

2012-13 Financial Aid Application Instructions First-Year JD Students

Applying for financial aid is separate from the admissions process. Information disclosed in the financial aid process has no bearing on the admissions evaluation process or decisions. You are encouraged to complete the financial aid application process well in advance of the deadline. Students who submit their application materials after the deadline will be considered for loan programs, but may not qualify for all financial aid programs based on the availability of funds. **All materials must be received by March 1, 2012.**

REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOLARSHIP CONSIDERATION:

The Admissions Office make all funding decisions based on a COMBINATION of merit and need-based factors. Individuals must submit the two requirements below to be considered for funding.

1. 2012-13 Need Access Application – <http://www.needaccess.org>
 - ◆ Available online starting January 3, 2012.
 - ◆ **RECEIPT DEADLINE: 5pm CST on March 1, 2012.** We recommend you submit your Need Access application by February 24th to ensure it is received by the March 1st deadline.
 - ◆ SEND TO: Select “Northwestern University School of Law” for electronic submission.
2. Scholarship Supplemental Application - Available ONLY on the admitted student website
 - ◆ Information will be sent to admitted students with instructions on how to access this site and essay.
 - ◆ **RECEIPT DEADLINE: 5pm CST on March 1, 2012.**

REQUIREMENTS FOR LOAN ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION:

We do not require any parental financial data for any part of the financial aid application. You might be required to submit additional information as needed for loan eligibility purposes and you will be sent an email if this is necessary.

1. 2012-13 Need Access Application – <http://www.needaccess.org> (If you complete a Need Access application for scholarship consideration, you do not need to complete a second application.)
 - ◆ Available online starting January 3, 2012.
 - ◆ **RECEIPT DEADLINE: 5pm CST on March 1, 2012.** We recommend you submit your Need Access application by February 24th to ensure it is received by the March 1st deadline.
 - ◆ SEND TO: Select “Northwestern University School of Law” for electronic submission.
2. 2012-13 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) - <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>
 - ◆ Available online starting January 1, 2012.
 - ◆ **RECEIPT DEADLINE: 5pm CST on March 1, 2012.** We recommend you submit your FAFSA by February 24th to ensure it is received by the March 1st deadline.
 - ◆ SEND TO: Use Northwestern University - Evanston’s federal school code of 001739.
 - If you don’t have a Personal Identification Number (PIN), you will need to apply for the PIN online at <http://www.pin.ed.gov> prior to completing the FAFSA online.
 - NOTE: Additional information may be required as needed. The Financial Aid Office will contact those individuals by email should those materials be required for determining loan eligibility.

NOTE: We strongly recommend that you file your federal tax return PRIOR to filing your FAFSA and this should be done 1-2 weeks in advanced of when you want to complete your FAFSA. Once your tax return has been processed and approved by the IRS, the FAFSA will be able to pull and auto-populate data from your federal tax return, thus simplifying the process for you. If you elect to complete your FAFSA prior to completing your federal tax return, the federal processor may select you for a process called Verification, requiring you to submit additional paperwork to the Financial Aid Office.

NOTIFICATION OF FINANCIAL AID PACKAGES

SCHOLARSHIPS – The Admissions Office will make notifications via email on a rolling basis throughout the spring, starting in mid-to-late March.

LOANS - All complete financial aid application will be reviewed in the order in which they are received. The Office of Financial Aid, Chicago will send out preliminary financial aid packages via e-mail beginning **in late March**. Students who complete their financial aid application by the above deadline will receive their preliminary financial aid packages by the deposit deadline. The deposit deadline is **April 30, 2012**. Official financial aid packages will be made available to students beginning June 4th.

CHANGES IN CIRCUMSTANCES

Notify the Office of Financial Aid, Chicago at financial-aid-chicago@northwestern.edu immediately if your financial circumstances change from what you report on your application materials. Notification of any changes in circumstances should be submitted in writing or e-mail. Failure to notify our office of such a change may jeopardize your eligibility for assistance in the current and/or subsequent academic period. A change in circumstances can include marriage, a change in enrollment, expected earnings and/or those of your spouse (if married), receipt of an outside scholarship or other monetary gift, etc. Contact a financial aid advisor if you have any questions regarding this matter.

CHECKING THE STATUS OF YOUR FAFSA:

If you provide an e-mail address on your FAFSA application, you will receive an electronic Student Aid Report (SAR) via e-mail. If you do not provide an email address on your FAFSA, you will receive a SAR in the mail. Allow one week for your FAFSA on the Web to be processed by the Central Processing Service (CPS). Please review your SAR immediately to see if you need to take further action. If you do not receive your SAR within two weeks or need a duplicate SAR, please contact the Federal Student Aid Information Center at (800) 433-3243.

IF NECESSARY, ANY ADDITIONAL COMPLETED FORMS SHOULD BE SENT TO:

Northwestern University
Office of Financial Aid, Chicago (C315)
Abbott Hall, Room 629
710 N. Lake Shore Drive
Chicago, IL 60611-3078
Phone: (312) 503-8722
Fax: (312) 503-8700
E-mail: financial-aid-chicago@northwestern.edu