



Northeastern University

The Source Newsletter

Student Financial Services

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Northeastern University - Student Financial Services

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The Source

The Newsletter of the Office of Student Financial Services



Don't Forget to File your 2010-2011 FAFSA!

- The FAFSA is available at www.fafsa.gov.
- Northeastern's institutional code is 002199.
- The priority filing date is March 1, 2010.

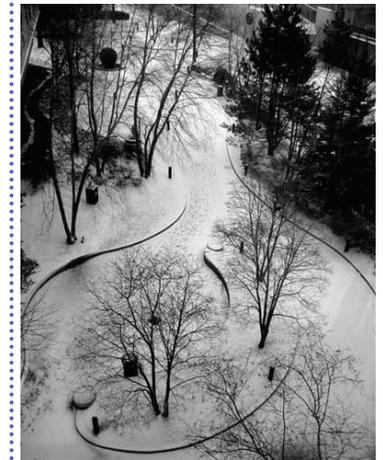
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Enhancements to the FAFSA on the Web Application

- Additional skip logic has been added to reduce the number of questions many students and parents must answer, to decrease the number of entry pages presented to applicants, and to shorten the overall length of the application.
- Students defined as dependent who have special circumstances can now submit a FAFSA on the Web application without initially including parental income and asset information. An EFC is not calculated until the financial aid counselor determines that valid special circumstances exist based on documented proof submitted by the student and performs a dependency override. If valid conditions do not exist, the student must then provide parental data in order to receive a calculated EFC.
- Under certain conditions an otherwise eligible student whose parent or guardian died as a result of U.S. military service in Iraq or Afghanistan after September 11, 2001, may receive increased amounts of Title IV student financial assistance. An automated matching process with the Department of Defense has been created to identify applicants who may be eligible for increased aid under these new provisions.

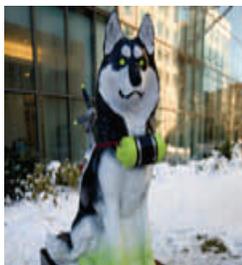


Need Help Paying for NU?

Here in the Office of Student Financial Services, we are often offering our assistance to students who, due to unforeseen circumstances, are suddenly faced with uncertainty about how to pay for school. We have a formalized process for requesting an appeal of your financial aid awards. The first step is to complete our Change in Circumstances Form, which you can download from the "Forms" section of our website. This form acknowledges the fact that the FAFSA form collects data primarily on your financial resources in the prior year, and gives you an opportunity to update us with figures that are more reflective of your current income. Therefore, if your income in 2009 is the same or more than in 2008, you will want to speak with your financial aid counselor directly about the particulars of your situation prior to submitting a formal appeal.

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Changes to the 2010-2011 FAFSA



*Erin Lewis of
Somerset, MA
has been
awarded the
“Denim for
Dollars
Scholarship”
for 2009-2010.*

1. Revised Student’s Marital Status Responses: The first response, which previously stated “I am single, divorced or widowed,” has been changed to “I am single,” and a new fourth response for “I am divorced or widowed” has been created.

2. Removed Veteran Questions “Will you Receive Benefits” and “Type of Benefits”: As a result of legislative changes, beginning with the 2009-2010 award year veterans education benefits are no longer considered to be estimated financial assistance when determining a student’s eligibility for Title IV aid.

3. Added New Income Exclusion for Cooperative Education Program Benefits: As a result of legislation that mandates that co-op earnings be reported so that the income can be offset during the calculation of the EFC, a new question “Earnings from work under a cooperative education program offered by a college” has been added to the student and parent Additional Financial Information sections.

4. Added Guidance Regarding Military Housing Allowance: As a result of legislative changes, item “g” in the Untaxed Income questions now includes the statement “Don’t include the value of on-base military housing or the value of a basic military allowance for housing.”

Need Help Paying for NU? Continued from page 1

When submitting an appeal, be sure to include all appropriate documentation that reflects your current income to ensure that the review of your paperwork is not delayed. This may include current paystubs, a statement of unemployment benefits, a copy of a termination letter with severance package information, etc. Also be sure to send along your most recent taxes and W2s.

Upon receipt of your appeal and supporting documents, your financial aid counselor will forward your case to the SFS Appeal Committee. This Committee will award additional funding depending upon the review of your individual circumstances and the availability of funds.

As always, if you have any questions you should contact your financial aid counselor. Not sure who that is? Use the myCounselor Lookup tool on our website, www.financialaid.neu.edu.



FAQs: Federal Verification Process

What is Verification? Approximately one-third of all financial aid applicants are selected by either the U.S. Department of Education or Northeastern's Office of Student Financial Services to verify the accuracy of information provided on the FAFSA and/or CSS Financial Aid PROFILE.

What do I need to do if I am selected for Verification? You will receive an email from the College Board's Institutional Documentation Service (IDOC) indicating the steps to complete the process. You will be required to complete the 2010-2011 Federal Verification Worksheet (available at <http://www.financialaid.neu.edu/forms.php> or <https://idoc.collegeboard.com/idoc/index.jsp>) and provide a copy of your and your parents' federal income tax returns.

Where do I send the documents? Northeastern prefers that all Verification documents be sent to IDOC at: College Board IDOC, P.O. Box 4017, Mount Vernon, IL 62864. A cover sheet is required for all documents submissions to IDOC. If you have received a request for verification documents, you must log into <https://idoc.collegeboard.com/idoc/index.jsp> using your Social Security Number and date of birth and print a copy of your cover sheet before mailing any documents.

If I am selected for Verification, will I still receive an award letter? Will Verification affect the receipt of my award letter? If you are a new student, you will receive an award letter but the Offer of Assistance is tentative, pending the completion of the verification process. If you are a returning student, you will not receive a financial aid award letter until the verification process is complete.

What is the deadline for document submission? We request that you send in your documentation 60 days after you received notification that you have been selected. Be sure to respond to requests for follow-up documentation in a timely manner to avoid delays in applying your financial aid as a credit to your student account.

What happens after the review of my documents? If the verified financial information differs significantly from the original information provided on the FAFSA and/or CSS Financial Aid PROFILE forms, your aid may have to be adjusted.



**Send all
Verification
documents to:
College Board
IDOC
PO BOX 4017
Mt. Vernon, IL
62864**

Don't Miss College Goal Sunday on January 31 at 2:00 p.m.!

- Need help filing for financial aid?
- Financial aid professionals from local schools will be available to assist you with completing your 2010-2011 FAFSA form.
- Visit <http://www.masscollegegoalsunday.org/> for more information.

Congratulations to our NU Partners-SFS Team Award Recipient

We are pleased to announce that Erin Lewis is the 2009-2010 recipient of the \$1,500 NU Partners-SFS Team Award. Erin is a communications major from Somerset, MA who is currently in her fourth year at Northeastern. She was chosen to receive the award as a result of her many contributions to the Northeastern community, which include being the President of the NU Public Relations Student Society and her dedication to the NU club field hockey team.

The funding for the NU Partners-SFS Team Award is raised through the contributions of the staff of the Office of Student Financial Services on Denim for Dollars Days.

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Financial Aid Awarding Timelines

Undergraduate Day Students

- Freshmen and Transfer Students that have met the priority filing dates can expect to receive their awards beginning in late March.



- Returning Students who have submitted the FAFSA by the March 1st priority filing date can expect to receive award letters beginning in early June.

Graduate Students

- New Students are awarded on an on-going basis throughout the spring after we have been notified that they have been accepted into their program.

- Returning Students that have met the March 1st priority filing deadline are awarded throughout the summer.

CPS Students

- CPS Students are awarded throughout the academic year once we have received all financial aid application materials.

Law Students

- New Students who have met the February 15th priority filing deadline can expect to receive their award letters in mid-March.



- Returning students who have met the March 15th priority filing deadline can expect to receive their award letters mid to late April.