



## *It's FAFSA Time Again!!*

Are you planning to return to SUNY Geneseo for the 2009-2010 academic year? If so, it's time to complete your **2009-2010 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**.

### **Please Note:**

- ⇒ SUNY Geneseo's priority filing deadline is **March 1, 2009** for continuing students. The FAFSA must be **received** by the Federal Central Processor by that date.
- ⇒ You can still apply after that date, but for full consideration for all types of aid, apply by March 1!
- ⇒ 99% of students nationwide now file on-line at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). It is **free, fast, easy, and secure**.
- ⇒ There are major changes to the FAFSA for 2009-10 – please refer to page 2 for helpful hints.

### **About FAFSA.ED.GOV – To apply on-line:**

- 1) You (and at least one parent) need a Personal Identification Number, or **PIN**. If you need to get one or if you forgot yours, go to [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov). You can now get and use your PIN immediately – no need to wait for an e-mail confirmation!
- 2) The “**FAFSA on the Web Worksheet**” is available at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). Printing and completing the worksheet will help you to gather the information you need before filling out the FAFSA on-line.
- 3) **File your FAFSA!** On [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov), select “**Fill out Your FAFSA.**”
  - ⇒ **The federal government no longer uses the term “Renewal FAFSA.”** If you filed a 2008-09 FAFSA, after you sign in you will be asked if you want to “**pre-fill**” this year's FAFSA with data from last year's FAFSA.
- 4) In 3-4 business days after you file, you will receive an e-mail that explains how to access your Student Aid Report (SAR) on-line. **It is important to review your SAR to see if there are any errors or problems with your application!**

**Don't forget your TAP** – If you complete your FAFSA on the Web **and** include the school code for at least one New York State institution, you will have the option of applying for TAP by answering a few additional questions. If you choose not to (or if you file a paper FAFSA), New York State will mail you a paper TAP application, or later you can apply on line at <https://www.tapweb.org/totw/>.

**Questions? Problems? Contact the Office of Financial Aid at (585) 245-5731.**

# 2009-10 FAFSA HELPFUL HINTS

- **SUNY Geneseo's Title IV School Code** - 002845
- **Use Estimated Income!** If your 2008 federal income tax return will not be completed in time to meet the filing deadline date of March 1, you should **estimate your 2008 income** in order to file on time. Then, update your application after your tax returns are completed.
- Many questions on 2009-10 FAFSA on the Web have changed significantly to reflect changes in federal laws that regulate how financial aid eligibility is determined. Some highlights:
  1. Worksheets A, B, and C have been eliminated. The information previously reported on Worksheet A (primarily untaxed Social Security benefits, welfare benefits, and some tax credits from the federal tax return) **is no longer collected**. **DO NOT INCLUDE THESE TYPES OF INCOME ON YOUR FAFSA.**
  2. The information previously collected on Worksheets B and C has been incorporated into the FAFSA as individual questions.
  3. On the FAFSA, dependent students will be asked if they are providing parental information. **If you believe that you cannot provide parental information, we recommend that you save your work and contact our office for assistance. Improperly excluding parental information will delay your application and may result in the loss of some financial aid.**
- Common mistakes to avoid:
  1. Be sure that parents report contributions to tax deferred retirement plans (most often from Box 12 of their 2008 W-2 wage forms.)
  2. Report child support received for all children in the household. The New York State TAP application, though, only asks for the applicant's child support.
  3. Question 77 (on-line FAFSA) refers to Supplemental Security Income (a need-based program for the elderly, blind, or disabled,) not to Social Security or Social Security disability benefits.
  4. U.S. Income Tax Paid – report only the amount on line 56 (Form 1040) or line 35 (Form 1040A) or line 11 (1040EZ.) Do not include self-employment tax or report the total withheld from Form W-2.
- You will receive an email after your FAFSA is processed. Review the results on-line. The processed FAFSA will include a variety of messages, including any problems that need your attention. Failure to do so may cause delays or loss of some types of financial aid.
- Returning students will be sent an email in April once their financial aid has been packaged for 2009-10 – you will not receive a paper award letter.
- For help, call the SUNY Geneseo Financial Aid Office at 585-245-5731. You can also check [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) or visit our website (<http://financialaid.geneseo.edu>) for more information.