



Financial Aid Eligibility Information for 2009-10

REQUIREMENTS FOR ELIGIBILITY:

1. You must be officially admitted and matriculated in a program leading to an undergraduate or graduate degree (non-matriculated students are not eligible).
2. You must file the federal financial aid application (either the Free Application for Federal Student Aid [FAFSA] or the Renewal FAFSA [R-FAFSA]) for the financial aid year for which you desire aid (a new aid application is required for each financial aid year). At Downstate, the financial aid year begins with the first day of classes for Summer semester and continues to the final day of exams for Spring semester.
3. Through the submission of the FAFSA, your eligibility must be confirmed through federal database matches with:
 - a. Social Security Administration (the match verifies social security number, name, date of birth and citizenship status)
 - b. Immigration and Naturalization Services (reports on non-citizen eligibility for aid)
 - c. Selective Service Administration (reports on compliance to selective service registration requirement for males)
 - d. National Student Loan Database System (reports students with a federal loan default or federal grant repayment requirement who are not eligible for further federal aid at any school until the default or repayment is cleared).
4. If you are a grad student, you must have 5 or more credits to receive loans, 9 to receive grants.
5. Undergraduate students receiving Pell Grants may receive a Pell Grant (only) if registered for 5 or fewer credits. All other undergraduate aid requires 6 or more registered credits each semester for aid eligibility. An undergraduate student is considered full-time for aid purposes with 12 or more credits per semester.
6. Other requirements may apply - you will be notified by the Financial Aid Office if any apply to you.

Filing Instructions

PRIORITY FILING: You become a priority filer if you file both the FAFSA and Institutional Application between January 1 and March 1, 2009

We recommend you be a priority filer, **whether or not you have been admitted**, if you will need to receive financial aid to attend at Downstate. You should file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid [FAFSA] or the Renewal FAFSA [R-FAFSA] form as soon as possible after January 1, 2009. While Pell Grants and Stafford Loan funding is always available, you **MAY NOT BE CONSIDERED FOR ANY ADDITIONAL** funds if you are not a priority filer.

NON-PRIORITY FILING: Students who file for aid after March 1, 2009, and before April 1, 2010 will receive automatic consideration for Pell and Stafford funding only.

1. **Include** SUNY Downstate's federal school code on the FAFSA or R-FAFSA in the appropriate place. It is **002839**.
2. **First-time Aid Applicants:** Complete the FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1, 2009.
 - The preferred method for higher speed and accuracy in processing is to file on the Internet with FAFSA On the Web at www.fafsa.ed.gov. This year, a worksheet is available to help you prepare your information, since the paper FAFSA is no longer available. The worksheet may be obtained in our office or on the web at www.studentaid.ed.gov.

Filing Instructions (continued)

3. **Renewal Applicants:** Choose to complete the R-FAFSA, if you have that option, as soon as possible after January 1, 2009. Instructions to accomplish this will be mailed to the e-mail or regular mail address you have on file with the federal government. They will use the address obtained from your previous FAFSA, and the mailing will arrive in November or December, 2008. The information will help you to file for aid for 2009-2010. Use one of two different methods to file the R-FAFSA: Method 1, Renewal Applicants: **Electronic filing.** This is the preferred method for eligible Renewal applicants who have previously used the website. You may use the PIN contained within the mailer to access, complete and electronically sign your 2009-2010 Renewal FAFSA on the Web. After filing the FAFSA, communication regarding your application will be sent by e-mail. **BE SURE TO INCLUDE YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS ON THE FAFSA WHEN ASKED.**

4. **Parent Information ****Must**** Be Included On the R-FAFSA or FAFSA by All:**
 - Medical students,
 - Physician Assistant students
 - Physical Therapy students
 - Occupational Therapy students

REGARDLESS of dependency status, if you wish to be considered for the Scholarship for Disadvantaged Students, or institutional grants and scholarships.

6. **If You (Or Your Parents) Don't Usually File Taxes Before March 1:**
 - Do your best to get the tax forms filed before that.
 - If that fails, **DON'T WAIT** to file for aid. File your FAFSA or Renewal FAFSA with "estimated" information by **March 1.** Make the closest estimation you can to what will be on the tax forms for the year 2008 (do not simply use the 2007 information if you know there will be a difference between the two years).
 - Later, correct your FAFSA so that your application data will match the actual tax forms. Alternatively, submit the tax forms to the Financial Aid Office when you are asked for them. If you receive an award letter before you have submitted corrections, realize that your aid may change if there are significant differences between the estimated amounts you gave and the actual amounts on the tax forms.

Remember that if you submit parental data, it is subject to all federal matches (as described in the "Eligibility" section) as well.

For More Information

Please review the information on our website, which will show 2009-10 information beginning January 1, 2009. Access it through:

<http://sls.downstate.edu/financialaid/index.html>

Information on other application requirements that may apply individually is available there. Additionally, other important financial aid information (e.g., information relating to your Cost of Attendance, Satisfactory Progress, Refund and Repayment of aid in case of withdrawal, listings of scholarships that are regularly obtained by our students) is given there.

If you should have any question, concern, issue or problem in completing the applications for the 2009-2010 period, please do not hesitate to contact the Downstate Office of Financial Aid. Our staff is ready to assist you with general financial aid issues, Monday through Thursday 9:00 am to 5:00 p.m.; Friday 10:00 am to 5:00 p.m. If you have multiple questions or need discussion of complex situations, please phone (718) 270-2488 to make an appointment with a professional member of our staff.

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