JCC Financial Aid Application Process 2016-17

Submit a **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** to begin the process to apply for financial aid. The FAFSA determines your eligibility for grants (free money), student loans, work-study, and JCC and community scholarships. You can file anytime after January 1, 2016, but we recommend that first-time students **file the FAFSA by March 1, 2016** to receive priority consideration for freshman grants and scholarships with limited funding that are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. All other students should file their FAFSA by May 1, 2016, after filing required federal tax returns with the IRS. *Apply as soon as you can and apply each year!*

STEP **1**

Complete the **FAFSA** for the 2016-2017 academic year online at **www.fafsa.gov**. 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 **".gov"** ending.
Use the *IRS Data Retrieval Tool* to transfer 2015 tax return data directly into the FAFSA. If you do not use this tool to provide tax information you may be required to obtain an official tax transcript from the IRS to verify your tax return data. After submitting your FAFSA, print the confirmation page for your records and follow the link to apply for state aid.

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

STEP **2**

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 **3**

Check your **JCC Banner Account** regularly 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 documentation to verify certain information reported on your FAFSA.

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

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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

You can submit your FAFSA before you file your tax return by estimating your income and tax information, however you must update the tax-related FAFSA questions after you file your 2015 tax return. JCC will not award aid based on estimated values; therefore, we recommend that you file your tax returns early so you can meet our March 1st priority date for new students submitting a fully completed FAFSA. Wait 2 weeks *after* your tax return is e-filed before using the IRS Data Retrieval Tool. The priority date for returning students is May 1st.

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.ny.gov**. 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, 2016.

Pennsylvania residents who file their FAFSA by May 1, 2016 will receive notice 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.
- Changing information on your FAFSA populated by the IRS Data Retrieval process.
- 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**

Find answers to more Frequently Asked Questions online at:
www.fafsa.gov and **www.studentaid.ed.gov.**