

# MONEY MATTERS

The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships



## FILE YOUR 2022-23 FAFSA

The 2022-23 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 FAFSA by March 1, 2022 (JMU's priority filing date). In some cases, filing later can reduce your chances of receiving certain types of financial aid, including state grants.

However, it is important to note that meeting the priority filing date does not guarantee 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 2022-23 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.studentaid.gov](http://www.studentaid.gov).

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## DATA RETRIEVAL TOOL OUTAGES

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Data Retrieval Tool (DRT) will be unavailable on the following dates and times during the month of November 2021:

- Tuesday, Nov. 2; 1–5 a.m. Eastern time (ET)
- Saturday, Nov. 13; 1–5 a.m. ET
- Saturday, Nov. 20; 8 a.m.–noon ET

During these outage periods, users will still be able to access the FASFA (website and mobile app). However, if an action requires entry of federal tax information, it will need to be provided manually. Applicants may wish to complete the FAFSA after the outages are over.

## DISCOUNTED INTERNET FROM COMCAST FOR PELL GRANT RECIPIENTS

Pell Grant recipients can receive reduced internet from Comcast through the company’s Internet Essentials offering. Students who qualify for the Pell Grant could get internet for as low as \$10 a month through the company.

To apply and prove eligibility, students will need to provide their financial aid award letter showing they have a Pell Grant award.



## FINANCIAL AID ELIGIBLE HOURS

Federal regulations stipulate that you can only receive financial aid for classes that are required for you to graduate.

### CLASSES THAT COUNT

- GenEd requirements
- Major
- Minor
- Electives used to reach 120 credit hours

### WHAT SHOULD I DO IF MY CLASS ISN'T AID ELIGIBLE?

- If you are aware of the non-eligible course(s) but your schedule won't be changing, let us know and we can adjust your budget and aid for the semester.
- Adjust your schedule to increase the number of FA eligible hours.
- Contact your advisor to see if the class is really needed.
- Contact your advisor and submit an appeal.

### where to look?



My Class Schedule has an "Eligible for Financial Aid" column

### WHAT TYPES OF AID DOES THIS AFFECT?

- Federal and State aid (including grants, loans and federal work study)
- University grant programs
- Private educational loans.

### WHAT ABOUT MY SCHOLARSHIP?

Scholarship eligibility is based on registered hours vs. financial aid eligible hours.

### DO I HAVE TO BE FULL-TIME TO RECEIVE FINANCIAL AID?

As long as a student is enrolled in at least 6 financial aid eligible credits, they are still eligible to receive financial aid.

This may make it more cost effective to drop the unnecessary course(s). Contact our office to discuss options.

### KEEP IN MIND

- An appeal cannot be granted if you are taking a class for personal reasons and/or to be more competitive for grad school.
- Make sure you have declared all desired plans (majors, minors, concentrations, etc).
- If your course is replacing one from your degree plan, a course directive may be needed to remedy the situation. Meet with your advisor to discuss.

### NEED TO SUBMIT AN APPEAL?

If the course is:

- Required for your major/minor.
- Required in order to raise your GPA (major, minor, cumulative).
- Required in order to replace test/transfer credit.
- Required to achieve 50% of required cumulative credit hours earned from a 4-year institution.

Access the appeal form by going to: [www.jmu.edu/financialaid/forms](http://www.jmu.edu/financialaid/forms)

### QUESTIONS?

If you have additional questions, contact us at: [finaid\\_compliance@jmu.edu](mailto:finaid_compliance@jmu.edu)

## DATES TO REMEMBER

November 2nd - Add with Permission (2nd Block)

November 3rd - Attendance Verification begins (2nd Block)

November 8th - Spring registration begins

November 16th - Withdrawal deadline (2nd Block)