

Financial Aid and Scholarships



What is Financial Aid?

- Scholarships – a reward for things you have already accomplished and/or an encouragement to do some more of the same!
- Grants – dollars used to support your studies because you demonstrated the talent to be in college and demonstrated that you cannot afford to pay for your studies out of your own resources.
- Loans – the monies that you borrow and must repay but can use to pay expenses not covered by scholarships, grants and personal funds. Loans are an opportunity but one that you must pay back.
- Work Opportunities – two kinds – the Federal Work-Study program and on campus, self-help wages.

How Do I Apply For Financial Aid?

- Students that are interested in receiving financial assistance need to complete the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid** each year.
- You can complete the FAFSA starting **October 1st** prior to the academic year that begins the following August.
- **Priority filing date is March 1st** each year. However, we do not have a deadline for applying and being awarded.
- Applications received after the priority deadline may not be completed in time before the tuition payment deadline.
- **EVERY** state has an office like the State Education Assistance Authority – check with your state for scholarships and grants that may ‘travel’ with you.

Completing the FAFSA

The screenshot shows the studentaid.gov website. At the top, the URL is studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa. Below the URL bar, there is a navigation menu with the following items: UNDERSTAND AID, APPLY FOR AID, COMPLETE AID PROCESS, and MANAGE LOANS. The main content area features a large banner with the text "Complete the FAFSA® Form" and "Use the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) form to apply for financial aid for college or graduate school." There are two main sections: "New to the FAFSA® Process?" with a "Start Here" button, and "Returning User?" with options for "Correct info | Add a school" and "View your Student Aid Report (SAR)", and a "Log In" button. The background of the banner shows an illustration of three students walking.

- **Free** Application for Federal Student Assistance
- You may complete the FAFSA online at www.studentaid.gov
- ECU school code is 002923-00

North Carolina Residents:

- Be sure to review the College Foundation of North Carolina website – www.CFNC.org
- Create a student profile to be considered for state grants and scholarships.



The screenshot shows the CFNC website with the following elements:

- Header:** CFNC logo, College Foundation of North Carolina logo, and navigation links: ESPAÑOL, EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS, RECURSOS EN ESPAÑOL, ABOUT US, CONTACT US, LOG IN.
- Secondary Navigation:** Plan Your Future, Apply to College, Pay for College, Save for College.
- Hero Section:** A dark green banner with the quote: "An investment in **knowledge** pays the best interest. – Benjamin Franklin".
- Main Content Area:**
 - Pay for College:** A sidebar menu with links: Apply for Financial Aid, FAFSA Assistance, Grants and Scholarships, Scholarship Search, Work-Study Programs, Student Loans, NC Assist Loans, Loan Repayment, Manage My Loan.
 - Get Help Paying for College:** A central text block explaining financial aid: "What is financial aid? Financial aid is money that is given or borrowed to help pay for college. It can come from federal, state, local, school and private entities. North Carolina and the federal government award millions of dollars each year to help students pay for college. So where to start?"
 - Already Have a Loan?:** A box with the text: "Get information and manage your payments" and a link: "Manage My Loan".
 - Bottom Section:** Two large buttons: "FAFSA" and "Grants & Scholarships".

Scholarship Application Process

- All scholarship opportunities reside on the university's on-line portal – ECUAWard – which can be accessed at www.ecu.academicworks.com or via a student's Pirate Port.
- Log-in uses your campus credentials (Pirate ID and password) that work with all campus platforms such as email, Canvas, and other campus-based systems.
- Make sure you check your student email and scholarship portal regularly.
- If you have questions, send them to scholarships@ecu.edu.

Things you must remember!

- You must apply for admission for the Financial Aid Office to download your FAFSA data.
- You must be admitted to be offered a Pirate ID. With that, you can create a password which will allow you to access the scholarship portal.
- Use your legal name as written on your Social Security Card – short names or nicknames will cause confusion and can delay your admissions, access, and awards.
- Write down your log-ons, passwords, and access information
 - DO NOT SHARE THIS INFO!!!

Contact Us

Office of Financial Aid

Julie Poorman, Director

Phone: 252-328-6610

Fax: 252-328-4347

Email: finaid@ecu.edu

2103 Old Cafeteria Complex, MS 510

Greenville, NC 27858

Walk in hours – Monday – Friday, 8:00a to 5:00p

Phone hours – Monday – Friday, 8:00a to 5:00p

University Scholarships

Melonie Bryan, Director

Phone: 252-328-5816

Email: scholarships@ecu.edu

G131 Old Cafeteria Complex, MS 184

Greenville, NC 27858