



NEW JERSEY **CITY UNIVERSITY**

Guide to Financial Aid





Fastfact:

NJCU graduates include a fashion magazine art director, a NJ Assembly person, a police captain, a news anchor and a corporate vice president!



You Can Afford College!

As one of the state colleges and universities in New Jersey, NJCU offers a comprehensive need-based financial assistance program that makes higher education a reality for many students. In fact, 90% of the students who apply for financial aid receive some type of student financial assistance. This assistance comes from federal, state, and institutional sources, and is in the form of grants and scholarships, student loans, and federal work-study programs.

The fact that your family's resources may not be enough to pay all or part of your expenses should not prevent you from going to college. This is what financial aid is all about — providing ways for paying for the educational expenses that you cannot immediately afford on your own.



FIRST THINGS FIRST: COMPLETE THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID OR FAFSA

To be considered for any federal, state, or institutional student financial assistance, including student loans, students must first fill out the “Free Application for Federal Student Aid” (FAFSA). This form is used to determine your eligibility for all financial aid programs. There is no processing fee involved with the FAFSA application.

Complete and submit the FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1 of the year you will be attending. You can complete the FAFSA online by logging onto www.fafsa.ed.gov where you will have the opportunity to electronically complete and submit the entire form, and have the option of submitting the signatures required by printing out the signature page or by entering an electronic PIN which will serve as an electronic signature.

You can also complete the FAFSA paper form which you can obtain from our financial aid office.

Make sure you enter the school code for New Jersey City University, which is **002613**.



Fastfact:

The president of NJCU, along with two professors, were chosen to serve on three Governor's education committees.

WHAT'S NEXT?

In response to you submitting the FAFSA to the federal processor, you will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) from the federal processing center. This Student Aid Report will contain all of the information reported on the FAFSA. Be sure to review it for accuracy, and, if necessary, follow the instructions for making corrections. This is important because the information you report will be sent by the federal processor to the colleges you listed on the FAFSA. We use this information in awarding financial aid to students. In addition, the state of New Jersey receives this information from the federal processor to determine eligibility for state grants.

YOUR FINANCIAL AID AWARDS

New Jersey City University will review your application for financial aid and offer you a financial aid package listing the different types of aid for which you may be eligible, including any University grants and scholarships. This financial aid package will be posted on the University's GothicNet and will be accessible to students with a GothicNet ID and Password. You will be sent a postcard award notification which will include instructions on how to access this information on the GothicNet when the application process is complete and you have been admitted to the University. You will be required to log on to the GothicNet in order to accept or decline the awards you are being offered.

WHAT TYPES OF STUDENT FINANCIAL AID ARE AVAILABLE AT NJCU?

There are three general types of federal and state student aid offered at NJCU, each with its own eligibility requirements:

- **Grants**, considered gift aid, do not have to be repaid. These include the Federal Pell Grant, Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG), National Science and Math Access to Retain Talent Grant (SMART) and the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG). They also include the New Jersey Tuition Aid Grant (TAG), Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) grant, Garden State Scholarship grants, and the New Jersey STARS II grant. Pell Grants are awarded only to undergraduate students who have not earned a bachelor's or professional degree. (A professional degree would include a degree in a field such as medicine, law, or dentistry.) For many students, Pell Grants provide the foundation of the "financial aid package" to which other aid may be added.
- **Loans**, considered self-help, must be repaid with interest. These include the Federal Perkins Loans, the FFEL Subsidized Stafford Loan, the FFEL Unsubsidized Stafford Loan, and the FFEL PLUS Loan. These loans typically have lower interest rates and the Stafford and Perkins loans require repayment only after graduation or after ceasing to be enrolled on at least a half-time status.

The NJCU Financial Aid Office has a list of established lenders. To see this preferred lender list, please log onto www.collegelenderlist.com. Students have the option of selecting a lender from this list for their student loans. If you would rather take out a student loan through a lender not on this list, you must notify the NJCU Financial Aid Office in writing. This will allow the special processing that needs to take place in order to accommodate this request. If you have questions on the preferred lender list, please contact our office at (201) 200-3173.

- **Special Note for Loan Borrowers: Entrance and Exit Loan Counseling** ALL student loan borrowers at NJCU are required to participate in Entrance and Exit Student Loan Counseling before their loan funds are released. New borrowers must complete Entrance Loan Counseling before the first disbursement of their loan. Borrowers graduating, ceasing enrollment, or withdrawing from NJCU must complete Exit Loan Counseling prior to leaving the University. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in award cancellation or the withholding of student records.

Questions concerning Entrance Loan Counseling should be directed to the Financial Aid Office. The following website offers valuable information regarding this requirement: www.mapping-your-future.org.

- **Work-study** through the Federal Work-Study program allows you to earn your award by working part-time at the University. Job opportunities at different departments and offices at the University are available.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & HELPFUL PHONE NUMBERS

Each spring, as a community service, the University offers a series of financial aid workshops to provide families with additional information and assistance in applying for financial aid. The staff at the University's Office of Financial Aid is also available to assist you.

Keep in mind: the priority filing deadline for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the prerequisite for any financial aid, is April 15.

As you can see, there are many options in the area of financial aid. If you have any questions about financial aid programs or about New Jersey City University, please feel free to call one of the numbers below:

Office of Financial Aid: (201) 200-3173

Office of Financial Aid Fax: (201) 200-3181

Office of Undergraduate Admissions: (888) 441-6528

Opportunity Scholarship Program (OSP): (201) 200-3355, 3275

Registrar's Office: (201) 200-3333, 3334

Bursar's Office: (201) 200-3045, 3046

To contact the NJ Higher Education Student Assistance Authority for information or questions on New Jersey State Aid, including TAG and State Scholarships, you may call (800) 792-8670.

For questions on Federal Student Aid, including the Student Aid Report, or to contact the Federal Student Aid processor, you may call (800) 4-FED-AID.

To request address and institutional changes to the student SAR, contact the Federal Student Aid Information Center (319) 337-5665.



How to Apply for Financial Aid

- 1** Apply for a Federal PIN number at www.pin.ed.gov.
- 2** Fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.ed.gov. *New Jersey City University's Federal School Code is 002613.* The information you submit will be processed and you will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) in response. Review this information, and correct any errors as instructed. If you are selected for verification, an asterisk (*) will appear after your EFC or Estimated Family Contribution in the top right corner, and you will need to provide a completed Verification Worksheet and additional documents to NJCU's Office of Financial Aid. You will be contacted by the Office of Financial Aid with a list of these required documents. Eligible non-citizens and U.S. citizens may be required to submit proof of citizenship.
- 3** Review your Aid Package. Once the application has been reviewed, you will receive a postcard notification of your financial aid package. This postcard will include instructions on how to access your financial aid information online through the GothicNet at www.njcu.edu.
- 4** Choose your lender. If you are offered a student loan and you wish to accept this loan, you may choose your lender from a list of NJCU preferred lenders for whom NJCU can do expedited processing. If you would rather take a Stafford or PLUS Loan out through a lender not on this list, you must notify the Office of Financial Aid in writing. This will allow the special processing that needs to take place in order to accommodate this request. The link to the preferred lender list is available from the GothicNet Financial Aid Award page.
- 5** If you are a first-time borrower at NJCU, you will be required to complete a Master Promissory Note for the loan as well as Entrance Counseling. Federal requirements require first-time NJCU borrowers to complete an Entrance Interview before receiving Stafford Loan funds. Do it online at www.mapping-your-future.org. Your Master Promissory note for the loan will be mailed to you from your lender. You must complete and return this Master Promissory note to them in order for us to release your funds.
- 6** Loan funds are released in two or more disbursements (electronically or by a check made payable to you and NJCU). The Bursar's Office will apply loan funds as well as any other type of financial aid to your account and return any remaining money to you as a "Refund". **You are responsible for any charges not covered by your financial aid.**
- 7** Keep in mind that your financial aid funds will be released based on your eligibility at time of disbursement. For loans, you will be required to be enrolled for at least 6 credits, and for NJ State Grants, you will be required to be enrolled for at least 12 credits.



Admissions Office

2039 Kennedy Boulevard

Jersey City, NJ 07305-1597

201.200.3234

888.441.NJCU (toll-free)

www.njcu.edu

