

A Note from the Director of Financial Aid

Since there is such a significant change to the need based financial aid application process for 2012-13, this note is a friendly guide for those of you who will be starting the financial aid process soon.

Applicants and parents of applicants, who indicate that they have filed their 2011 federal tax return prior to completing their FAFSA, and who are otherwise eligible, will be directed to use the online **IRS Data Retrieval Tool to import their IRS data directly into their FAFSA** and complete the application process more accurately.

Applicants and parents of applicants who choose not to use the FAFSA/ IRS Data Retrieval process will be selected for verification. Families who are selected for verification will no longer be able to provide signed copies of the tax returns to verify the data that was reported on the FAFSA. Instead, the families must provide federal tax information obtained directly from the IRS.

I encourage you read very carefully the FAQs on the last page for more details about the Office of Federal Student Aid's mandate that beginning in 2012-13 schools can only accept the families' tax information from the IRS.

Please feel free to contact our office with any questions that you have about any facet of the need based financial aid process.

Good luck to you as you begin your second semester of the 2011-12 academic year!

Nancy Hoover,
Director of Financial Aid

ONE FINAL NOTE:

If you do not plan on filing a FAFSA for the 2012-13 academic year PLEASE NOTIFY our office: finaid@denison.edu



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CONTACT OUR OFFICE:

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FEDERAL LOAN UPDATE

Students must file the FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov to be eligible for federal student or parent loans.

Base student loan eligibility is determined, in part, by academic grade level:

- First year: \$3,500
- Sophomore: \$4,500
- Junior: \$5,500
- Senior: \$5,500

In addition, some students are eligible to borrow an additional \$2,000 unsubsidized loan each year, depending on the total aid package. The cumulative loan debt for dependent undergraduate students is \$31,000.

FEDERAL STUDENT LOAN INTEREST RATES:

- **Subsidized Student Loans— Fixed at 6.8% for 2012-13**
- **Unsubsidized Student Loans – Fixed at 6.8% for 2012-13**
- **Parent Loan for undergraduate Students (PLUS) –** Parents may borrow from the Federal Parent Loan for Students (PLUS) program to cover the cost of education less any financial aid received. **Fixed at 7.9%**

ORIGINATION FEES:

- **Student Loans** (*Subsidized and Unsubsidized*) – **1% for 2012-13**
- **Plus loans at 4% for 2012 -13**

During the application process at www.studentloans.gov, parents can request a deferment of PLUS loan payments until six months after the student graduates, although interest does accrue on the loan during the period of deferment. If you have a prior PLUS loan, you may be eligible for this deferment. Call the PLUS Loan Helpline at **1-800-557-7394** for more information.



OFF-CAMPUS STUDY AND FINANCIAL AID

If you intend to participate in an off campus program at any point during the 2012-13 academic year, please note that financial aid deadlines have been established.

Denison MUST receive your FAFSA by APRIL 1, 2012 if you wish to be considered for financial aid from Denison for your program.

Please note that it takes at least three days for our office to receive your FAFSA, so you will want to submit it to the Department of Education by March 28. Any required documents must be submitted to the Financial Aid Office by April 15th. If requested documents are not received by that deadline, you WILL NOT be eligible to receive aid from Denison to attend your program. You will only be eligible to receive federal and state aid to help with the cost of your off-campus program.

OTHER IMPORTANT NOTES:

- **Work closely with Denison’s Student Accounts Office** to be sure that any financial aid is forwarded to the off-campus program.
- **Submit an academic transcript to Denison’s Registrar’s Office** after completion of your semester in the off-campus program in order to retain eligibility for all types of need-based financial aid.
- **Denison merit awards cannot be used for off-campus study programs.**

Important FINANCIAL AID Dates to Remember!

- January 16** • Registration and first day of classes
- January 23** • Martin Luther King Day Celebration
(No classes to allow for campus-wide participation)
- March 9** • Spring Break begins
- March 19** • Classes Resume
- March 28** • **FAFSA Filing Deadline for Off-Campus Study Financial Aid**

- April 2** • Pre-registration for Fall Semester begins
- April 15** • **Financial Aid File must be complete for Off-Campus Study Financial Aid**
- April 30** • Classes End
- May 2-8** • Final Examinations

IRS DATA RETRIEVAL & VERIFICATION ? -YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED!

Q. When will the IRS Data Retrieval Tool be available to import the 2011 tax information into the FAFSA on line?

A. February 1, 2012

Q. If I file my taxes electronically, when will I be able to import my tax data into FAFSA from the IRS Data Retrieval Tool?

A. 1 to 2 weeks after electronically filing your tax return

Q. If I file my taxes in paper format, when will I be able to import my tax data into FAFSA from the IRS Data Retrieval Tool?

A. 6 to 8 weeks after filing a paper return

Q. If I file the FAFSA on estimated information, will I be able to make corrections to the FAFSA data and use the IRS Data Retrieval?

A. Yes.

Q. Are all applicants and their parents eligible to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool?

A. No. You will not be able to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool if:

- Applicant or parent(s) of dependent applicant complete the FAFSA on estimated tax data prior to filing an IRS Tax Return
- Parents of the dependent applicant are married and filed separate tax returns
- Parents of the dependent applicant are separated or divorced and filed a joint 2011 tax return
- Applicant or parent(s) of dependent applicant filed an amended tax return
- Applicant or parent(s) of dependent applicant filed a foreign tax return
- Applicant or parent(s) of dependent applicant who file an IRS Extension (IRS Form 4868)

Q. If I am not eligible to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool, how do I get my IRS data submitted to the school?

A. If the tax filer is not eligible to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool, he or she must request the 2011 IRS Tax Return Transcript which is available on the IRS Web site at www.irs.gov. Here is a [LINK](#) to the Financial Aid web site with detailed instructions for requesting the IRS transcript- Upon receipt of the IRS Transcript, the tax filer must submit it to our office to complete the verification process.

Q. If the applicant [or parent(s) of a dependent applicant] files an IRS Extension (Form 4868), will the school delay verifying the FAFSA data?

A. No, if the documentation of the extension and the copies of W-2 forms, if applicable, are submitted, we will verify the data and determine the need based financial aid eligibility, but you will be required to provide IRS data when the tax return is complete.

Q. What happens if I import IRS data through the IRS Data Retrieval Tool into the FAFSA and change the data?

A. Any applicant and/or the parent(s) of the applicant who modify the IRS data imported into the FAFSA will be required to submit an IRS Tax Return Transcript before verification can be completed.

Q. What if I am unable to complete the IRS Data Retrieval process in time to meet the April 15 deadline for file completion for attending an off campus program?

A. You will need to contact the Financial Aid Office to discuss options

Q. If our FAFSA data is selected for verification, what other information will be verified for 2012-13?

A. Other information would include:

- Household size and number in college
- Untaxed IRA distributions
- Untaxed pensions
- Education Credits
- IRA Deductions
- W-2 earnings
- Tax Exempt Interest
- Food Stamps received
- Child support paid

Q. Can't I just send you my tax return?

A. Beginning in 2012-13, **all federal tax return information** must be from the IRS.