DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU WANT TO DO BUT NOT KNOW HOW TO MAKE IT HAPPEN?

You’re not alone. Student and families everywhere are busily working to figure out the best ways to pay for college. Our advantage? Real people who are experts at financial aid.

FINANCIAL AID AT EIU
At Eastern, we understand that planning for college can be one of the biggest financial decisions for students and families. The costs can seem daunting and there are many new terms that you may not have heard before. We encourage students and parents to pick up the phone, walk-in and/or email to get real world advice from people who know all about the ins and outs of financial aid.

During the previous academic year EIU awarded $122 million dollars in Financial Aid. In fact, 80% of EIU students received some form of financial aid. We have a terrific scholarship search engine and cost estimators available online and are committed to providing students and families with the knowledge they need to make the best decision possible.

In addition to need-based financial aid, the university also offers a range of merit-based scholarships for new incoming students. These scholarships are based on individual work in high school noted by unweighted GPA and ACT/SAT scores. To determine scholarship eligibility, please see our merit scholarship calculator at www.eiu.edu/scholarships/merit.php.

THE FACTS

COST OF ATTENDANCE (COA)
The 2015-2016 COA for financial aid eligibility purposes includes not only tuition and required fees plus room and board, but also allowances for supplies, travel, and miscellaneous personal expenses. This figure is designed to help you plan your budget and also give you a way to compare total costs at Eastern to other colleges and universities. For the 2016-2017 academic year, you can expect your budget to look something like this if you’re an in-state undergraduate:

Direct Costs
Tuition includes the cost for a student who registers for 15 credit hours in both the fall and spring semesters.
Required Fees include all student fees, plus Textbook Rental ($9.75 per credit hour), Health Service/Pharmacy Fee, and Health/Accident Insurance Fee.
Room/Board includes a double room in a residence hall designed to house two students and twelve dining meals each week, plus $100 Dining Dollars per semester and four bonus meals per semester.

Indirect Costs
*Supplies include an allowance for course-related expenses and supplies beyond those supplied by Eastern’s Textbook Rental System.
*Travel includes standard average travel allowance for all students.
*Miscellaneous includes a combination of other average student expenses for such items as recreation, clothing, toiletries, laundry, and medical/ dental needs.

Cost of Attendance – Expected Family Contribution = Need

LOW CONSISTENT TUITION FOR ALL FOUR YEARS
Even before you get to the financial aid package, you’re already ahead at Eastern. EIU helps you plan by locking in your tuition rate for all four years. You will never face rising tuition costs from year-to-year at Eastern. The tuition you pay freshman year will be the exact same rate you pay senior year. You’ll never get an unpleasant surprise about tuition and wonder how you’ll afford to finish as a result. Your tuition is guaranteed until degree program is complete (or up to 6 years).

IN-STATE TUITION FOR NEIGHBORING STATE RESIDENTS
Students from our bordering states, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri and Wisconsin, automatically qualify for the same low tuition rate paid by Illinois residents. No additional paperwork is necessary, you already qualify by being one of our neighbors.

TEXTBOOK RENTAL PROGRAM
Imagine not having to figure our where to find additional money to cover the cost of your textbooks! At EIU our unique textbook rental program means the cost of your books is already covered by your fees. Our textbook rental service provides all of your textbooks – saving the average student more than $900 a year.

THE FACTS

COST OF ATTENDANCE (COA)
The 2015-2016 COA for financial aid eligibility purposes includes not only tuition and required fees plus room and board, but also allowances for supplies, travel, and miscellaneous personal expenses. This figure is designed to help you plan your budget and also give you a way to compare total costs at Eastern to other colleges and universities. For the 2016-2017 academic year, you can expect your budget to look something like this if you’re an in-state undergraduate:

Direct Costs
Tuition $8,550 (15 hours for both FA and SP)
Required Fees $2,762
Room and Board $9,176 (12+ meal plan)
Total Costs $20,488

Indirect Costs
*Supplies $150
*Travel $940
*Miscellaneous $2,190
Total Costs $3,280

Total Costs $23,768

HOW IS NEED DETERMINED?
Eastern uses the federally calculated expected family contribution (EFC) from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and subtracts it from the COA for the academic year, to determine eligibility for need-based aid.

All COA Budgets, including the out-of-state budget, are listed at www.eiu.edu/finaid/cost.php. And remember, if you’re from one of the states contiguous to Illinois, you already qualify for in-state rates.
We’ve included some real-life scenarios with sample financial aid packages. That way, you can look at situations which might mirror yours to get a better understanding of the financial aid you might expect to receive at Eastern. We’ve included a list of frequently asked questions along with definitions for terms that you might encounter as you look at financial aid packages.

If you would like additional assistance, the staff in the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships will be happy to help you. You can call us at 217-581-6405 or 217-581-5249 or email finaid@eiu.edu. In order to ensure that you receive the very best financial aid package, make sure to file your 2016-2017 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon as possible after January 1.

Need-Based Awards are based on the results of the FAFSA.

Merit-Based Awards for incoming freshmen are based on the combination of ACT or SAT and unweighted high school GPA. For new transfer students merit-based awards are based on previous credit hours at a community college and cumulative GPA. Each of these scenarios include a Commitment to Excellence Scholarship or a Transfer Academic Excellence Scholarship, to illustrate the effect of a merit award on the financial aid packages. Your actual award may be higher or lower, depending on your ACT or SAT and unweighted high school GPA. A chart of merit-based award parameters is listed on the following pages.

CASE STUDY: MICHAEL
Expected Family Contribution (EFC)=0
Michael is an incoming transfer student. There are two people living in his household and the family income is $34,940. There is a combined $3,500 in savings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample Financial Aid Award</th>
<th>Need-Based</th>
<th>Merit-Based</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Panther Promise Tuition Waiver</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
<td></td>
<td>$2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer Academic Excellence Tier 1 Scholarship</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Direct Subsidized Loan</td>
<td>$5,500</td>
<td></td>
<td>$5,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>$2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of Illinois MAP Grant</td>
<td>$4,720</td>
<td></td>
<td>$4,720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Pell Grant</td>
<td>$5,775</td>
<td></td>
<td>$5,775</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Financial Aid Award</strong></td>
<td><strong>$20,495</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,500</strong></td>
<td><strong>$22,995</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Direct Costs</strong></td>
<td><strong>$20,488</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Amount of (Refund) or Payment</strong></td>
<td><strong>($250)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CASE STUDY: KAYLEE
Expected Family Contribution (EFC)=971
Kaylee is an incoming freshmen student. There are five people in her family with one attending college. Both parents and student work and have a combined household income of $62,575.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample Financial Aid Award</th>
<th>Need-Based</th>
<th>Merit-Based</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Panther Promise Tuition Waiver</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
<td></td>
<td>$2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commitment to Excellence Tier 1 Scholarship</td>
<td>$3,500</td>
<td></td>
<td>$3,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan</td>
<td>$5,500</td>
<td></td>
<td>$5,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of Illinois MAP Grant</td>
<td>$4,560</td>
<td></td>
<td>$4,560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EIU Honors Award</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>$3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Financial Aid Award</strong></td>
<td><strong>$17,268</strong></td>
<td><strong>$6,500</strong></td>
<td><strong>$23,768</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Direct Costs</strong></td>
<td><strong>$20,488</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Amount of (Refund) or Payment</strong></td>
<td><strong>($2,400)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CASE STUDY: ADAM
Expected Family Contribution (EFC)=3,171
Adam is an incoming transfer student. There are four members in his family and he and his sibling are both attending college. The combined total household income is $71,341. They have $20,000 in savings and an investment of $5,000.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample Financial Aid Award</th>
<th>Need-Based</th>
<th>Merit-Based</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transfer Academic Excellence Tier 1 Scholarship</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
<td></td>
<td>$2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to Education Award</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Direct Subsidized Loan</td>
<td>$5,500</td>
<td></td>
<td>$5,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>$2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of Illinois MAP Grant</td>
<td>$2,280</td>
<td></td>
<td>$2,280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal PELL Grant</td>
<td>$2,625</td>
<td></td>
<td>$2,625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phi Theta Kappa Scholarship</td>
<td></td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Financial Aid Award</strong></td>
<td><strong>$14,260</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,500</strong></td>
<td><strong>$17,760</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Direct Costs</strong></td>
<td><strong>$20,488</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Amount of (Refund) or Payment</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,728</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CASE STUDY: ROBBIE
Expected Family Contribution (EFC)=4,121
Robbie is an incoming freshmen student. Both of his parents work and he is an only child. The combined household income is $56,500.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample Financial Aid Award</th>
<th>Need-Based</th>
<th>Merit-Based</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Panther Promise Tuition Waiver</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
<td></td>
<td>$2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commitment to Excellence Tier 2 Scholarship</td>
<td>$3,500</td>
<td></td>
<td>$3,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Direct Subsidized Loan</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>$2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan</td>
<td>$2,280</td>
<td></td>
<td>$2,280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of Illinois MAP Grant</td>
<td>$2,280</td>
<td></td>
<td>$2,280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Pell Grant</td>
<td>$1625</td>
<td></td>
<td>$1625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Financial Aid Award</strong></td>
<td><strong>$11,905</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,750</strong></td>
<td><strong>$14,655</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Direct Costs</strong></td>
<td><strong>$20,488</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Amount of Refund or Payment</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5,833</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WHAT IF YOU NEED MORE MONEY FOR SCHOOL?
If you find you need additional resources for school, please consider the following alternatives:

- Parent PLUS loan
- Private loans
- Family savings
- Private scholarships
- Funds from student work activities
SCHOLARSHIPS FOR NEW FRESHMEN STUDENTS

AUTOMATIC SCHOLARSHIPS
Academically talented students entering Eastern Illinois University during the 2016-2017 academic year will automatically be offered the Commitment to Excellence Scholarship at the time of application to the University. This scholarship is automatically renewable for a total of 4 years (8 semesters). Eligible students are required to maintain full-time consecutive undergraduate enrollment in both fall and spring semesters, and maintain specific GPA requirements noted below. To find out more about this scholarship opportunity, please visit the Commitment to Excellence Merit Calculator at www.eiu.edu/scholarships/merit.php.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commitment to Excellence Scholarships</th>
<th>Award Amounts</th>
<th>Sample Minimum ACT</th>
<th>Sample Minimum GPA (4.00 scale)</th>
<th>Renewal GPA requirement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High Achievement</td>
<td>$4,500</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>3.35</td>
<td>3.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tier One</td>
<td>$3,500</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>2.75</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tier Two</td>
<td>$2,750</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>2.75</td>
<td>2.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tier Three</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>2.75</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COMPETITIVE SCHOLARSHIPS
The Sandra and Jack Pine Honors College offers several scholarship opportunities to academically talented students. Each of these scholarships are automatically renewable as long as the recipient maintains full-time consecutive enrollment in both fall and spring semesters and specific GPA requirements noted below. For more information about these opportunities as well as others, please visit the Sandra and Jack Pine Honors College web page at www.eiu.edu/honors/Freshman_scholarships.php

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Honors College Scholarships</th>
<th>Award Amounts</th>
<th>Minimum ACT</th>
<th>Minimum GPA (4.00 scale)</th>
<th>Renewal GPA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pemberton Presidential Scholars Award</strong></td>
<td><em>Approximate Award amount of $20,176</em></td>
<td>31</td>
<td>3.75</td>
<td>3.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Presidential Scholars Award</strong></td>
<td>$11,000</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>3.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honors Award</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>3.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Selected recipients will receive on-campus room and board (approximately $9,176 per year) and tuition and fees (up to $11,000 per year) for a total of four years. Generally, a student cannot receive a combination of federal, state, and institutional aid that exceeds the cost of attendance.

**The Pemberton Presidential Scholars Award and the Presidential Scholars Award may not be combined with the Commitment to Excellence Scholarship or Honors Award.

ADDITIONAL FRESHMEN SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
Eastern Illinois University offers over 600 scholarship opportunities to new and continuing students. Below are just a few of the many scholarships available. For more information about scholarships including tips for finding scholarships, applying, sample essay questions, timelines, and information on how to apply outside scholarships to your student account please visit www.eiu.edu/scholarships.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Other Scholarship Opportunities</th>
<th>Award Amounts</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Renewable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellence in Fine Arts Fund</td>
<td>$2,700</td>
<td>Demonstrate high personal performance and academic standing within the areas of Music, Art and Theatre Arts</td>
<td>Up to 4 years, 8 semesters total **Varies by Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panther Promise Tuition Waiver</td>
<td>Up to $2,500</td>
<td>File the FAFSA and possess a household income between $33,000 and $71,000</td>
<td>Maintain full-time, consecutive undergraduate enrollment in both fall and spring semesters, meet Satisfactory Academic Progress and cumulative GPA of 2.0 or better</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Renewal requirements are established by each department awarding this scholarship.
SCHOLARSHIPS FOR NEW TRANSFER STUDENTS

AUTOMATIC SCHOLARSHIPS
Academically talented students entering Eastern Illinois University during the 2016-2017 academic year will automatically be offered the Transfer Academic Excellence Scholarship at the time of application to the University. This scholarship is automatically renewable for a total of 2 years (4 semesters). Eligible students are required to maintain full-time consecutive undergraduate enrollment in fall and spring semesters, and maintain specific GPA requirements noted below. To find out more about this scholarship opportunity, please visit the highlighted scholarships section of the EIU scholarship web page at: www.eiu.edu/scholarships/highlighted_scholarships.php

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transfer Academic Excellence Scholarships</th>
<th>Award Amounts</th>
<th>Number of Transferable Credit Hours</th>
<th>Sample Minimum GPA (4.00 scale)</th>
<th>Renewal GPA requirement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tier One</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3.5-4.0</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tier Two</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3.0-3.49</td>
<td>2.75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COMPETITIVE SCHOLARSHIPS
Eastern Illinois University offers over 600 scholarship opportunities to new and continuing students. Below are just a few of the many scholarships that are available. For more information about scholarships including tips for finding scholarships, applying, sample essay questions, and timelines please visit www.eiu.edu/scholarships.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Other Scholarship Opportunities</th>
<th>Award Amounts</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Renewable</th>
<th>Renewal Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Honors Transfer Student Scholarship</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
<td>Participation in Honors Program at prior institution, GPA of 3.5 for at least 18 credits worth of courses</td>
<td>One time award</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panther Promise Tuition Waiver</td>
<td>Up to $2,500</td>
<td>File the FAFSA and possess a household income between $33,000 and $71,000</td>
<td>Up to 4 years, 8 semesters total</td>
<td>Maintain full-time, consecutive undergraduate enrollment in both fall and spring semesters, meet satisfactory academic progress and cumulative GPA of 2.0 or better</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phi Theta Kappa Scholarship</td>
<td>$1,000-$3,000</td>
<td>Transferring from a community college with an Associate’s Degree and have a GPA of 3.75 (on a 4.0 scale)</td>
<td>One-time award</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FEDERAL AID PROGRAMS

Pell Grants are available for undergraduate students and range from $613 to $5,775 annually (2015/2016 levels).

Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants are awarded annually to students who demonstrate exceptional need. The maximum amount is $1,000.

Work-Study allows students with financial need to earn money to help cover expenses by working on-campus part-time. Typically students receive the maximum award of $2,000.

Perkins Loans have a fixed interest rate of 5 percent. Repayment begins nine months after graduation and continues for up to 10 years. Typically students receive the maximum award of $2,000.

Subsidized Loans have a current fixed rate of 4.29% (as of 7-1-2015). If you are eligible, the federal government pays the interest while you are in school. Repayment begins six months after you leave school. Students may borrow up to $3,500 as freshmen, $4,500 as sophomores, and $5,500 each year as juniors or seniors. (An unsubsidized loan of $2,000 will also be offered to eligible students.)

Unsubsidized Loans have a current fixed rate of 4.29% (as of 7-1-2015) and these loans are available to students who do not qualify for Subsidized Loans. The interest must be paid (or capitalized on the principal) while the student is enrolled in school. Repayment of principal begins six months after you leave school. The maximum loan for freshmen is $5,500, $6,500 as sophomores, and $7,500 each year as juniors or seniors.

Parent PLUS Loan (OPTIONAL) is a low-interest federal loan program that allows parents with acceptable credit histories to borrow up to the cost-of-attendance for any dependent child, minus any other financial aid offered. The interest rate is 6.84% (as of 7-1-2015). Repayment of the principal and interest begins upon disbursement and extends up to 10 years. Payments may be deferred as long as the student is enrolled at least half-time. This is just one option to help pay for school. A few other options include family savings, private scholarships, funds from student work activities, and private student loans.

STATE AID PROGRAMS

Monetary Assistance Program Grants are state-funded grants awarded by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission. They are need-based grants for undergraduate students who are Illinois residents. Annual awards range from $944 to $4,720. Grants may be limited based on the FAFSA application date, number of applicants, and funding levels appropriated by the Illinois General Assembly.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When will I receive my financial aid notification?
If you have been admitted to Eastern and you have filed the 2016-2017 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), you should receive your financial aid notification within 4-6 weeks from the filing date. If your file is selected for verification and we request additional documents from you, please respond immediately. This way we can complete the verification process and award financial aid.

What does it mean to be verified?
If your FAFSA is selected for verification, we will need additional information from you in order to process your financial aid. Approximately 30% of FAFSA files are selected for verification. During verification we compare what was filed on the FAFSA against a Verification Worksheet and related tax documents, which we will request from you and your parent(s). If there are corrections to be made, we send the corrections through the Federal Central Processor System and a correction file is returned, with a new EFC (if the corrections generate a change in EFC).

Check your PAWS account on a regular basis: www.eiu.edu/pawslogin
Requests for missing information on your FAFSA and/or additional documents needed to complete your financial aid award package, as well as your award status, will be sent via Panthermail and can be viewed on PAWS. Access to Panthermail and PAWS requires using your Net ID and password.

Inquiries can also be made to 217-581-3714 or finaid@eiu.edu to learn about the status of your financial aid award package. Please always have your ‘E’ number available as a means of verifying your identity.

Financial Aid Award Letter
When you receive your financial aid award letter, follow the instructions for accepting the award(s) located on the business card insert in your award letter packet. Instructions can also be found at www.eiu.edu/finaid/faq_paws_1617.php
Please respond to awards offered within two weeks. Delay in response could result in a loss of some aid, such as institutional aid, which cannot be replaced later.

How do I access my financial aid award?
1. Log in to PAWS at http://www.eiu.edu/pawslogin/ using your EIU Net ID and password. If you do not know your Net ID or password, please contact the EIU Help Desk at 217-581-HELP.
2. On the Financial Aid menu, click on Award.
3. Click on Award for Aid Year and select the 2016-2017 aid year.
4. You can review your awards on the Award Overview tab.
5. Click on the Term and Conditions tab and follow the instructions provided before you are able to accept your awards.
6. Review your awards on the Award Overview tab.

When you receive your financial aid award letter, follow the instructions for accepting the award(s) located on the business card insert in your award letter packet. Instructions can also be found at www.eiu.edu/finaid/faq_paws_1617.php
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5. Click on the Term and Conditions tab and follow the instructions provided before you are able to accept your awards.
6. Review your awards on the Award Overview tab.
8. Click on Accept Award Offer - you may accept “Full Amount of all Awards” if you would like to accept all aid as it appears. You may also individually Accept or Decline each award offered and click on Submit Decision.
9. Click on the Resources/Additional Information tab and follow the instructions to complete the Title IV Authorization requirement.

What if I think my parents make too much money? Should I still file a FAFSA?
Yes, you should always file the FAFSA. This expands opportunities for both you and your parents for access to student and parent loans (if needed). Also, some scholarship opportunities require FAFSA completion.

How can I change my EFC and when can I change it during the semester?
When there is a valid change to FAFSA data, there may be an associated change in a student’s Expected Family Contribution (EFC). As for professional judgment requests (e.g. parent loss of employment) we ask for students/parents to submit documentation no sooner than May 1st, in order for the Financial Aid Office to review the information.

If I missed Eastern’s deadline to apply, should I forget it, or apply anyway?
Apply ASAP.
Are there any additional scholarships?

Eastern currently offers over 600 scholarships to new and continuing students. All scholarship information can be found on the scholarship webpage at www.eiu.edu/scholarships. Internal scholarships are advertised and there is a large listing of outside scholarship opportunities also available for review. Students are also encouraged to look in their local communities for scholarship support (e.g. local community organizations such as banks, credit unions, and community foundations). Students should speak with guidance counselors in their respective high schools and/or check with the local Regional Office of Education to find out more about available scholarships in the area.

Where do I have my private scholarship mailed to?

Private scholarships should be mailed to:
Cashier Office
Eastern Illinois University
1131 Old Main
600 Lincoln Avenue
Charleston, IL 61920

Please be sure to include your ‘E’ number on the check.

The private scholarship amount will be processed first through the Business Office and then will be routed to the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships to be added to the student recipient’s financial aid package. If the student is already packaged to a cost of attendance for the academic year, then another form of financial aid is typically reduced so the private scholarship can be added. We always reduce the worst form of aid (e.g. an unsubsidized student loan) in order to add scholarship/grant aid.

What is the difference between an unsubsidized and subsidized loan?

Stafford Subsidized Loans are federally guaranteed loans based on financial need. Interest does not accrue on the loan while a student is in school at least half time, or during any future deferment periods. The federal government “subsidizes” (or pays) the interest during these times. Additionally, there are maximum amounts a student can receive per school year.
Freshman: $3,500 per year
Sophomore: $4,500 per year
Junior: $5,500 per year
Senior and 5th year: $5,500 per year

Stafford Unsubsidized Loans are federally guaranteed loans that are not based on financial need. Interest does accrue from the time the loan is disbursed to the school. Additionally, there are maximum amounts a student can receive per school year for dependent and independent students.
Freshman: $2,000 for dependent students, $6,000 for independent students
Sophomore: $2,000 for dependent students, $6,000 for independent students
Junior: $2,000 for dependent students, $7,000 for independent students
Senior and 5th year: $2,000 for dependent students, $7,000 for independent students

What is a parent PLUS Loan and how does it impact my student’s financial aid?

The PLUS Loan is used to fill in the gap between school costs and financial aid offered to your student. It is offered as an option for one way to cover the costs of attendance.

How do I take out a loan(s) for school?

All educational loans are processed through the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships. Even private educational loans (through banks and other lenders) are usually certified by a staff person in the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships. More information is available through the OFA website at www.eiu.edu/finaid/loan.php.

What is work study?

Work-study is an opportunity for students to work at a job on campus and earn $8.25/hour. This is a need-based award for students who are Pell eligible (EFC=0-5273). FWS (Federal Work-Study) is an allocation through the Federal government and is very limited.

Can my child participate in Work Study? (How do students qualify for it?)

Students who are Pell eligible (EFC=0-5273) are also eligible to receive work-study, as long as funds are available.

If my parent loses their job after the award letter has been issued, can a change be made for that semester? Is there any time limit during that semester?

If a student/parent financial situation changes, they are encouraged to contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships in writing (email) between May 1st and December 1st to determine if the situation falls within the guidelines for a Professional Judgment (re-evaluation of the file). The deadline for these requests is December 1st. Students/parents are asked not to update information on the FAFSA online or through the Federal Processor. Instead, they need to submit a written statement along with signed, supporting documentation to the Financial Aid Office.

How does a College Illinois! account work with respect to financial aid, tuition, room/board, etc.?

College Illinois! is a 529 Prepaid Tuition Program that allows families to pay for tuition and mandatory fees at current rates in order to avoid future tuition inflation. Students are responsible for all other charges such as refundable fees, housing, meals, printing, etc.

A College Illinois! account includes a specific number of tuition credit hours and mandatory fee payments. Each semester of a College Illinois! plan is the equivalent of 15 credit hours and one mandatory fee payment. For example, if your parent purchased an 8 semester plan, your account contains 120 credit hours and 8 mandatory fee payments. Your College Illinois! account is maintained by the actual number of credit hours enrolled. Therefore, if you enroll for 16 credit hours, College Illinois! will deduct 18 hours from your account, not 15. This means that if you repeatedly enroll for 16 or more credit hours per semester, your account will be depleted faster than if you enrolled for 15 or less.

For more information visit the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) website at http://www.529prepaidtuition.org/home/index.html.

We’re here to help you so please contact us if you have any questions:

Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships
600 Lincoln Avenue
Charleston, Illinois 61920-3099
217-581-6405 or 217-581-5249
Email: finaid@eiu.edu
Website: www.eiu.edu/finaid