



Dollar\$ and \$ense

WINTER 2011

Don't Let Time Run Out

Need money to cover your 2011-2012 educational costs? Do not wait to complete the 2011-2012 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA becomes available each January 1 and is the first and most important step in applying for financial aid. The FAFSA determines your eligibility for grants, scholarships, loans, and work-study programs. The earlier you apply, the better chance you have of receiving the maximum amount of funds for which you may be eligible. Some funds are awarded on a first-come first-served basis.



File your FAFSA at www.fafsa.gov starting January 1, 2011

Dependent or Independent?

When completing the FAFSA, you must provide detailed information about you and your family's financial situation. Some students will fill out their FAFSA as independents. This means that it is assumed that you are going to fund your education without help from your parents. Therefore, you do not have to include your parents' financial information.

Students who meet *at least one* of the following criteria will be considered "independent" for FAFSA purposes. Please note that there are additional criteria not listed.

An independent student..

- is at least 24 years old as of January 1, 2011, OR
- is married, OR
- is a graduate or professional student, OR
- is a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces, OR
- is an orphan or a ward of the court (or was a ward of the court until age 18), OR
- has a legal dependent other than a spouse.

For more information, visit www.fafsa.gov.

TIP

Use the IRS Data Retrieval Process

If you have previously filed the FAFSA, many fields will be auto-populated. However, it is very important to carefully review all information as some of your information may have changed since you filed last year, e.g., your email or home address, or your name, if you had a name change. You will also be able to retrieve information from your submitted income tax return. The IRS Data Retrieval Process is scheduled to go live for the 2011-2012 FAFSA on January 30, 2011. Data retrieval will be available for eligible federal tax return filers within three to five days after filing an electronic return and about six to eight weeks after filing a paper return. The retrieval process will be available for filers of both the English and Spanish versions of the FAFSA on the Web. **NSU encourages students to take advantage of this new feature.** The Department of Education considers data transferred through the IRS Data Retrieval System as equivalent to an IRS form. This is good news for students selected for Verification. If IRS data transferred to a student's FAFSA remains unaltered, the student may not be required to submit tax documentation for verification purposes. Verification is a federally-mandated process. For more information on verification, review the FAQs on page 7.

Important Dates

January 1, 2011

Students may begin submitting the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for 2011-2012.

February 9, 2011

Last date for undergraduate students to pay their winter 2011 tuition to avoid a late fee

April 14, 2011*

Deadline for undergraduate Bachelor of Health Science drop/add period for spring semester for state and federal grants.

April 15, 2011

NSU priority deadline for receipt of FAFSA information.

*** Drop/Add periods vary by program. Please check with your program office to verify actual drop/add dates.**

INSIDE:

- Year Round Pell
- Receive Your IRS Form 1098-T Form electronically
- HPD One-Stop Shop
- Scholarships
- PLUS Loans
- FAQs

NEW: Year Round Pell



The Federal Pell Grant Program provides need-based grants to low income undergraduate students who have not yet earned a bachelor's or professional degree. Eligible Pell Grant recipients may receive two Pell Grant awards within one award year, if certain criteria are met. The purpose of implementing this option is to give students the opportunity to accelerate their progress toward their degree by giving access to funding for each semester attended.

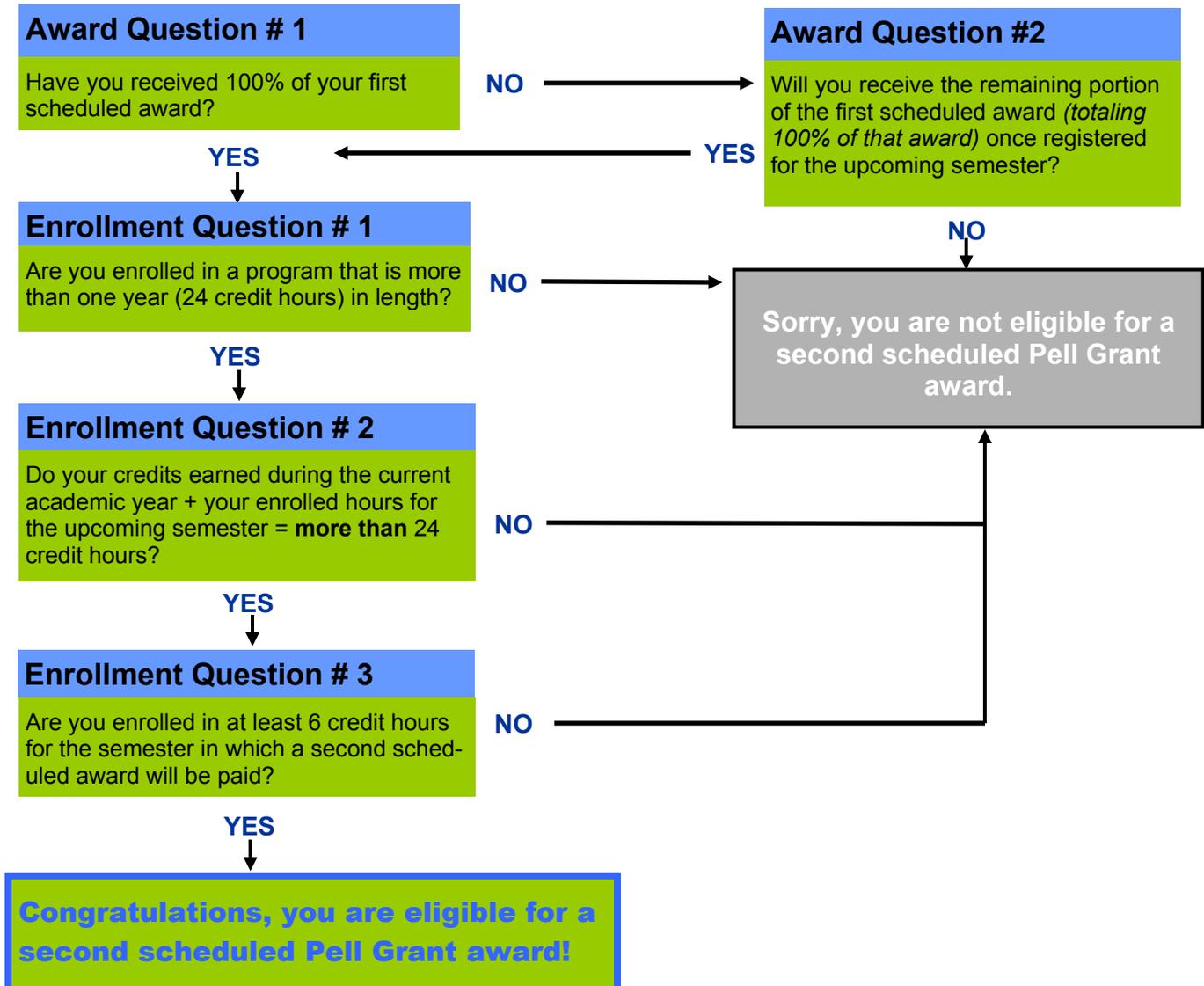
To be eligible to receive two Pell Grant awards in one academic year, a student must:

- have earned a total number of credit hours which exceeds 24
- be enrolled at least half time.

Summer Crossover Semester

The summer semester is considered a "cross-over" payment period between two academic years. Pell funds will be paid out of the current year OR the next academic year allocations, whichever award year provides the student with the most Pell Grant eligibility.

Am I eligible for a Second Scheduled Pell Grant Award?



Receive Your Form 1098-T Electronically

- faster
- easy access anywhere anytime
- secure
- environmentally friendly
- eliminates the chance of the form getting lost

NSU will be providing all eligible students with an IRS Form 1098-T in January 2011. This document informs you that you may be eligible for federal income tax education credits, such as the American Opportunity Credit. You may now choose to receive your Form 1098-T electronically instead of through the mail. With that option, once your tax information is ready, you will receive an email that will direct you to your secure WebSTAR account to download the form. To receive Form 1098-T electronically, NSU requires your consent. Without your consent, you will receive a paper Form 1098-T via the mail which will take longer to receive and increase the chance of the form getting lost, misdirected, or misplaced once received.



To receive your Form 1098-T faster, sign up for electronic delivery at: www.nova.edu/bursar/tax1098.html

HPD Admissions Merges with Enrollment and Student Services New One-Stop Shop in the Terry Administration Building



If you are a student in the Health Professions Division (HPD) attending classes on the main campus, you may have noticed the recently remodeled and renovated student service facilities in the Terry Administration Building. In an effort to increase efficiencies by streamlining student services and administrative processes, Health Professions Division Admissions and Student Affairs recently merged with Enrollment and Student Services (ESS). In the new offices of ESS HPD Admissions and Financial Aid Services, located on the first floor of the Terry Administration Building, students may now take care of all their ESS service needs. The offices include several new conference rooms in which HPD admissions interviews are conducted as well as a new One-Stop Shop which offers students the same services as the One-Stop Shop in the Horvitz

Administration Building. The One-Stop Shop is the central point of information and services for walk-in students (prospective, new, and continuing). The staff is cross-trained to answer students' questions regarding financial aid, registration, billing, transcripts, and parking decals. At the One-Stop Shop, students can:

- Register for classes
- Make a payment
- Receive an official transcript
- Receive enrollment verification
- Receive parking decals
- Pay parking tickets
- Receive registration, financial aid, and student account information

As in the past, students may also speak with an admissions or financial aid counselor.

One-Stop Shop Hours of Operation as of January 24, 2011

- Monday– Thursday**
8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Friday**
8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- Saturday**
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

FINANCIAL AID APPROVED

Use your NSU Bookstore Advance Purchase Program to buy (or rent) books and supplies.

The new Bookstore Advance Purchase Program (BAPP) allows financial aid recipients to use approved financial aid funds in excess of the charges on their student account to purchase books and supplies from the NSU Bookstore before their scheduled disbursement date. This new program was launched for the Winter 2011 semester and eligible students received emails to their NSU email accounts inviting them to sign up.

To be eligible, a student's total financial aid award amount for the semester must exceed all institutional charges on the student's account, and the student must be registered. Students eligible to participate for the Spring semester, will also receive an email to their NSU email account. For more information, visit www.nova.edu/bapp. The new BAPP form will be available at least one month prior to the start of the next semester.

ACG and SMART Grants Expire 2010-2011



The Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG) and the National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent (SMART) Grant will not be available to undergraduate students in the 2011-2012 academic year and thereafter. Both grants are funded by the federal government through the 2010-2011 academic year only.

The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship is a State-of-Florida Scholarship which does not have to be repaid (unless the student drops or withdraws from classes for which funds were received after the drop/add period). This scholarship is available at NSU to Florida high school graduates who demonstrate high academic achievement and have not received their first bachelor's degree. Please be aware of the following recent updates affecting eligible students:

2009-10 high school graduates (and thereafter)

- May receive funding for up to 100% of the required hours for their program of study

- May ONLY restore their award if the award is lost due to insufficient GPA in the first year of funding

2010-11 high school graduates (and thereafter)

- May receive funding for up to 5 years after high school graduation instead of 7 years.

Also new: Graduate Level Funding

Florida Academic Scholars and Florida Medallion Scholars earning a bachelor's degree in the 2010-2011 academic year and thereafter in 7 semesters or fewer (or the equivalent in credit hours) may receive funding for one semester of graduate study, not to exceed 15 semester hours, paid at the undergraduate rate.

Florida Academic Scholars:

\$125 per credit

Florida Medallion Scholars:

\$94 per credit

Gold Seal Vocational Scholars:

\$94 per credit

For more information, including renewal requirements, visit the financial aid Web site at www.nova.edu/financialaid/grantsloans/undergraduate/brightfutures.html

The Buzz on Scholarships

Put Searching for Scholarships on Your List of New Year's Resolutions



January is the time to start looking for scholarships for the 2011-2012 academic year! Start your search now. Do not wait for the last minute. Scholarships are very competitive.

The best place to start is the NSU Scholarship Web site. You will find information on institutional, external, international, and new scholarships. NSU institutional scholarship applications become available in March. Visit the NSU scholarship Web pages at:

www.nova.edu/financialaid/scholarships/institutional.html



In addition, check out the following scholarship opportunity:

Common Knowledge Scholarship Foundation

The Common Knowledge Scholarship Foundation awards scholarships through the use of internet-based quiz competitions.

Students who answer the most number of questions in the shortest amount of time are declared winners. Visit www.cksf.org/

What is a PLUS Loan?

Grad PLUS Loan

About Graduate PLUS Loans

Graduate and professional degree students who have reached their annual maximum loan eligibility under the Federal Subsidized and Unsubsidized Direct Loan Program, may apply for a Direct PLUS Loan to help cover educational expenses.

Eligibility Requirements

- complete FAFSA
- be enrolled at least half time
- must have reached annual maximum loan eligibility under the Federal Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loan Program
- contingent upon credit approval
- must complete a Master Promissory Note (MPN)



How do I Apply?

For a PLUS Loan, you must complete a Direct PLUS Loan Application and Master Promissory Note (MPN) at www.studentloans.gov. The MPN is a legal document in which you promise to repay the loan and any accrued interest and fees to the Department of Education. It also explains the terms and conditions of the loan. In most cases, one MPN can be used for loans that you receive over several years of study. If you previously signed an MPN to receive a Federal Family Educational Loan Program (FFEL) PLUS loan, you will need to sign a new MPN for a Direct PLUS Loan.

When do I begin repaying the loan?

The first payment is due 60 days after the final disbursement. However, you may defer repayment while you are enrolled at least half time.

Parent PLUS Loan

Why apply for a PLUS Loan for parents?

Parents of dependent students may apply for a Direct Parent PLUS Loan to help pay for their child's educational expenses as long as certain eligibility requirements are met. The parent borrower must be the student's biological or adoptive parent. Also, the student must be a dependent student who is enrolled at least half time.

Eligibility Requirements

- must complete FAFSA
- must be a dependent undergraduate student enrolled at least half time
- contingent upon credit approval
- parent and student must be a citizen or eligible non-citizen
- parent borrower must complete a Master Promissory Note (MPN)

How does a parent apply?

To apply for a Direct Parent PLUS Loan, the parent must complete a Direct Parent PLUS Loan Application and Master Promissory Note (MPN). Both application and MPN are available at www.studentloans.gov.

When does the parent begin repaying the loan?

The first payment is due 60 days after the final disbursement. However, for Direct Parent PLUS Loans with a first disbursement date on or after July 1, 2008, the parent may defer repayment:

- while the student is enrolled at least half time
- for an additional six months after the student graduates or ceases to be enrolled at least half time.

Can the parent's PLUS Loan be transferred to the student so that it becomes the student's responsibility to repay?

No. A Parent PLUS Loan made to the parent remains the parent's responsibility.

FAQs

How much can I borrow?

There are not set limits for Direct PLUS Loans, but you may not borrow more than cost of attendance minus any other financial aid the student receives.

What are the interest rates?

The interest rate for both Parent PLUS and Grad PLUS is a fixed rate of 7.9%. Interest accrues as soon as the first disbursement is made.

Are there any fees or charges associated with a PLUS Loan?

In addition to interest, there is a loan origination fee that is a percentage of the principal amount of each PLUS loan received. The loan fee will be deducted proportionately each time a loan disbursement is made.



7 Easy Steps for Financial Aid Success

Following is a brief description of important steps in the financial aid process. For more detailed instructions, visit the NSU financial aid Web site at www.nova.edu/financialaid.

1 Complete the FAFSA

Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.gov annually (between January 1 and June 30 of the following calendar year.)

2 Plan for Housing and Meals

Your financial aid budget includes a housing and meal component. Please ensure that your budget covers these expenses if you intend to live on campus. For more information on housing, visit Residential Life & Housing at www.nova.edu/reslife.

3 Check Your Financial Aid Status

Access your financial aid status via [SharkLink's](#) student tab to ensure that you have no outstanding requirements. Now is a good time to confirm your admissions status. **You must be fully admitted in order for your financial aid funds to disburse.**

4 Submit Additional Documentation

Some students may be required to submit additional documents prior to being awarded. You will be notified of outstanding requirements via your NSU email. Your requirements (outstanding and completed) can also be viewed via [SharkLink](#). (On the "Student" tab, locate the financial aid section and click: *My financial aid > Eligibility > Student Requirements*.)

If you are interested in receiving student loans, you will be required to complete a Direct Loan Master Promissory Note (MPN). If you are applying for a Direct PLUS loan for the first time as a graduate or first professional student or a parent borrower, you or your parent(s) will be required to complete a PLUS MPN that is separate from the MPN used for Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized loans.

Provided you have met all eligibility requirements and submitted all requested documents, you will receive your Award Notice via your NSU email or the U.S. Postal Service.

Before accepting your awards, carefully review the terms and conditions or your Award Notice.

5 Accept, Reduce, or Decline Your Loan(s) or FWS Award in WebSTAR

Your Award Notice will provide you with detailed instructions on how to accept, reduce, or decline your financial aid award.

6 Complete Entrance Interview

If you are a first-time federal loan borrower, you will also be required to complete an Entrance Interview before your loan funds can be disbursed.

7 Register for Classes

All students awarded federal loans must be enrolled at least half time. Half-time enrollment is defined as 6 credits per semester for all undergraduate students. For graduate and first professional students, your program of study defines half-time status. Enrollment requirements for federal and state grants vary. Students need to familiarize themselves with the enrollment requirements defined by their program offices, as well as by the financial aid program through which aid is received. Be sure to register early to ensure timely disbursement of your financial aid.



Pay Attention to Mid-Year SAP Warning Notices

Students are required to maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) in order to remain eligible for student financial aid. If you are in jeopardy of failing SAP because your grade point average (GPA) is below the minimum GPA required (qualitative requirement), or you have not earned at least 70% of the credits you have attempted (quantitative requirement), you will receive an email notification from the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) in January 2011 encouraging you to contact your academic advisor to discuss strategies for meeting SAP. If you have attempted more credit hours than

permitted according to NSU's SAP policy, you will receive an email notification that you will be ineligible for financial aid in the 2011-2012 academic year, unless your academic program requires more than the average number of credits. If your undergraduate program requires 120 credits, you may only attempt a total of 180 credits. If your graduate program requires 36 credits, you may only attempt up to 54 credits. For more information on NSU's SAP policy, visit www.nova.edu/financialaid/receiving/academic_progress.html or call the OSFA at 800-806-3680 or (954) 262-3380.

Frequently Asked Questions

FINANCIAL AID

Q: What is verification?

A: Verification is a federally-mandated review process in which the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) verifies the accuracy of information provided by students on their FAFSA. NSU may also select a record for verification. If you are selected, you will receive a Missing Information Notice to your NSU email from the OSFA. It will list the documentation you are required to submit. New for the 2011-2012 academic year: You may not be required to submit your or your parent's signed tax return from the previous year, if you have used the IRS Data Retrieval System while filing your FAFSA and you have not made any changes to your IRS information. However, you will still be required to submit an Income Verification Form, and any other documentation the OSFA may require. Your documents must be reviewed and verification completed no later than four weeks prior to the end of your enrollment period for the academic year in which you are applying for aid. Verification must be completed before your financial aid funds can be awarded or disbursed.

Q: When can I expect my award?

A: The earlier you apply the greater chance you have of receiving your financial aid before the start of classes. Your financial aid file will not be complete unless all requested information has been received and reviewed for accuracy. Once your file is complete, you will receive an award notice within four to six weeks based on the time of year.

Q: Can I be awarded financial aid with a provisional admissions status?

A: Yes, however, your financial aid funds will not be disbursed until **all** of your admissions requirements have been met by your program admissions office, **including a receipt of all official transcripts.**

BURSAR

Q: How do I sign up for direct deposit?

A: Complete the Direct Deposit Authorization located at www.nova.edu/bursar/forms/direct_deposit.pdf and mail or fax the form to the Bursar's Office, along with a voided check. Please allow 2-4 business days for processing.



Q: Who do I contact if my account was charged incorrectly?

A: Depending on your charge, please contact the appropriate office:

Tuition charges/late registration fees: Academic Program Office

Health insurance charges: Student Medical Center: (954) 262-1262

Residential charges: Office of Residential Life & Housing : (954) 262-7052

Meal plan charges: Office of Campus Card Services: (954) 262-8929

Late fee charges: Bursar's Office: (954) 262-5200

Q: When will I receive my loan refund?

A: Once NSU receives the loan proceeds your funds will be credited to your student account. If your account has a credit (excess) balance after all outstanding obligations have been met, your refund will be issued to you.

Refunds are mailed to students via the United States Postal Service, unless you have authorized direct deposit to your checking account. To set up direct deposit, visit www.nova.edu/bursar/refunds/direct_delivery.html.

REGISTRAR

Q: What is the drop/add period?

A: You may adjust your schedule at any time during the drop/add period. After the last day of this period, you will no longer be able to add classes. As drop/add periods vary by program, please check with your program office for dates.

A word of caution: Please consult your academic advisor and financial aid counselor before you drop or withdraw from classes after the drop/add period. Your grants and loans may be reduced or reversed, you may lose your eligibility for federal and state aid, and your academic standing may be affected.

Q: What is FERPA?

A: The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords students certain rights with respect to their education records. These rights include:

- The right to inspect and review the student's education record within 45 days of the day the university receives a request for access.
- The right to request the amendment of any of the student's education record, if the student believes they are inaccurate or misleading.
- The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.
- The right to file a complaint with the Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, concerning alleged failures by NSU to comply with the requirements of FERPA.

For more information, visit the Registrar's Web site at www.nova.edu/cwis/registrar/family_act1974.html.

Timetable for Success

| January | February | March | April |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>January 1, 2011 Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.gov.</p> <p>If you are thinking about dropping a course, be sure to review NSU's Satisfactory Academic Progress policy and contact your academic and financial aid counselor BEFORE making adjustments to your schedule.</p> | <p>February 9, 2011 Last day for undergraduate students to pay their winter 2011 tuition to avoid a late fee.</p> <p>Graduate students should contact their academic program office.</p> | <p>The priority deadline for filing the FAFSA for the 2011-2012 academic year is fast approaching. If you have not yet completed the FAFSA, be sure to complete this essential first step in receiving aid from federal, state, and private sources by April 15, 2011.</p> | <p>April 14, 2011 Deadline for undergraduate Bachelor of Health Science drop/add period for the spring semester for state and federal grants.</p> <p>April 15, 2011 NSU priority deadline for receipt of FAFSA information.</p> |
| <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;">  <p style="font-weight: bold;">Remember to keep identifying and applying for scholarships!</p>  </div> | | | |

Marine Corps Scholarship

The Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation provides the children of Marines and the children of Navy Corpsmen who serve with Marines access to the education and skills they need to be successful members of society. A student will be eligible for a scholarship if his or her parent is an active duty, retired, veteran, or deceased Marine, or if his or her parent is an active duty or former Navy Corpsman who has been attached to a Marine unit. Former Marines and Navy Corpsmen must have received either an honorable or medical discharge.



Eligibility

- Must be graduating high school in 2011, currently attending college, or planning to attend college or a vocational-technical school in the fall of 2011
- Must have a minimum GPA of 2.0
- The adjusted gross income of the student's family must be less than \$86,000 in 2010

To Apply

The scholarship application for the 2011-2012 academic year is available online as of January 1, 2011. A completed application and all additional required documents must be submitted to the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation by February 1, 2011, for renewal applicants and March 1, 2011, for first time applicants.

Funding is available for undergraduate studies only. Students must be pursuing a first bachelor's degree. For additional information and the application visit www.marine-scholars.org.



Office of Student Financial Assistance
Horvitz Building
3301 College Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33314-7796

Web site: www.nova.edu/financialaid

Phone: (954) 262-3380

Toll Free: 800-806-3680

Fax: (954) 262-3966

Email: finaid@nsu.nova.edu

Other email contacts:

Office of the University Bursar
bursar@nsu.nova.edu

Office of the University Registrar
nsuregistrar@nsu.nova.edu

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