Financial Aid

What types of financial aid are available at the College?

As a student at the College, you may qualify for federal, state and local financial aid including the: Federal Pell Grant; Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG); Federal Work Study Program; Alabama Student Assistance Programs and the College's Local Scholarships.

How do I know if it is worth applying for financial aid?

Unfortunately, that's not an easy question to answer. Because many factors (e.g. household size, number of family members in college, income, certain assets, etc.) are considered in the determination of your eligibility for financial aid, it is difficult to estimate your eligibility based on income alone. The Financial Aid Office recommends that every student apply for financial aid at least once to have his or her eligibility reviewed.

How do I apply for Financial Aid?

To apply for both federal and local financial aid programs, you must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Students need to complete the FAFSA online at https://studentaid.gov/.

What is the FSA IS and how do I obtain one?

An FSA ID is a username and password that you must use to log in to certain U.S. Department of Education (ED) websites. Your FSA ID identifies you as someone who has the right to access your own personal information on ED websites such as the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) at studentaid.gov. If you are a parent of a dependent student, you will need your own FSA ID if you want to sign your child's FAFSA electronically. If you have more than one child attending college, you will use the same FSA ID to sign all applications.

Please note: Each FSA ID user must have a unique e-mail address.

The FAFSA asks for the the College's Federal School Code. What is it?

The College's Federal School Code is 005692.

What are the application deadlines or suggested completion dates for the filing of a FAFSA?

Students are able to complete the FAFSA beginning October 1st of the year they will enroll in college. The Financial Aid Office recommends that students complete the FAFSA as early as

possible. Any required financial aid forms (example: verification forms if necessary) should be completed each year by April 1st. This allows for processing time. Financial aid normally takes 4 to 6 weeks to process from the time you complete the FAFSA through submitting any required documentation to the Financial Aid Office for processing.

Students must file the FAFSA each and every year that they attend college.

How do I make corrections to my SAR?

The SAR is the student aid report. It is the output document that a student receives from filing the FAFSA. On this document a student can find out their EFC (expected family contribution) and whether they are PELL Grant eligible. It also lets a student know of loan eligibility, however, RSTC does not participate in the Federal Loan Program. Students sometimes make errors in the filing of the FAFSA. Corrections to a SAR can be made by logging into the FAFSA at https://studentaid.gov/ and log in. Click on the blue link that states "make correction to processed FAFSA." Sign and resubmit the FAFSA once your corrections are made. The financial aid office will receive the new SAR in 3 to 5 days.

Does applying as an independent student increase my financial aid eligibility?

The financial aid eligibility of an independent student is determined solely from a review of his or her own (and spouses, if applicable) information as reported on the FAFSA. It is important to note that a student cannot simply decide to file as an independent student. He or she must meet one of the criteria for financial aid purposes to be considered independent

I was selected for federal verification. What does that mean?

Verification is a process the Department of Education uses to make sure that the information reported on the FAFSA is accurate and true. Some FAFSA applications are selected because of inconsistent information and others are chosen at random. For applications that are selected, the Financial Aid Office requests copies of a student's and parents' (if dependent) federal tax transcripts and W-2s as well as completion of a verification form and other documents as needed. The Financial Aid Office then compares information on the tax transcripts and other documents to the FAFSA and corrects any errors. The student is notified of any corrections made and the effect the changes have had on his or her aid eligibility.

When will I know how much financial aid I am eligible to receive?

An email will be sent to the student's email account. The email will provide instructions on accessing the financial aid package through the students MyRSTC account.

What information is included with my award package?

The financial aid package include all the aid that a student is eligible to receive. Pell Grants are included. Also, the package contains important cost information and instructions on what to do next. The information on your financial aid package may be found via your student MyRSTC account.

Have you received my FAFSA?

When the College receives your FAFSA, you will get an e-mail from us in your student e-mail account with further instructions.

What is the status of my financial aid?

Follow the instructions sent to your student e-mail account to login to your MyRSTC account. View the student requirements list, and make sure all your requirements are marked "satisfied." Once they are all satisfied, the Financial Aid Office will complete the processing of your application. You will receive an award notification in your student e-mail account in 7-10 business days. Even after you receive your award notification, login to your myRSTC account to ensure all paperwork needed by the College has been submitted.