Financial Aid Overview

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Early FAFSA

- FAFSA becomes available October 1st of every year.

- The prior-prior years taxes are used to complete the FAFSA. For example, the 2019-2020 FAFSA will utilize 2017 tax and income information.

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Summer 2019 Admits

- Summer 2019 admits should complete the 2018-2019 FAFSA for summer funding using 2016 tax information.

- The last day to complete the 2018-2019 FAFSA is June 30, 2019.

- Should also complete the 2019-2020 FAFSA for upcoming 2019-20 academic year.

Fall 2019 Admits

- Fall 2019 admits should complete the 2019-2020 FAFSA using 2017 tax information.

- Each institution establishes priority dates for the FAFSA to be completed.
  - **UCF FAFSA Priority Date is December 1, 2018**

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Award Notifications

- Incoming Freshman award notifications

    - Email

    - Mail

- Award notifications for the 2019-2020 academic year can be sent as early as December 2018.

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Award Notifications

- Award Notifications can include:
  - Undergraduate Admissions merit-based awards
    - HAS Pegasus Scholarship
  - Federal Aid (grants, work-study, loans)
    - Pell, SEOG, FWS, Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans
  - Estimate Bright Futures Awards
  - Other State and/or Institutional Grants
    - UCF Grant, FSAG, UCF Scholars

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Applying for Scholarships

- Students are strongly encouraged to seek out additional scholarship opportunities.

- UCF Online Scholarship Application:
  - A2O – Access to Opportunities

  - General application will match applicants to scholarship opportunities

  - Application is currently available for the 2019-2020 academic year

  - https://ucf.academicworks.com/

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Scholarship Application Tips

- Establish a separate email account strictly for scholarship applications.

- Set aside a specific time to search and apply for scholarships

- Maintain a file that includes:
  - Names of the organizations and dates of involvement.
  - Leadership or volunteer experiences.
  - Awards and/or recognitions received.

- Have at least three different essays prepared.
  - Leadership and/or community service
  - Describe what inspired you to select your major/program of study
  - Explanation of why you deserve this scholarship

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Scholarship Application Tips

- Apply for varying amounts
  - Larger awards can be more competitive and harder to receive

- Look for scholarships that can be used for more than tuition and fees.

- Start early!

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Financial Aid Missteps

1. Not including the student's social security number on the admissions application

   - Impacts FL Prepaid, Bright Futures, and federal financial aid

2. Missing financial aid application deadlines
   - **2019-2020 FAFSA -** December 1st – UCF Priority Date

   - **2018-2019 FAFSA** (summer funding) - June 30, 2019

   - Submission of all requested financial aid documents
     - 2019-2020 Academic Year - May 30th – UCF Priority Date

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Financial Aid Missteps

3. Completing the FAFSA incorrectly.
    - Blank is not a response
    - Answering dependency questions correctly
    - Using correct tax year information - 2019-2020: 2017 tax information

4. Submitting incomplete/incorrect documentation or items the financial aid office did not request.

5. Failing to apply for scholarships.

6. Starting and/or completing the financial aid process too close to the start of the term.

Financial Aid Missteps

6.   Not reviewing the status of their admissions and/or financial aid file on the university student portal regularly.
- Residency documents
- Final high school transcript
- Citizenship documentation
- Financial aid forms

7.   Waiting well into the semester to complete the financial aid process.
- Late fees
- Dropped for non-payment
- Late disbursement of aid
- Possible poor academic performance

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Financial Aid Missteps

8. Not knowing the renewal requirements of scholarships and other financial aid funding.
   - Bright Futures Scholarships
   - Institutional Merit-Based Scholarships
   - Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)
   - Maximum timeframe to receive Pell and Federal Stafford Loans

9. Not knowing how much aid has been offered and if it will cover the expenses below.
   - Tuition and Fees (https://studentaccounts.ucf.edu/tf-tuitionratescurrent/)
   - Books/Supplies (https://finaid.ucf.edu/applying/costs/)
   - On-Campus Housing (https://www.housing.ucf.edu/costs/rates/)
   - Meal Plan (https://ucf.campusdish.com/MealPlans)

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Financial Aid Missteps

10. Not taking a participating role in the process.
    - Students should ask questions:

        - How will I purchase books/supplies at my institution?

        - Have I submitted ALL requested items to attend?

        - When will financial aid funds be disbursed?

        - What do I do if I don't have enough aid to cover my expenses?

        - What can I do if I don't meet the renewal requirements of my scholarship or financial aid?

        - Can my parents talk to financial aid/billing office without me being present?

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