

How to Apply for Financial Aid

1. Apply for admission. You must be accepted for admission before financial aid offers can be made. Your application for admission is also your application for institutional scholarships. To be considered for merit based scholarships you must have your completed application for admission to the admissions office no later than April 30.

2. Apply for a Department of Education PIN (personal identification number). Apply for your PIN at www.pin.ed.gov. The PIN will serve as the electronic signature when filing the FAFSA on-line. By signing your application with PIN numbers, the FAFSA data is entered directly into the Department of Education's Central Processing System (CPS). This speeds up the processing time of your FAFSA from several weeks to just a few days.

The PIN can also be used to access other related information including:

- Access to your Student Aid Report (SAR), which is the processed FAFSA data.
- Allows you to make corrections to your application information on-line.
- Allows you to electronically sign a Master Promissory Note (MPN).
- Allows you to access the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS).

3. Complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon as possible after January 1 and include the Sioux Falls Seminary institutional code G04056 to make sure your information is forwarded to the seminary. The FAFSA can be completed online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. A .pdf copy of the FAFSA can be printed at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/options.htm>. The FAFSA is necessary to be considered for Federal Stafford Loans and Work-Study.

4. Respond quickly to requests for additional information. Sioux Falls Seminary may request additional information in order to verify the information on your FAFSA. You may be requested to provide one or more of the following documents to the Sioux Falls Seminary Financial Aid Office.

- Signed copy of your U.S. Tax Return
- Verification Worksheet
- Signature Page
- Copy of your Birth Certificate
- Copy of your Social Security Card
- Copy of Marriage License
- Copy of Selective Service Registration

5. Federal Stafford Loan (Visit <http://www.sfseminary.edu/current-students/financial-aid/federal-aid/> and follow links and fill out the forms.)

6. Investigate sources for other scholarships.

- Contact your pastor or denominational leaders
- Ask employers or organizations to which you are affiliated.
- Check with community organizations.
- Do research online or at the library.

7. Check on part-time job opportunities. Most students work part time during their time at seminary. Many find work within a ministry context that also serves as their supervised ministry experience. Contact the seminary for more information on what types of ministry positions are available for students.

8. Maintain records. Start a file and keep copies of everything sent or received regarding financial aid.

- Photocopy your FAFSA before mailing it.
- Photocopy any scholarship applications before they are mailed. If applying on-line, print out a copy before submitting.
- About 4-6 weeks after filing the FAFSA you will receive a report called the Student Aid Report (SAR).
- Respond as quickly as possible to requests from Sioux Falls Seminary for additional information.