



The Financial Aid Process

Warren County Career Center offers a variety of financial aid options to those who qualify. Although you may not qualify for all options; it is important that you be aware of what is available. **Keep in mind, financial aid varies student to student.**

Getting Started

Students are responsible for completing a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) so that a valid Student Aid Report (SAR) will be on file. Financial aid awards cannot be determined without an SAR. **Delays in completing financial aid applications may affect the ability of the school to determine awards prior to the beginning of class.**

Please read the following instructions carefully:

Step 1. Collect documents and information that will assist in completing the FAFSA. Examples include tax returns, W-2s, bank statements, untaxed income, assets, information on Supplemental Security Income (SSI), welfare, child support paid or received, etc.

Step 2. Go to www.pin.ed.gov and request a PIN #. If you are a dependent student, your parents should also request a PIN # to electronically sign your FAFSA. The PIN # is an electronic signature. You usually receive the PIN # within a couple of hours. The PIN # is valid for ten years so keep it in a safe place.

Step 3. Once you have received your PIN #, go to www.fafsa.gov and complete a FAFSA. The federal school code for Warren County Career Center is **015848**.

Step 4. In 2-5 days you can return to the FAFSA website and view your SAR. If you mailed the FAFSA and didn't provide an e-mail address, then your SAR will be mailed to you by the Dept. of Education and will take several weeks.

Step 5. The financial aid office will review your SAR and determine your eligibility for a Pell Grant and/or Direct Loan. An award letter will be mailed to you approximately two months prior to your start date.

Step 6. Review, complete, and return your award letter to the Financial Aid office. No student aid will be awarded without a signed letter of acceptance.

Step 7. If you are taking Direct Subsidized Loans and/or Direct Unsubsidized Loans visit www.studentloans.gov and complete the Entrance Counseling using the same PIN you used to complete the FAFSA. If you need your PIN reset, contact Federal Student Aid at 800-433-3243.

Step 8. If you are taking Direct Subsidized Loans and/or Direct Unsubsidized Loans visit www.studentloans.gov and electronically sign the Master Promissory Note (MPN).

Step 9. Parents of dependent students who are taking a Direct Parent Plus Loan should complete the online application and Master Promissory Note.

Student Eligibility

All of the following criteria must be met to receive aid from any of the federal student aid programs.

- Have completed a FAFSA form online.
- Demonstrate financial need, except for some loan programs.
- Have a high school diploma or GED.
- Be enrolled as a regular student working toward a degree or certificate in an eligible program.
- Be a U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen.
- Have a valid Social Security Number.
- Certify that federal student aid will only be used for educational purposes.
- Not be in default on a federal student loan and not owe money on a federal student grant.
- Be in compliance with the Selective Service registration requirements. Males aged 18 through 25 who haven't yet registered may do so by checking a box on the FAFSA. Registration may also be completed online at www.sss.gov.
- Not be incarcerated in a federal or state penal institution.
- Have not been convicted under federal or state law for the sale of or possession of drugs during a period of enrollment for which the student was receiving Title IV funds. Effect on eligibility depends on the type and number of convictions. For questions regarding individual status, call 1-800-433-3243.
- Once enrolled, meet satisfactory academic progress standards set by the school.

Sources of Financial Aid

***Pell Grant** – Need based federal grant that does not have to be repaid. Maximum grant for the 2011-2012 award year (7/1/11 – 6/30/12) is \$5,550 for a 900 clock hour program. Grants for programs less than 900 clock hours are prorated.

***Subsidized Direct Loan** – Need based loan. The U.S. Department of Education pays interest while the borrower is in school. Maximum award amount is \$3,500 for both independent and dependent students for a 900 clock hour program. Loans for programs less than 900 clock hours are prorated. Repayment normally begins six months after the student leaves school.

***Unsubsidized Direct Loan** – Not need based. Borrower is responsible for interest during the life of the loan. Maximum amount is \$2000 for a dependent student and \$6000 for an independent student for a 900 clock hour program. Loans for programs less than 900 clock hours are prorated. Repayment normally begins six months after the student leaves school.

***Direct Parent Plus Loan** – Parents of dependent students may apply. Loan amount may not exceed total cost of attendance less any other aid.

Alternative Loans -Alternative loans are private educational loans, based on a credit review, and offered by banks and other private lenders. These loans can cover the costs of education not covered by federal financial aid. **You should first apply for federal financial aid via FAFSA before considering an alternative loan.**

Bureau Of Vocational Rehabilitation (BVR) - For students with physical, mental or emotional disabilities that present a handicap to employment. Aid may be available to cover tuition, books, and supplies. Contact your area Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation office.

Workforce Investment Act (WIA) - Financial Aid may be available from this grant program for students who qualify. Students must contact their local One-Stop employment resource center to see if they qualify. Refer to Local Funding Agencies list.

Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) - Available for students who have lost jobs or had hours and wages reduced because of foreign trade. Contact your employer or your local One-Stop employment resource center.

Veterans Educational Benefits – Contact the Adult Education Financial Aid Specialist at the Warren County Career Center for details, 513-932-8145 extension 5270.

*Federal Title IV Financial Aid. Award year 2011 – 2012 begins July 1, 2011 and ends June 30, 2012.