

JCC Financial Aid Application Process 2011-12

To apply for financial aid fill out a **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**. The FAFSA determines your eligibility for many different types of aid including grants (free money), student loans, work-study, and JCC and community scholarships. You can file anytime after January 1, 2011, but because it can take several weeks to have funds in place when classes begin, we recommend that you **file your FAFSA by March 1st**. If you file your FAFSA by March 1st, you'll receive priority consideration for some grants and scholarships with limited funding that are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

Apply as soon as you can and apply each year!

STEP 1

Get a Federal PIN (Personal Identification Number) from the Department of Education. The federal PIN serves as your electronic signature and holds the same legal status as written signatures. *Your federal PIN should not be confused with your JCC "J number."* If you applied last year, you should already have a PIN. If you do not have a PIN, or have lost or forgotten your PIN, you can request one online at **www.pin.ed.gov**. Parents of dependent students also need a PIN to provide their electronic signature on the FAFSA and can request a PIN at the same website.

Important: Do not disclose or share your PIN with anyone. Keep your PIN in a safe place to use again next year.

STEP 2

Complete the **FAFSA** for the 2011-2012 academic year online at **www.fafsa.gov**. If you completed a 2010-2011 FAFSA or FAFSA4caster prior to January 1, 2011 you will be given the option of having your FAFSA on the Web application "pre-filled" with data from the previous year. After submitting your FAFSA, print the confirmation page for your records.

Important: Be sure to list Jamestown Community College code 002869 on the "Schools to Receive Information"

STEP 3

Review your Student Aid Report (the report that is sent to you after your FAFSA is processed). You will receive your Student Aid Report (SAR) in one of two ways:



If you provided an email address on your application, you will receive an email within several days that contains a link for you to access your SAR on the Web.



If you did not provide an email address on your FAFSA you will receive a paper SAR in the mail within a few weeks.

Important: Be sure to review and make any changes or corrections to your SAR. However, if you are asked to submit documentation to JCC's Financial Aid Office, or you receive a Financial Aid Award Notification from JCC, contact the financial aid office before making changes!

STEP 4

Check your **JCC Banner Account** regularly throughout the semester and watch your mail for information/documentation you may be asked to submit for financial aid. If your FAFSA was selected for verification, you will be required to submit certain documents to verify income and other information that you reported on your FAFSA.

Important: Your financial aid cannot be processed if there is missing information or documents. Be sure the mailing address on your JCC Banner account is correct so you receive all correspondence sent to you from JCC.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can I file a paper FAFSA?

The paper FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is no longer available at college financial aid offices. Students who wish to file a paper FAFSA may call the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-4-FED-AID and request an application be mailed. *Please keep in mind:*

- Filing online can be as much as 7 to 14 days faster than submitting the paper version.
- Online help is available for each question.
- FAFSA on the Web has an automatic edit check that finds errors on your application and prompts you to fix them.
- Filing online is **free** and **secure**, but be sure you file at **www.fafsa.gov**. Some websites with similar names charge a fee to submit your application. The secure government website is easily distinguishable because of the “**ed.gov**” ending.

Do I have to wait until my taxes are done to file my FAFSA?

You do not need to wait to complete your FAFSA until after you file your taxes. You can estimate your income and tax information, however you should make corrections as soon as possible after you file if what you reported was not accurate. JCC will not award aid based on estimated values; therefore, we recommend that you file your tax returns as early as possible so you can meet our March 1st priority date for submitting the FAFSA.

How do I add JCC to my FAFSA?

If you did not list JCC when you filed your FAFSA you can update your federal aid report by adding JCC as a college choice. (Step 3 on the FAFSA website: **www.fafsa.gov**.) The federal school code for JCC is **002869**.

How do I file for State Aid?

New York residents who plan to attend JCC can connect to the HESC website from the FAFSA confirmation page to apply for the New York state full-time **TAP** grant. Use the state code of **2085** for JCC. If you miss the link, and you provided an e-mail address on your FAFSA, you will be e-mailed a link from NYSHESC to apply for the NYS grant. You can also apply online at **www.hesc.com**. NYS residents planning to attend part-time must complete a separate application for **Aid for Part-time Study** (APTS) available in the financial aid office or on the JCC website on or around May 1, 2011.

Pennsylvania residents who file their FAFSA by May 1, 2011 will receive mail regarding their **PHEAA** grant eligibility. Pennsylvania students who do not file their FAFSA by that date have missed their state's deadline for grant assistance.

Please note: PHEAA is not available for courses taken at the Cattaraugus County Campus or North County Center.

What happens next?

After JCC receives your report from your FAFSA, we will review your information according to federal regulations and issue a **Financial Aid Award Notification** that describes the amount and kind of financial aid you may be eligible to receive at our college, along with any additional instructions you may need to receive those funds. If we need additional documentation to process your application we will send you a letter via U.S. mail.

How long does this all take?

It's up to you. Apply early and submit all information immediately to complete your application. Below are common reasons for processing delays. Please review this list to avoid delays!

- Social security number, name, and/or date of birth do not match the Social Security data base.
- Incomplete information on forms.
- Omitting student and/or parent's income, real estate, other asset, or savings values on the FAFSA.
- Error regarding type of income tax return filed.
- Incorrectly listing or omitting family members from verification form.
- Omitting student and/or parent signatures on tax returns and forms.
- Incorrect mailing address on student's JCC Banner account.

For additional JCC financial aid information please visit our website: **www.sunyjcc.edu/financialaid**
Find answers to more Frequently Asked Questions online at: **www.fafsa.gov** and **www.studentaid.ed.gov**.