

IT'S CHECKERS TIME!

Financial Aid, Scholarships and Student Employment wants to help YOU navigate the Board

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Completing the Verification Process 1

Freshman Learning Outcomes 1

Next Steps after completing the FAFSA 1

Accessing Books & Supplies @FAFSA 2

2019-2020 #EarlyFAFSA 2

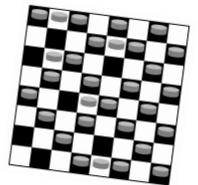
CONTACT US 2

What is the next step after completing the FREE Application for Federal Student Aid?

Now that the FAFSA uses family income from two years ago, it is easier to submit and complete any verification process far in advance of the actual award year. After the FAFSA is submitted every October 1, the general scholarship application should be completed using the Academic Works (neu.academicworks.com/) link on the Financial Aid Website. This is also recommended for undocumented students who are ineligible for completing the FAFSA. Once the general application is submitted in Academic Works, at least one online scholarship search profile should be completed or reviewed for updates:

1. FastWeb
2. MyScholly
3. Sallie Mae
4. Scholarship Owl

Completing 2018-2019 Verification Requirements



Learn from the Experts First

Most students find the verification process to be very intrusive and complicated. Financial Aid Offices across the country agree to certain degree and that is why staff is assigned to review documents, compare with the FREE Application for Federal Student Aid or FAFSA and then communicate whether additional information is needed to resolve inconsistencies. Only a member of the Financial Aid Office can take into account special circumstances and determine whether a requirement can be waived or an alternate can be used in the place of what is originally required. Although it may not always be able to override required documents or provide full financial aid packages, the team really does want to help with the maximum benefit that is available.

Why is there a verification process?

Quite simply, we are all taxpayers and the FAFSA helps determine federal and state financial aid eligibility. As taxpayers we want to ensure that the process is as accurate as possible so that the right assistance goes to the right students so that our valuable tax dollars are used efficiently. Once a FAFSA is submitted a Student Aid Report is sent electronically to your email and if the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) has an asterisk you are selected for the verification process. Unless the IRS Data Retrieval is used within the FAFSA, tax transcripts, W-2 forms and a verification worksheet are the standard requirements for any person with earned income for the base year of the FAFSA. For 2018-2019, that base income year is 2016. Once the University receives the Student Aid Report, requirements are posted to student's NEUport

account in the current student tab, Financial Aid Requirements channel as red flags. If you notice red flags that do not apply, notify the Financial Aid Office immediately—email or telephone—so that additional consideration can be made. If all red flags apply submit within a week of noticing the requirements. At the latest verification documents should be submitted 3 months prior to the fall semester each year. At the earliest verification documents should be submitted 3 months after submitting the FAFSA.

If you still have verification documents outstanding for 2018-2019 award year, it is best that you bring the in person and meet with a Financial Aid Advisor one-on-one

TOP 5 THINGS EVERY FRESHMAN SHOULD LEARN ABOUT FINANCIAL AID DURING THEIR FIRST YEAR

1. Be aware of Financial Aid Office Locations, Hours of Operation and how to connect with a Financial Aid Advisor.
2. Understand the importance in Accuracy and Completeness of documentation, verification requirements and Disbursement
3. Know how to login into NEUport in order to register, view financial aid requirements, view awards, download documents, sign up for direct deposit and view account statements.
4. Understand Cost of Attendance—distinguish between direct and indirect cost, Expected Family Contribution and Borrowing History.
5. Understand opportunities available through Student Employment and Career Services.



Check out our Contact Information

STUDENT FINANCIAL WELLNESS

ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

Email: StudentPaymentServices@neiu.edu

Telephone: (773) 442-5165

CASHIERS

Telephone: (773) 442-5184

FINANCIAL AID

Email: Financial-Aid@neiu.edu

Telephone: (773) 442-5016

SCHOLARSHIPS

Email: Scholarships@neiu.edu

Telephone: (773) 442-4606

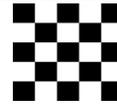
STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

Email: Student-Employment@neiu.edu

Telephone: (773) 442-4696

STUDENT LOAN DEPARTMENT

Telephone: (773) 442-5175



ACCESSING BOOKS & SUPPLIES USING YOUR FINANCIAL AID CREDIT BALANCE @FOLLETT

August 13 – September 12, 2018

Including Saturday hours & online orders

IN ORDER TO QUALIFY FOR A BOOK VOUCHER, YOUR:

- Financial aid package must be reflected on NEIUport under 2018-2019 Financial Aid Awards
- Financial aid awards must exceed your University balance (e.g. tuition, fees, housing)

ORDER BOOKS ONLINE WITH THE BOOKSTORE:

- Visit eFollett.com website: www.bkstr.com/northeasternillinoisstore/ home or download the mobile application for your phone
- Show your NEIU ID to the cashier and request to pick up your textbook order

SHOP FOR YOUR BOOKS IN PERSON:

- Visit the Bookstore in person adjacent to the Student Union and select your books
- Show your NEIU ID to the cashier at checkout time

2019-2020 #EARLYFAFSA: IT MAKES YOUR CHECKERS SMACK



Just when you thought you were done with completion of your financial aid file ... it's time to do the next one! To avoid confusion with which FAFSA to complete at a given time, it is important to understand that the FAFSA is available every October 1, requiring income from two years ago for the following fall, spring and summer semesters.

The 2019-2020 FAFSA available October 1 using 2017 income information covers: Fall, 2019, Spring, 2020 and Summer, 2020.

Here is a recommended timeline:

OCTOBER

- Complete the FAFSA
- Complete an online institutional scholarship application using www.neiu.academicworks.com
- Complete 2-3 private scholarship applications

JANUARY

- Check NEIUport for red flag items and submit required documents to the Financial Aid Office
- Complete 2-3 private scholarship applications

MARCH

- Check NEIUport for Financial Aid Requirements Channel
- Check Financial Aid Awards Channel
- Meet 1:1 with a Financial Aid Advisor for any special circumstances
- Make sure all documents are submitted including any loan requests for the fall and spring semesters

