

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AID

Mary L. Wigginton, Director
Administration Building, Room 203
(757) 594-7170
finaid@cnu.edu

Christopher Newport University offers financial assistance to qualified students to help pay for all or part of their college expenses. The University participates in a variety of federal, state and University programs, most of which are administered through the Office of Financial Aid. Types of available aid include scholarships, grants, loans, and student employment. Although most forms of financial aid are based on financial need, some use criteria other than financial need for eligibility. Applications and additional information are available in this office. All students are encouraged to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) annually as soon as possible after January 1st.

The University offers financial aid awards each year to qualified applicants who have been admitted to the University as degree-seeking students. Some awards are available to Virginia residents only, while others are made without regard to state residency. Most financial aid offered is based on established financial need and/or scholastic achievement. Financial need is defined as the difference between the Cost of Attendance at Christopher Newport University and the Expected Family Contribution (EFC), which is determined by submitting a completed Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to the federal processor.

To be eligible for most financial aid programs, a student must be:

- enrolled as a degree-seeking student;
- enrolled on at least a half-time basis (some programs require full-time);
- in good academic standing;
- making satisfactory academic progress;
- a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.

Financial aid is awarded for one academic year at a time but, upon reapplication and continued eligibility, may be renewed for succeeding years. The priority consideration date for applying for all financial aid administered by Christopher Newport University is March 1 for the following academic year. Students may apply for the Pell Grant and Stafford Student Loan programs on a rolling basis. New students must be admitted to the University before receiving a decision letter regarding financial aid. Announcements of financial aid decisions for first-time freshmen applying by the priority date are normally made in March.

Announcements for all other students applying by the priority date are normally made in May. The Office of Financial Aid notifies applicants of their financial aid awards in writing.

Application Requirements

To be considered for financial aid, applicants must:

- 1) Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment at the University as a degree-seeking student.
- 2) File a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) with the federal processor each year, the results of which should be received by the University's Office of Financial Aid by March 1. **CNU's federal code for the FAFSA is 003706.** To meet this deadline, students should complete the FAFSA as soon after January 1 as possible
- 3) The Financial Aid Office recommends that the completed FAFSA be submitted by February 15, which should allow it to be processed by the priority filing date.

Some paper FAFSA applications are available in the Office of Financial Aid, though the preferred method of applying is electronically. A student with access to the internet may file a FAFSA electronically at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Be sure to provide personal identification number(s) for the student (and parent, if dependent), or print, sign and mail the signature page. Only one application should be submitted.

AVAILABLE FEDERAL AND STATE PROGRAMS

Federal Programs

- Federal Pell Grant
- Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (SEOG)
- Federal Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG)
- Federal National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent Grant (SMART)
- Federal Work-Study (student employment program)
- Federal Stafford Student Loans
- Federal Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS)
- Federal Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education Grant (TEACH)

State Programs

- College Scholarship Assistance Program (CSAP)
- Two-Year College Transfer Grant Program
- Virginia Guaranteed Assistance Program (VGAP)

Virginia Commonwealth Award
Virginia Military Survivors and Dependent Education Program (VMSDEP), formerly Virginia War Orphans Education Program

Grants are considered gift aid and do not require repayment. Loan programs must be repaid, though the terms of re-payment may vary according to type and lender of the loan. The Federal Work Study program requires students to earn the award by working in an assigned position.

Grants

For specific information concerning application and eligibility for federal and state programs, please visit our financial aid website at <http://financialaid.cnu.edu/aid.html>.

College Scholarship Assistance Program (CSAP) is a need-based grant program funded by Virginia. Recipients must be Virginia residents.

Commonwealth Award is a need-based grant program funded by Virginia. Recipients must be Virginia residents.

Federal Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG) is a need-based federal grant. It requires completion of a rigorous high school program, eligibility for the Pell Grant and a 3.00 GPA. Students may only receive this grant in the freshman and sophomore years.

Federal Pell Grant is a need-based federal grant. Students must demonstrate extreme financial need.

Federal Science & Mathematics Access to Retain Talent Grant (SMART Grant) is a need-based federal grant. It requires specific science and mathematics majors, eligibility for the Pell Grant and a 3.00 GPA. Students may only receive this grant in their junior and senior years.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG) is a need-based federal grant. Students must demonstrate extreme financial need.

Federal Work Study (FWS) is a federal need-based work program that pays for the hours a student works on campus. FWS is NOT used towards a student's charges. Students are paid biweekly. Students must maintain a 2.00 average and be enrolled full-time.

Virginia Guaranteed Assistance Program (VGAP) is a need-based grant program funded by Virginia. Freshmen must graduate from a Virginia high school with a minimum GPA of 2.50 and maintain Virginia residency. Continuing students must maintain full-time enrollment and a cumulative grade point average of 2.00 or better to receive the grant.

Virginia Two-Year College Transfer Grant Program is a need-based grant program for transfer students who have received an Associate's degree at a Virginia two-year public institution. Students must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or better.

CNU Private Scholarships

Private scholarships are awarded annually to incoming and currently enrolled students from programs made possible through contributions from alumni, faculty, staff, corporations, and friends of the University. Need-based scholarships are awarded through the Office of Financial Aid and are based on information provided on the FAFSA.

Certain private, academic based scholarships are available for students with strong backgrounds in academics and leadership. These scholarships are usually awarded by the Office of Admissions or individual departments and not through the Financial Aid office – unless otherwise noted.

Student Loans

Students who need assistance in addition to those grants and scholarships listed above may want to consider the federal Stafford student loan program or request assistance through the federal PLUS Program for parents. A description of each program is listed below. Also, alternative Loan Programs are available for those who do not qualify to borrow through the Stafford and PLUS Loan Programs or who need additional funding.

Federal Stafford Student Loans

Federal Stafford Student Loans may be need-based (subsidized loans) or non-need-based (unsubsidized loans). Subsidized loans are interest free to the borrower while the borrower is enrolled on at least a half-time basis. For unsubsidized loans, the borrower is responsible for the interest during the period of enrollment. Eligible students may borrow up to \$5,500 during their freshman year, \$6,500 during their sophomore year and \$7,500 during the remaining years of undergraduate study. Independent students may borrow \$9,500 in their freshman year, \$10,500 in their second year, and \$12,500 for remaining years.

Class status is determined by the number of credits completed toward a degree, NOT by the number of semesters attended. Before a loan can be processed, including the PLUS loan, applicants must have a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on file.

Federal PLUS Loan Program

Federal PLUS loans are made to the parents of dependent students. Parents, with the absence of an adverse credit rating, may borrow up to the cost of education less any financial aid received by the student. A FAFSA must

be completed and received in the Office of Financial Aid before a PLUS loan can be certified.

Satisfactory Academic Progress

Students receiving financial aid must remain in good academic standing and must be making satisfactory academic progress toward the completion of their degree. For an explanation of what constitutes “good academic standing” and “satisfactory academic progress,” please refer to the CNU Financial Aid Guide at: <http://financialaid.cnu.edu/sap.html> or visit the Office of Financial Aid.

Estimated Cost of Attendance

Budget planning for attendance at Christopher Newport University should consider both direct and indirect costs. Direct charges are tuition and fees. For such information, see the “Tuition and Fees” section of the catalog. Indirect costs are the normal expenses for living to include books, housing, board, transportation and miscellaneous expenses.

Study Abroad/Study Away

Students who are in a degree seeking program at CNU and whose classes taken elsewhere fit into their degree program may be eligible to use their financial aid to help pay for the program. Students must contact the Financial Aid Office at least one semester in advance of their study abroad and provide documentation of eligibility. At least half time status in an approved study abroad program is required for all federal and state programs. Funding is available for less than half time through alternative private loans.

Return of Title IV Funds

If a student withdraws from CNU for any reason before 60% of the semester has been completed, CNU is required to return funds to any federal programs the student has received. The student may owe the University for charges left unpaid. This applies to unofficial withdrawals as well.

Additional Information

Students interested in receiving financial aid are strongly encouraged to read thoroughly the CNU Financial Aid Guide. The Guide is available in the Office of Financial Aid and also on the CNU Financial Aid home page at <http://financialaid.cnu.edu/>. Additional questions or information requests should be directed to the staff of the Office of Financial Aid by email at finaid@cnu.edu or by calling the office at (757)594-7170.