GENESEO

Office of Financial Aid
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This is a reminder that continuing students should file their **2015-16 FAFSA by March 1, 2015** for best consideration for financial aid. Even if you or your parents have not completed the 2014 federal tax return, complete the FAFSA now using estimated numbers and you can make corrections later.

**Please Note:**

- ⇒ For continuing students, the FAFSA must be **received** by the federal processing center by **March 1, 2015** for best consideration. You can still apply after March 1, but not all types of aid will still be available.
- ⇒ Complete your FAFSA online at **www.fafsa.gov** .
- ⇒ A short online presentation (PREZI) of this information is available at **https://prezi.com/9mtcudya8ecr**

**Preparing to Apply at FAFSA.GOV:**

1) You will need to have your FAFSA PIN, and for dependent students, your parent will need a PIN as well. If you forgot your PIN, or need to apply for one, go to **www.pin.ed.gov** .

2) Use the "**FAFSA on the Web Worksheet**" to help you to gather the information you will need.

3) **If you/your parents have not filed a 2014 tax return yet**, you'll want your 2013 tax returns and your 2014 W-2 wage and tax statements to help you estimate income.

4) If you provide an email address, you will receive immediate confirmation once the FAFSA was filed.

5) In 3-4 business days after you file, you will receive an e-mail that explains how to access your Student Aid Report (SAR) online. **Most students do not do this and will not know if there are errors or other important messages regarding financial aid eligibility, thereby delaying the packaging and processing of financial aid.**

**Don't forget the TAP application –** Immediately after you submit the FAFSA, you will have the option to apply for TAP by answering some additional questions. If you skip these questions, or if you file a paper FAFSA, within a few weeks New York State will send you an email asking you to apply online at **https://www.tap.hesc.ny.gov/totw/**.

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

**SUNY Geneseo**
**FAFSA School Code – 002845**
**NYS TAP School Code – 0920**

# 2015-16 FAFSA HELPFUL HINTS

**You can also check out our short, online presentation (PREZI) at**
**https://prezi.com/9mtcudya8ecr**

- **Use Estimated Income!** If your 2014 federal income tax return has not been completed yet, **estimate your 2014 income** in order to meet the March 1 deadline. Then, update your application after your tax returns are completed.

- **You can still file the FAFSA after March 1, but not all types of aid will be available.**

- **In 3-4 business days after you file, you will receive an e-mail from FAFSA that explains how to access your Student Aid Report (SAR) online. On your SAR, look for any important error messages. You may need to resolve these issues to prevent a delay in being awarded financial aid.**

**DEPENDENT STUDENTS: Who is a parent for the FAFSA?**

- **If your parents live together**, report both parents' income and asset information, whether they are married*, separated/divorced, or were never married.

- **If your parents are separated or divorced**:
  1. **Who did you live with most in the last 12 months?** This is your "custodial" parent – report this parent's income and assets. If your custodial parent is remarried, you must also report your stepparent's income and assets.

  2. If you lived with each parent for exactly 6 of the last 12 months, report information for the parent who provided more support for you during that time. And again, if that parent is remarried, you must also report the stepparent's information.

*The FAFSA definition of marriage includes marriages of persons of the same or opposite sexes.

**Be sure to check for these often missed FAFSA items, particularly for parents:**

- You must report contributions to tax retirement plans (Box 12 of the 2014 W-2 wage forms) – codes D,E,F,G,and S
- Also report contributions to IRA's and Keough plans (from page 1 of Form 1040 or 1040A)
- Report child support received for all children in the household (not just for you, the student)
- Report U.S. Income Tax Paid from line 56 (Form 1040), line 37 (Form 1040A) or line 10 (1040EZ)

Continuing students will begin to receive award notice emails in early April – you will not receive a paper award letter. The SUNY "Smart Track" award letter can be printed from Knightweb. Dependent students should share their award information with their parent(s.)

For a PREZI that explains the Smart Track letter, go to https://prezi.com/sr8cbclrp3z8 .

For help, call the SUNY Geneseo Financial Aid Office at 585-245-5731. You can also check **http://www.fafsa.gov** or visit our website (**http://financialaid.geneseo.edu**) for more information.