
NJCU FAQ SYSTEM

Financial Aid Category

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Financial Aid

There are no articles in this category.

Undergraduate Students

How do I qualify for New Jersey State Aid?

The New Jersey Tuition Aid Grant Program is for needy students as defined by the State's own eligibility criteria. Students must meet deadline dates and also be registered for at least 12 credits.

What factors are considered to determine eligibility for financial aid?

Besides the income of the parents and the student, other factors are assets, household size, untaxed income and the number of students in the family who are attending college.

What types of aid are available?

Financial aid consists of federal and state grants, loans and work-study. Grants do not have to be repaid, loans must be repaid and participating in the work-study program gives the student the opportunity to work on campus and earn money. Students may only work part time so as not to interfere with their studies.

When must I begin to repay my Stafford loan?

After you graduate, leave school or drop below half time enrollment you will have a six month grace period before you begin repayment of your Subsidized loan. There is no grace period with the Unsubsidized loan.

How do I enter my Federal Work Study (FWS) hours?

You can view FWS Timesheet Tutorial Video for instructions on how to submit your FWS timesheet.

How do I apply for New Jersey State Aid?

Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid using NJCU's federal School Code (002613). Upon completion of the FAFSA www.fafsa.ed.gov, there is a link to answer additional questions for the state.

The Federal Processor will forward your application to the State of New Jersey for consideration for state financial aid.

Important Deadlines: If you are a continuing student, your FAFSA must be processed by June 1st. If you are a new applicant, your FAFSA must be processed by October 1st.

Does the interest rate on the Stafford loan change?

Yes, It will change every July 1st.

Financial Aid Important Information

1. Information about Federal Student Aid: <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/> 2. FAFSA on the web worksheet: www.FAFSA.ed.gov 3. Questions on Federal Student Aid, including the Student Aid Report (SAR), you may call: 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243) 4. Information about State Student Aid: www.HESAA.org Questions on state student aid, including the Student Eligibility Notice (SEN), you may call: 1-800-792-8670 5. Free scholarship Searches (Outside Scholarships): www.fastweb.com

How often do I need to apply for Financial Aid?

Once a year, beginning on October 1st.

How do I qualify for financial aid?

To be eligible to receive federal student aid, you must:

- Be a citizen or eligible noncitizen of the United States.
- Have a valid Social Security Number. (Students from the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau are exempt from this requirement.)
- Have a high school diploma or a General Education Development (GED) certificate, or have completed homeschooling. If you don't, you may still be eligible for federal student aid if you were enrolled in college or career school prior to July 1, 2012. Go to <https://studentaid.ed.gov/eligibility/basic-criteria> for additional information.
- Be enrolled in an eligible program as a regular student seeking a degree or certificate.
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress.
- Not owe a refund on a federal student grant or be in default on a federal student loan.
- Register (or already be registered) with the Selective Service System, if you are a male and not currently on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces. (Students from the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Republic of Palau are exempt from registering; see <https://sss.gov> for more information.)
- Not have a conviction for the possession or sale of illegal drugs for an offense that occurred while you were receiving federal student aid (such as grants, work-study, or loans). If you have such a conviction, you must complete the Student Aid Eligibility Worksheet to determine if you are eligible for aid or partially eligible for aid.

Does NJCU offer merit base scholarships?

New Jersey City University offers merit-based scholarships to its population of academically eligible students. These prestigious scholarships are awarded annually to entering freshmen and transfer students who enroll full-time for the Fall semester into an undergraduate program of study. Further information about merit based scholarships is available at the Financial Aid webpage. New Jersey City University Endowed and Annual Scholarships for continuing students are also available. Please visit <https://www.njcu.edu/admissions/financial-aid/scholarships>, for more information on these scholarships.

How do I apply for Financial Aid at New Jersey City University?

You must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

What form do I need for my taxes and where do I get the form from?

NJCU works in conjunction with Educational Computer Systems, Inc (ECSI) to produce and send your tax form. The tax form that you will receive is a 1098T. This form is mailed out towards the end of January or can be retrieved online through the ECSI website. If you have any questions, please visit <http://www.ecsi.net/taxinfo.html> for more information.

1098-T Tax Forms

The Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 requires that all educational institutions provide U.S. citizens or permanent residents with a tax form detailing payments made for qualifying tuition and related expenses charges for the calendar year. This form is referred to as Form 1098-T. Educational institutions are not required to provide forms to non-resident aliens, students who do not provide the institution with a Social Security Number, or when a student is registered only for courses with no academic credit. As a result, you may not receive a form under these circumstances however if you are a non-resident alien or did not provide NJCU with a Social Security Number you can request a form and NJCU will provide you with one.

Institutions may report either payments received during the calendar year in box 1 or amounts billed during the calendar year in box 2. The amount shown in box 1 or 2 may represent an amount other than the amount actually paid in the tax year. Although the filer or the service provider may be able to answer certain questions about the statement, do not contact the filer or the service provider for explanations of the requirements for (and how to figure) any education credit that you may claim. Please visit <http://www.ecsi.net/taxinfo.html> for more information. STUDENT'S SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER - For your protection, this form may show only the last four digits of your social security number (SSN). If your SSN is incorrect on this form, you did not provide it to your institution.

Form 1098-T is administered by a third party provider, Heartland ECSI, on behalf of NJCU and will be mailed and made available on their website no later than January 31st of each year. For step-by-step instructions on how to access your 1098-T form electronically, please see the "How To" section of the Office of Student Accounts website.

Below are descriptions of certain information contained in Form 1098-T which will assist you in better understanding the form:

Box 1 – Payments received for qualifying tuition and related expenses. This amount includes payments from all sources and is reduced by any reimbursements and refunds the student received

relating to payments of qualified tuition and related expenses. This box will include payments of past-due qualified tuition and related expenses from a previous calendar year if the student was billed for these charges.

Box 2 - Total amount billed for qualified tuition and related expenses less any reductions in charges. This amount includes tuition, comprehensive fees, and course fees. Non-qualifying expenses are medical insurance fees, fines and miscellaneous charges, and room/board charges. Beginning in 2018, this box will no longer be reported.

Box 5 - Total amount of any scholarships or grants that were administered and processed during the calendar year for the payment of the student's costs of attendance.

Box 7 - Amounts billed for qualified tuition and related expenses, reported on the current year's form, but are related to an academic period that begins in January through March of the following year.

Box 8 - If checked, the student was at least a half-time student during any academic period. A half-time student is a student enrolled for at least half the full-time academic workload for the course of study the student is pursuing.

Box 9 - If checked, the student was a graduate student. The student is a graduate student if the student was enrolled in a program or programs leading to a graduate-level degree, graduate-level certificate, or other recognized graduate-level educational credential.

For additional information and instructions on Form 1098-T, please see IRS Publication 970 or www.IRS.gov.

Form 1042-S

Form 1042-S reports calendar-year income earned by non-resident aliens. For U.S. tax purposes, all University non-tuition scholarships that are subject to withholding will be reported, even if no amount is deducted or withheld due to an income tax treaty at the time of filing.

Those students who are subject to a withholding (residents of a non-treaty country), will be assessed a non-resident alien tax each semester. The amount assessed is based on the current tax rate (14%) of the scholarship award for that semester.

Federal guidelines require the College to file Form 1042-S to the recipient no later than March 15th of each year. Active students will be sent Form 1042-S to the current local address on file with the University, while former students will receive the form at the most current foreign address on file.

What if I need help in completing my FAFSA?

A student can come to the Office of Financial Aid during business hours to complete a FAFSA. No appointment is necessary. For additional information please visit the Financial Aid Office webpage

What is New Jersey City University's Federal Code Number?

NJCU's Federal Code is 002613-00. If you wish to attend NJCU you must list this code number on the FAFSA.

What loans are available?

The major type of loan in the Federal program is the Stafford Student Loan. Freshmen may borrow up to \$3500.00 per academic year; Sophomores may borrow up to \$4500.00 and Juniors and Seniors may borrow up to \$5500.00. There are two types of Stafford Student Loans, Subsidized and Unsubsidized. The Subsidized loan is need based and the federal government pays the interest while the student is in school. The Unsubsidized loan is not need based and the student will be charged interest from the time the loan is disbursed. For more information regarding financial aid awards please visit the Financial Aid Office webpage.

When should I apply for Financial Aid?

You should apply between January 1st and April 15th of each year. If you apply for aid early, you will have a better idea of how much aid you will receive, prior to the beginning of classes. Please visit the Financial Aid Office webpage for more information.

Where can I view my Financial Aid Award?

Go to www.njcu.edu and click on the GothicNet icon on the lower left hand side of the screen.

This link will bring you to the GothicNet sign-in page. Enter your GothicNet identification number which is found on your GothicCard and then enter your password. Click on Sign-In. Look under My Menu and Click on Student Dashboard and under the box titled My Financial Aid your awards will be listed, select appropriate aid year.

Graduate Students

I am completing an NJCU program now and I receive a Federal Student Loan. Will it automatically continue if I begin a new program?

NO

If you were receiving a Federal Student Loan, the new program you are enrolled in will determine your eligibility. You may or may not have the same eligibility. Check with the Financial Aid Office (201-200-3173).

Am I eligible for any type of Financial Aid?

Financial Assistance (Loans)

Matriculated students must complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to determine eligibility for Stafford Loans. 1. Enroll as a matriculated student in a degree or certification eligibility, or NJCU certificate program on at least a half-time basis (a minimum of six credits in the Fall, six credits in the Spring, and a minimum of six credits between Summer I and Summer II;

2. Maintain satisfactory progress toward the completion of a degree or certification eligibility;
 3. Be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States, or eligible non-citizen;
 4. Not be in default of any loan made, insured, or guaranteed under the Perkins Loan Program, the Stafford Student Loan Program, or the PLUS/SLS Program;
 5. Not owe a refund on a previous Pell or Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant Program; and
 6. Show need of financial assistance as demonstrated in the completed Financial Aid Application.
6. Meet all other requirements of the

federal financial aid programs. Non-matriculated students are not eligible to receive federal or state financial aid or loans, but may apply for certain private education student loans. Please feel free to contact the Office of Financial Aid for additional information.

The Direct Loan Program (DL), which includes Subsidized and Unsubsidized Stafford Loans, enables undergraduate and graduate students to borrow long-term, low interest loans to finance their education. Graduate students are only eligible to receive the Unsubsidized Stafford Loan. With the Unsubsidized Stafford Loan the borrower pays all interest on disbursed amounts even while in school. The interest rate is fixed at 6.8%. A graduate student may borrow up to \$20,500 annually in an Unsubsidized Stafford loan. Check with the Financial Aid Office (201-200-3173).

Are Graduate Assistantships available? How do I apply? What funding would I receive?

NJCU offers a limited number of Assistantships each year to qualified graduate students. The appointment is for the academic year (September through May), and in some years assistantships become available in January for the Spring semester. For the full academic year, the initial deadline is June 1. For the Spring semester assistantships, the deadline is December 1. The Graduate Assistantship covers tuition and fees for full-time study (minimum nine credits). Graduate Assistants are required to work in a University department or office for 20-22 hours/week, for which they receive a stipend of \$4,000 over the academic year (\$2,000 per semester). Graduate Assistants may not hold a full-time job either inside or outside the University, and they may not be Graduate Assistants during a semester when they are doing student teaching. Please note that Graduate Assistants must remain enrolled in 9 credits in order to be eligible for the program. In order to be eligible for the program, applicants must be matriculated in an NJCU graduate degree program (through the Office of Graduate Studies), which includes

A regular application for Graduate admission Official transcripts from all colleges attended Two letters of recommendation Official score reports for the standardized test required by student's department (MAT, GRE, or GMAT - see the Graduate Catalog: njcugrad.info/academic/ for details) A copy of any teaching certificates the applicant may hold In addition to these matriculation requirements, applicants should write a letter to the Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and attach a resume. The letter should discuss the educational goals the student would like to achieve through the Assistantship and through full-time degree study, and the resume should indicate work experience and skills as well as academic background. The applicant may specify an office or department that would be of particular interest for employment, but this is not required. For further information or how to apply to be a graduate assistantship click here

I am a veteran. Am I entitled to any benefits?

A veteran whose entitlements have not expired may qualify for educational benefits through the Veterans Administration. Any veteran who believes that he or she is eligible for benefits may contact the Coordinator of Veterans Affairs at New Jersey City University or the local VA office for instructions and application forms. Benefits may be awarded to both part-time and full-time students. For additional information call the University's Coordinator of Veterans Affairs at 201-200-3005 and visit NJCU Military & Veterans webpage.

What are EOF Graduate Benefits?

The Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) Graduate Program provides financial assistance to full-time graduate students who meet eligibility requirements. It provides students with grants worth up to \$2,300 per year. Persons interested in applying to the EOF Graduate Program should contact the EOF Director at (201) 200-3355. Before applying, students must be full-time matriculated students or have an intention to matriculate. In addition, they must submit either a Graduate and Professional Financial Aid Service Form (GAPSFAS) or a Financial Aid Form (FAF) and appropriate documentation to the campus Financial Aid Office. Qualified students must be registered for at least nine credits during the Fall semester and during the Spring semester. For further questions please visit the Admission's Office webpage and the state webpage

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