAFSA results will determine for which type of loan(s) you are eligible.

? I applied for financial aid. Why was I offered only loans?

Loans are a form of student financial aid. Grant aid is limited, and is typically awarded to students demonstrating relatively high levels of need. Student loans offer the opportunity to borrow money to help pay for college at an interest rate and with repayment terms that would not otherwise be available. You are not required to take out a student loan, but in some cases, loans may be the only form of aid for which you qualify.

? How do I apply for New York State aid?

In order to be considered for the New York Tuition Assistance Program (TAP), you must complete the TAP application if you may be a first time recipient. You will have the option, when filing the [FAFSA](#) on the Web, to link directly to the "TAP on the Web" application. Using this link will make the process easier for you, since it will be pre-filled using data you provided on your FAFSA. You can complete the [TAP application](#) on line or request a paper version from www.hesc.org.

? How do I apply for scholarships?

Please use the following link to access our scholarship eligibility criteria and application: [Scholarship Information](#)