

THE LIME NEWS

FINANCIAL LEARNING AMBASSADOR PEER TO PEER PROGRAM

UNDERSTANDING THE FINANCIAL AID PROCESS

Financial Learning Ambassador Peer Program

Are you ready to start your classes this fall semester?

An essential part of being ready is knowing how you will pay for your classes. Have you considered:

- Using federal funding to help cover your college expenses? and if so,
- How much help are you eligible for vs. how much you must pay out of pocket?

We understand that the financial aid process could be confusing and overwhelming, and the intent of this newsletter is to provide you with clarification and guidance so that you can have a more pleasant experience.

On the next pages you will learn about:

- What is FAFSA and it's different awards?
- How to obtain Financial Aid funds? and
- How is that award applied to your balance at Valencia College?



WHAT IS FAFSA?

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FAFSA stands for: Free Application for Federal Student Aid

- FREE! Students do not and should not pay to complete this application

The FAFSA is used by all schools administering Title IV aid in order to determine a student's eligibility for Federal financial aid.

Financial Aid can come in the form of Grants, Loans, Work Study Funds, and Scholarships.

When completing the application, students input personal and financial information for themselves and their parents (if dependent) for an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) to be calculated.

The FAFSA should be completed once a year, and it's available to students each October 1st.



HOW TO OBTAIN FINANCIAL AID?

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Apply

- Create an FSA ID (Federal Student Aid Identification) at fsaid.ed.gov. You and your parent(s) will need your own separate logins. You'll need this to sign the application at the end.
- If your parent(s) does not have a Social Security number, print the signature page at the end of the FAFSA application and mail it to: Financial Aid Services, District Processing 4-17, P.O. Box 3028, Orlando, FL 32802. You may also print a signature page at: valenciacollege.edu/finaid/forms-worksheets.php.
- Complete an application at: fafsa.ed.gov. The Valencia College school code is: 006750.

Required Documents to Complete the FAFSA

- Dependent student (under the age of 24):
 - You must have the Social Security numbers for yourself and your parent(s).
 - If your parent(s) does not have a Social Security number, type in nine zeros (000-00-0000).
 - Tax information from two years ago (e.g. For the 2020 – 2021 FAFSA application, you will need 2018 tax information). You and your parent(s) will be able to link the information from the IRS to your FAFSA by using the Data Retrieval Tool.
 - Household information (Number of people that will depend on your parent(s) more than 51% during the academic year).
 - Current information on assets (Cash, savings, checking accounts, etc.) for you and for your parent(s).
- Independent student (over the age of 24): You must have a Social Security number to complete the FAFSA.
 - Tax information from two years ago (e.g. for the 2020 – 2021 FAFSA application, you will need
 - 2018 tax information). You will be able to link the information from the IRS to your FAFSA using the Data Retrieval Tool.
 - Household information (Number of people that will depend on you more than 51% during the academic year).
 - Current information on your assets (Cash, savings, checking accounts, etc.).



HOW TO OBTAIN FINANCIAL AID?

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How long will my FAFSA remain effective?

One academic year at Valencia College. This includes (in order) the fall, spring and summer semesters.

If you plan to attend in the summer and then immediately register for the fall, you will need to complete two different FAFSAs (one for each academic year).

Check Your Atlas Account and Email for Pending Requirements

Steps to review outstanding requirements:

- Log into Atlas
- Go to the Students tab
- On the right side of the screen under my account, see the Financial Aid Requirements box and enter the correct academic year

If there are pending financial aid requirements listed on your Financial Aid Requirements box, you can view a detailed list of missing documents through your Financial Aid Checklist.

- Scroll down on the Students tab
- On the left side of the screen, under Student Resources, click Financial Aid
- Select My Financial Aid
- Enter the correct aid year and see your Financial Aid Checklist
- Click Follow-up Requirements
- Click the links provided to complete missing forms.

If additional documentation is requested you can submit it online at: <https://valenciacollege.edu/finaid/getting-started/obtaining-forms.php>

Monitor Your Financial Aid Package

Once all missing requirements are received, your financial aid application will be reviewed and a financial aid package notice will be sent to your Atlas email. If you do not receive this electronic notification, there is no aid available on your account.

To see authorized aid and any potential (or actual) refund on your Atlas account:

- Visit Student Resources
- Select the Financial Aid dropdown menu
- Click Term Balance Less Anticipated Financial Aid



HOW TO OBTAIN FINANCIAL AID?

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Lastly, verify course compliance

Financial aid will only pay for courses that are needed to complete your degree. Courses that do not align with your program requirements at Valencia will not be covered.

Your academic advisor is the best person to guide you as you select your courses each semester.

Students can find their advisor's name and email in Atlas by clicking on the Courses tab and scrolling down to Academic Profile. There is an email link directly from Atlas.

- Advising Website Link
<https://valenciacollege.edu/students/advising-counseling/>
- Zoom Call- <https://valenciacollege.zoom.us/j/91036113091?status=success#success>
- Advising Chat :[https://valenciacollege.edu/about/support/atlas-advising-chat-setup.php\(student will need to log-in to Atlas> Office 0365> Skype\)](https://valenciacollege.edu/about/support/atlas-advising-chat-setup.php(student%20will%20need%20to%20log-in%20to%20Atlas%20Office%200365%20Skype))

For assistance to complete your FAFSA visit the Virtual Answer Center and a Financial Learning Ambassador will help you promptly.

Click the link below to join:

<https://valenciacollege.zoom.us/j/114067187>

