Federal Aid

Federal Pell Grant
• Need-based grant, determined by FAFSA
• Maximum for 2008–2009 was $4,731
• No repayment, gift aid

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)
• Need-based grant, determined by FAFSA
• Awards are variable
• No repayment, gift aid

Federal Stafford Loan
• Need and non-need based loans, must be enrolled at least half-time
• Students may borrow up to $3,500 as a first-year student and $4,500 as a second-year student
• Repayment begins six months after the student graduates, leaves college, or drops to less than half time

Federal PLUS (Parent) Loan
• For parents of dependent students
• Amount available is cost of attendance less other aid
• No repayment, gift aid
• Repayment begins within 60 days of loan disbursement

Federal Work-Study
• Need based, determined by FAFSA
• Amount varies with need
• No repayment, these are wages earned from working

State Aid

Iowa Grant
• Need-based grant, determined by FAFSA
• Awards are variable

Iowa Vocational Technical Grant
• Need-based grant, determined by FAFSA
• For Iowa residents enrolled in a vocational, technical or career option program
• No repayment, gift aid
• FAFSA must be received by the processing center by July 1 preceding enrollment

Iowa College Student Aid Commission (ICSA)
• To check eligibility requirements and apply, applicants must complete a FAFSA and obtain an application which is available on the Iowa College Student Aid Commission’s website at www.IowaCollegeAid.gov or by calling 877-272-4456.

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• No repayment, gift aid

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Institutional Aid

Scholarships are available through NCC’s Foundation. Apply online at www.nwicc.edu. Scholarships are available for students who have been in Iowa foster care and who plan to enroll in approved training programs in Iowa.

FASTWEB
www.fastweb.com
This site has a scholarship search service and helps students with information on choosing a college, paying for college and finding jobs.

Iowa College Student Aid Commission
www.IowaCollegiateaide.gov
This site provides the latest information on scholarships, grants, loans, and work-study programs available for Iowa students.

College Planning Center
www.ICANsucceed.org
This site has a scholarship search service and helps students with information on choosing a college, paying for college and finding jobs.

Northwest Iowa Financial Aid Information

Walking through the Financial Aid process at Northwest Iowa Community College

There’s a Place for YOU! That’s our slogan at Northwest Iowa Community College (NCC), and our Financial Aid Office can work with you to reach the goal of attending college. Federal and state financial aid programs, scholarships, and other funding sources, may be available to help you afford college. What are you waiting for? Let’s get started!

1. Fill out a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). There are three ways to apply: The quickest way to apply is online using FAFSA on the Web at www.fafsa.ed.gov OR If you prefer to complete a paper FAFSA go to www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov and download a PDF version of the FAFSA. OR Call 1-800-4-FED-AID and request a paper application. When you apply on the Web, you may want to apply for a PIN number to allow you to electronically sign the FAFSA. You and your parents may apply for a PIN at www.pin.ed.gov.

2. Remember to include NCC’s financial aid school code 004600 on the FAFSA. Submit the FAFSA on the Web or mail in the paper version to the federal processor.

3. After the FAFSA is processed you and NCC will receive a SAR, check it for accuracy, and update estimated information, if necessary. You may make corrections or updates online at www.fafsa.ed.gov or on the paper SAR, if you receive one.

4. If your SAR indicates that you are selected for verification, you will need to provide additional information to the school. This will include providing copies of your tax returns. It is important for you to respond to NCC as soon as possible with all the documents.

5. Once your file is complete and you have been accepted by Admissions, NCC will send you an award letter indicating the types and amounts of aid for which you are eligible.
Q. How is eligibility for aid determined?
A. The FAFSA collects data that the federal government uses to determine your eligibility for federal and state aid, including grants, loans, and work-study.

Q. How long will the whole process take?
A. After you complete and submit your FAFSA, you will receive the Student Aid Report (SAR) in approximately 2-3 weeks. The NCC Financial Aid Office will begin processing in May 2009. We strive to get you information in a timely manner. However, if corrections must be made or if documentation is required, this process may take longer. Be patient, and complete all forms in a timely manner.

Q. What should I do after receiving my Student Aid Report (SAR)?
A. When you receive your SAR, review it carefully to make sure it is correct and complete. If it is correct, keep the SAR for future reference. If you need to make corrections and you applied electronically, you need to make corrections through the Student Aid Report on the Web, using your PIN. If you applied using a paper FAFSA, correct the answers on the SAR, sign it, and mail it back.

Q. What is verification?
A. If your SAR has been selected for verification process, this means the college must compare your SAR with documents, including tax returns, that verify your financial status. All requested documents must be received by the student’s last day of enrollment or the end of the term, whichever is earlier. About one-third of all SARs are selected for verification.

Q. What happens if there is financial aid left over?
A. If your financial aid exceeds all charges (tuition, fees, books, dorms, etc.), a balance check will be issued to you several weeks after school starts.

Q. Does financial aid cover the cost of tools?
A. No. Financial aid cannot be used to purchase tools. Even if you will be receiving a financial aid check balance, you may need to make other arrangements to pay for any tool expenses.

Q. When should I complete the FAFSA?
A. It is a good idea to complete your FAFSA as soon after January 1 as possible. It is helpful to have your taxes done before you complete the FAFSA. Also, remember that financial aid is given on a year-by-year basis, and you must reapply each year.

Q. What about scholarships?
A. Go to www.nwicc.edu to view a list of scholarships that NCC has to offer. You can apply online.

Q. How do I apply for financial aid?
A. If you receive financial aid (including loans and work-study) you need to:
1. Maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.0
2. Earn on a cumulative basis 67% of all credits ever attempted and
3. Complete your course of study within the maximum time limit. Students must meet all of these requirements to maintain eligibility for financial aid.

Q. What is the online Loan Entrance Counseling all about?
A. Students who choose to borrow money by taking out a Federal Stafford Loan are required to complete a Loan Entrance Counseling session. This must be completed before the first loan disbursement can be released to the borrower.