

MONEY MATTERS

The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships



FILE YOUR 2020-21 FAFSA NOW!

The 2020-21 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is available now. To ensure you receive priority consideration for all types of financial assistance, the federal government must receive your 2020-21 FAFSA by March 1, 2020. This is JMU's priority filing date. In some cases, filing later can reduce your chances of receiving certain types of financial aid, including state grants.

Please note that meeting the priority filing date does not guarantee that you will receive university or state grant dollars. The number of eligible students and the size of our annual funding allocations are significant factors in determining whether sufficient funds are available to award all those who qualify.

If you filed a FAFSA before, make sure it includes your current email address. Otherwise, you may not receive important information from the Department of Education regarding your ability to submit a Renewal FAFSA for the 2020-21 school year. Since the Renewal FAFSA includes many of the answers that you provided on your prior year application, you will have fewer questions to answer.

Submitting a FAFSA comes with no strings attached. The application is free and available online at www.fafsa.gov.

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TAXES AND DATA RETRIEVAL TOOL

The 2020-21 FAFSA will collect 2018 tax information. Whenever possible, we recommend that students and parents use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool (DRT) to transfer data directly into their FAFSA from the IRS website. This makes the process of completing the FAFSA less cumbersome and reduces the likelihood that you will be selected for verification.

Students selected for verification must provide our office with documentation to show that their FAFSA is correct. At the very least, use of the IRS DRT will reduce the amount of supplemental information we need to collect to complete the verification process.

ANNUAL NOTICE OF CONSUMER INFORMATION

Each year the Financial Aid office is required to send a notice of consumer information to all students, faculty and staff.

This year's notice was emailed on September 25th and can be viewed here:

https://jmu.edu/financialaid/docs/Annual_Financial_Aid_Consumer_Information_Notice_2019.pdf



THE FAFSA IS AN APP

Students and parents can complete the 2020-21 FAFSA using the myStudentAid mobile app. The myStudentAid app is available for both iOS and Android phones. The app provides guidance on how to complete the FAFSA questions, making the overall process more engaging and user-friendly.

Key features of myFAFSA include:

1. Students can begin, complete, and submit a new or renewal FAFSA
2. The same data protections as completing the FAFSA form through fafsa.gov.
3. The IRS Data Retrieval Tool can still be used to electronically transfer federal tax return information into a FAFSA form.
4. Students from participating states will be eligible to transfer their FAFSA information into their state aid application. Participating states include IA, MN, MS, NJ, NY, PA, and VT.
5. Students will be able to view additional information about the schools they selected on their FAFSA form for easy comparison.

DATES TO REMEMBER

October 1st - 2020/21 FAFSA becomes available

November 4th - Spring registration begins

November 14th - Withdrawal deadline for 2nd block classes