



#### Brookline College Online Financial Aid FAQ's:

- **What is the FAFSA?**

-FAFSA stands for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Normally, students who are considering using Federal Grants, work-study, or Direct Stafford Loans to cover their tuition costs will complete the FAFSA online for the current award year by visiting [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).

**\* Before completing the FAFSA you must apply for a FAFSA PIN number which you will use to sign and submit your application. To apply for your FAFSA PIN please visit [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov)**
- **What do I need to complete the FAFSA?**

-Aside from your FAFSA PIN, you will also need our school code 015681. If you are a tax filer, you may need access to your prior year's tax returns to complete the tax portion of your FAFSA.

**\* You can automatically transfer your tax information from the IRS to your FAFSA by using the IRS-Data Retrieval Tool. Please be on a look out for this option while completing your FAFSA.**
- **My FAFSA was selected for Verification, what does this mean, and what should I do next?**

-Once your application has processed, it may be selected for a processed called Verification. Depending on the type of Verification your application was selected for, we may be required to cross verify information you provided on your FAFSA with supporting documents. We strongly encourage you to contact us here in Financial Aid, and work with us on satisfying Verification requirements.

**\*Please be aware, if selected it is imperative that we fully complete Verification so that you may be eligible for financial aid.**
- **My FAFSA was selection for Verification and I have the documents needed to complete the process, where do I send these?**

-For your convenience, Brookline College Online offers various methods of sending and receiving sensitive documents including; mail, fax, email and the option to complete certain documents electronically. Please contact us here in Financial Aid to determine the most productive method of sending and receiving Verification Documents.
- **I am a Dependent student completing my FAFSA; will the application process be different for me?**

-Yes; as a dependent student, your parent will also need to apply for a FAFSA PIN number. Once you and your parent have your pin numbers, you and your parent will complete the FAFSA together. Please have your parent pay close attention to their portion of the FAFSA as this may request tax information. Afterwards, you and your parent will sign and submit your application.

**\* For more information on what it means to be a Dependent student, please visit [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov) .**
- **I was recently enrolled at another school and was using Financial Aid; will I be eligible for Financial Aid now?**

-We will make every effort to research your previous Financial Aid usage at other campuses to help determine your eligibility for Financial Aid here at Brookline College Online. One resource that we, use and you have access to, is NSLDS-The National Student Loan Data System which is a listing of your Financial Aid usage throughout your educational career. You may access this information by visiting [www.nsls.ed.gov](http://www.nsls.ed.gov) .
- **I am a continuing Brookline College Online student and was contacted to complete another FAFSA, why?**

-Because eligibility for federal student aid does not carry over from one award year to the next, you need to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for **each award year** in which you are or plan to be a student. Your eligibility for financial aid can differ from year to year for various reasons, including your family's financial situation and the number of your family members enrolled in college.

Often, you may be eligible to use the "FAFSA Renewal" option on the application, however, it is imperative that you review the information that was transferred from your previous FAFSA for any errors or necessary updates.

\* Please contact us directly here in the Financial Aid department if you need assistance with completing the current award years FAFSA.

➤ **I've completed my FAFSA, spoken with an FA Advisor and am eligible for Financial Aid, what next?**

-If you plan on using the Financial Aid that you are eligible for, you must review and complete the terms and agreements called The Master Promissory Note. The MPN is a promissory note that can be used to make one or more loans for one or more academic years (up to 10 years). There are two types of MPNs in the Direct Loan Program: one for Direct Subsidized/Unsubsidized Loans and one for Direct PLUS Loans.

-Next, you will need to complete the Entrance Counseling; the EC explains the obligations you agree to meet as a condition of receiving a Direct Loan. The topics within the EC include: Understand Your Loans, Manage Your Spending, Plan to Repay, Avoid Default, Make Finances a Priority.

\* If you need assistance with either of these two documents, please contact us directly here in the Financial Aid Department. Otherwise, you may access these documents by visiting [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov).

➤ **I am a returning student and have already completed the current award year FAFSA and all other documents. Do I still need to speak with Financial Aid?**

-Yes; sometimes the re-entry process may seem redundant in nature, however, it is imperative that we make every effort to comb through your Financial Aid file to bring everything up to date. Please contact our Financial Aid department as soon as possible if you plan on re-entering. Often, our records may indicate a concerning previous outstanding balance that may need to be addressed by our Student Loan Management department. If this may be the case, please call them directly at 877-589-2428 ext.: 7008.

➤ **What is Responsible Borrowing?**

-Responsible Borrowing is a term used to describe a well informed decision regarding borrowing credit or loans. Within the educational environment; if you happen to be borrowing Direct Stafford Loans, it is in your best interest that you consider using these loans for educational purposes only. All loans are as such, a loan, that has been disbursed to you upon the expectation that it is repaid.

\* We strongly encourage you to contact us directly here in the Financial Aid department to further discuss Responsible Borrowing, loans that you have borrowed, the expectation to pay back your loans, interest that may accrue on your loans, and all other questions regarding Direct Stafford Loans. You may also visit [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov) for more information loan repayment.

➤ **I have graduated or otherwise discontinued my enrollment with Brookline College Online; do I need to speak with Financial Aid?**

-Yes; if you have graduated and have been using Financial Aid it is imperative that you schedule an appointment with a Financial Aid advisor to review your current account status. Similarly, if you plan on dropping a class, course, choosing a different degree path or canceling your enrollment we strongly recommend that you speak with your Financial Aid advisor to assist you with the process.

\*\*If you are graduating or otherwise separating from the college, please make sure that you complete the Exit Counseling by visiting [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov).

➤ **I am no longer able to access my class(s) online, could this be Financial Aid related?**

-There are a number of factors to consider if you happen to lose access to Moodle-The Student Portal; we strongly recommend that you reach out to your Student Services Advisor by calling them directly or using the main line 800-435-6555 to review your access.