



FINANCIAL AID F.A.Q's



You do not need to be admitted before you apply for financial aid, so if you think that you will attend SUNY Niagara, fill out your FAFSA as soon as possible! You may list up to 20 college codes on your FAFSA form, however the state **(TAP) will only receive information from the first school listed on your FAFSA.**

It will take 3 to 5 days for SUNY Niagara to receive the FAFSA information although it will not be processed at the school until you are admitted into the college. It is important to have your FAFSA information at SUNY Niagara when you are admitted, so you will not have any delay in processing your aid.

What information will I need to fill out the FAFSA?

- Your Social Security Number
- Your A-Number (if you're not a U.S. citizen)
- Federal income tax returns; records of child support received; and your current balance of cash, savings, and checking accounts (**Note:** You must provide consent and approval to disclose your federal tax information to be eligible for federal student aid.)
- Bank statements and records of investments (if applicable)
- Records of net worth of investments, businesses, and farms
- Records of untaxed income (if applicable)
- An [FSA ID](#) (account username and password) to log in to StudentAid.gov and start the FAFSA form electronically

If you're a [dependent student](#), then your parent(s) will need most of the above information.

If you're a married student who did not file a joint tax return with your spouse, then your spouse will need most of the above information.

- **How long does it take to process my aid?**

It takes 3-5 days for the FAFSA to process. Once received by the school, the Financial Aid office will send an award letter notifying you of what aid you qualify for. It is normal that we may ask for additional information (copies of tax transcripts, W2's, etc.), particularly if you are selected for verification. It is important that you read these letters and emails and submit the required documentation as soon as possible, as your aid will not process until we complete that process.

- **What kind of financial aid is available at SUNY Niagara?**

SUNY Niagara offers TAP for full time students, which is a NY State grant. There is also PELL, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (FSEOG), subsidized and unsubsidized student loans, Parent PLUS loans, and work-study, all of which are federally funded.

- How much money can I borrow in a student loan?

Freshman (earned less than 30 credits) can borrow up to \$5,500. Sophomores (30 or more credits) can borrow up to \$6,500. Independent students may be eligible to borrow up to \$4,000 in additional unsubsidized loans.

*Please understand that student loans **ARE** considered Financial Aid.

***Note:** Direct Subsidized Loans: You won't be charged interest while you're enrolled in school or during your six-month grace period. Direct Unsubsidized Loans: Interest starts accumulating from the date of your first loan disbursement (when you receive the funds from your school).

***Beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, students are no longer able to borrow the maximum loan amounts if not enrolled full time. If you are enrolled for less than full-time (under 12 credit hours), your student loan will be calculated based on the number of credits you are registered for. If you plan to attend less than full-time, your loan eligibility will be lower than the standard annual amount. ***

NEW STUDENTS

1. Go to <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa> click "log in to start" and sign in using your FSA User ID. If you do not have an ID yet, please use this link to set one up: <https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch>
DEPENDANT STUDENTS as described below, will need a parent to set up their own FSA User ID as well. This needs to be done **BEFORE** filling out the FAFSA.
Tax information from the prior years will need to be entered for students and parents. The FAFSA form will indicate which tax year to use.

*You are considered a **DEPENDENT** Student if: **You are under 24 years old, you are not married, you are not a veteran, or you do not have children that you claim on your taxes.**

***NOTE: it does NOT matter whether you live with your parents or not, OR if your parents provide support or not.**

1. After signing your application with the FSA ID's, a confirmation page will come up. Look for the line that says "**start your state application**". This will take you to the **TAP Application (STATE AID)**. You will need NYS taxes for student and parents (if dependent as described above). If you miss this link, you will have to wait 3 – 4 days until FAFSA is done processing. The website for TAP is <https://www.ny.gov/services/apply-new-york-state-tap>

FAFSA School code: 002874

TAP School code: 2215

- **Am I and independent student?**

You must be 24 years old prior to the start of the upcoming school year to be considered independent for Federal student aid. Or have special circumstances that will require further documentation and review:

- **Do I have to re-apply for aid every year?**

*Yes. You must file a new FAFSA every year. Fall-Spring-Summer is equivalent to one academic year. Follow the steps above but use the same FSA ID (user name and password)

- **What happens to my Financial Aid if I want to repeat a course?**

*Federal and NYS regulations concerning aid for repeated courses are different. If you repeat a course, it may affect your status as a full-time student for financial aid purposes. It is important that you contact the Financial Aid Office if you intend to repeat a course.

- **If I drop a course, does it affect my Financial Aid?**

*It may, particularly if it drops you below 12 credit hours, going from a full-time student to a part-time student. Contact the Financial Aid Office, along with your advisor, if you are considering dropping a course.

*If you do drop a course, be sure to officially withdraw from the course.

When will I receive my refund for aid I have not used?

*Approximately 8 weeks after the start of the semester the cashier's office will issue refunds on your account to your direct deposit account, or mail a paper check to your home address depending on your preferences. (Check status of this through "Cashier" under "student accounts" on Banner web.

Apply for scholarships online on the SUNY Niagara Scholarship webpage:
<https://sunyniagara.edu/scholarships/>

***Make sure to check Application and deadline dates before applying! ***

• Financial Aid Office Contact Information:

*Telephone – 716-614-6266 *E-mail – finaid@niagaracc.suny.edu

*Website – <https://sunyniagara.edu/fin-aid/> Location – A 105

*Hours – 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday

*Office is closed on Fridays from May-August