

Graduate Financial Aid Programs



Please refer to our website to determine which year FAFSA is necessary for your academic term.

The priority deadline for receipt of the FAFSA results and all additional necessary paperwork by the Financial Aid office is six weeks prior to the start date of the term. FAFSA results and additional paperwork received after this date will continue to be reviewed and aid awarded accordingly. If FAFSA results and all necessary paperwork are not received before the term ends, aid eligibility may be denied for that term.

Payment Plans

Unfortunately, sometimes financial aid does not fully cover your educational expenses with SUNY Empire. If you find that after financial aid has been determined you still owe a balance, you may pay the remaining balance in full or through a payment plan.

- Tuition deferrals for veteran students receiving Chapter 31 or 33 benefits (which are paid directly to the school) will be automatically initiated upon receipt of the student's certificate of eligibility (COE).
- Veteran students who are eligible and using chapter benefits other than 31 or 33 may sign up for a payment plan with no application fee. This allows eligible veterans to defer payment until the third and fourth months of the term, at which time one half of the veteran's deferral will be due by the first of the month. To sign up, please complete the Veteran's Request for Deferral form online at www.esc.edu/SFSforms, click on "Military and Veterans."
- All other students may enroll in the college's Time Payment Plan. The Time Payment Plan allows you to pay your registration charges in three convenient installments. The Time Payment Plan has a nonrefundable application fee of \$25 per term. You also must pay your one-third down payment by the term payment due date to avoid cancellation of your registration.

You can enroll in the Time Payment Plan by accepting the terms and conditions of the plan. You can do this online at MyESC — www.esc.edu/MyESC, click on the Student Accounts icon, then use the Touchnet Portal icon.

The second time payment is due on the 15th day of the month following the start date of the term.

This guide is intended to assist you in understanding the most common types of grants, loans and institutional aid awarded to our students.

SUNY Empire State College is committed to giving every qualified student with the desire to complete a degree the ability to do so. This brochure outlines the most common forms of financial aid that our students receive and provides information on the Time Payment Plan. We encourage students to use this brochure in conjunction with our Step-by-Step Guide to Financial Aid which provides a detailed description of the application process. You may access this booklet online at www.esc.edu/FinancialAid, obtain one at your local campus, learning hub, or email the Financial Aid office to have the guide mailed to you.

What type of financial aid is available at SUNY Empire?

SUNY Empire's Financial Aid office assists in administering funds from a variety of federal and state sources to students on the basis of need. Need is determined by a formula set by the funding source, and consistently applied to applications for aid. Your need and income determine whether you will receive financial aid. Three types of financial aid are available.

1. Grants and Scholarships

Grants and scholarships are money that does not need to be repaid. In addition to federal and state grants, the SUNY Empire State College Foundation offers a number of scholarships for eligible students. For a complete list of financial aid resources available from the SUNY Empire Foundation and links to free online scholarship searches, please review our website (www.esc.edu/FinancialAid). To apply for scholarships through the SUNY Empire Foundation, please also submit an application at www.esc.edu/escfast. Priority deadlining is June 30.

2. Loans

Loans (money that students borrow which must be repaid with interest) are granted for expenses directly related to college study.

3. Work Study

Federal Work Study provides funds that are earned through employment for undergraduate

The final time payment is due on the 15th of the following month.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Master Promissory Note for a Subsidized/Unsubsidized Loan (MPN)?

All students are required to complete an MPN for Federal Direct Loans. Once activated, the MPN is valid for 10 years. You can go to <http://www.studentloans.gov> to complete the MPN online. If you fail to complete and submit the required MPN, you will not receive your loan funds and may owe a balance to the college.

Do I need to complete a new MPN if I borrowed a Federal Stafford Loan in the past?

You are required to have a valid Master Promissory Note (MPN) on file with the Direct Lending Program. If you have already borrowed a Federal Direct Loan in the past 10 years at another institution, you are not required to complete a new MPN. If you have only borrowed student loans through the Family Federal Education Loan (FFEL) Program, you are required to complete a new MPN with the Direct Lending Program.

How do I defer my student loan payments while I am in school?

If you have a federal student loan that has entered repayment and you have re-entered school, you may receive an in-school deferment for that loan. On a monthly basis, the Office of the Registrar electronically submits enrollment data to lenders to use for in-school deferments. Students can ask the registrar to send information to their lenders by completing the in-school deferment form online at www.esc.edu/Registrar. Students should address questions to the Student Information Center at 800-847-3000.

What happens if I received federal aid at another school?

Federal regulations stipulate the student's annual maximum awards. Therefore, if you have received federal aid at another college for the same financial aid year, your federal student aid eligibility (including student loans) at SUNY Empire may be reduced retroactively. You cannot receive financial aid for the same term at more than one school.

and graduate students with financial need. Please review our website (www.esc.edu/FederalWorkStudy).

What must I do to be eligible?

1. The first step in the application process for federal student aid is to apply for a FSA ID. A FSA ID is a username and password that you must use to log in to certain Federal Student Aid websites. You can create your FSA ID at <https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm>.
2. File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.esc.edu/FinancialAid or www.FAFSA.ed.gov. The federal school code is 010286. Assistance in completing the form may be directed to Federal Student Aid Information Center at 800-4-FED-AID.
3. Submit any additional items requested by the Financial Aid office. To expedite this process you may view the "How to Apply" section of the chart located in this document and submit the additional items noted.
4. Enroll as a matriculated student.
5. Maintain good academic standing. See www.esc.edu/GradStudents.

Please note graduate advanced certificate programs are not eligible for federal financial aid unless you also are a matriculated student in a graduate degree program.

Answers to specific questions may be directed to the college's Student Information Center in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. at 800-847-3000 or emailed to FinancialAid@esc.edu.

When should I apply for aid?

The Financial Aid office encourages every student to complete the FAFSA three months before the expected start date. The online process becomes available each year on October 1, but a FSA ID can be created at any time. The paper FAFSA will be rejected if it is mailed before October 1.

We recommend applying for financial aid concurrent with your application to the school. Existing students should file a new FAFSA for the coming financial aid year (which starts with the May term) shortly after October 1 of the preceding year.

I'm already registered for classes as a matriculated student but my financial aid hasn't been awarded yet, am I required to make a payment?

Your financial aid file is not considered complete until the Financial Aid office has received all of the required forms. Once complete, all of the documents submitted to our office must be reviewed before aid can be determined. If you have registered for your classes and financial aid is not available for the term on the payment due date, you are required to make payment or payment arrangements. Please contact the Student Information Center at 800-847-3000 or contact the Financial Aid office at FinancialAid@esc.edu.

Changing Schools

Financial aid cannot be "transferred" from one school to another. Each college or university assesses your need and eligibility based upon its own costs and its own aid programs.

Please make sure that your Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA) data gets released to your new school. You may do this online using your FSA ID, by going to www.FAFSA.ed.gov and selecting "Make Corrections to a Processed FAFSA." Add the new school's federal school code. SUNY Empire's federal school code is 010286.

Additional Information

All brochure information is applicable beginning with the Summer Term 2021. Any additional documentation requested by the school must be submitted by the student in order for financial aid to be determined.

We encourage students to go to our website (www.esc.edu/FinancialAid) for more detailed and up-to-date information regarding financial aid.

For SUNY Empire financial aid assistance, call 518-587-2100 or 800-847-3000; email FinancialAid@esc.edu.

**For help completing the FAFSA
800-4-FED-AID**

Aid Program	Who is Eligible?	Amount Available	How to Apply
Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education Grant (TEACH)	<p>Matriculated, graduate students in the MAT program who are U.S. citizens or eligible noncitizens enrolled in course work that is necessary to complete a career in teaching or plans to complete such course work.* Student must complete the FAFSA. Student must maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 3.25.</p> <p>* You must serve as a full-time, highly qualified teacher in a high-need field at a low-income school for a total of at least four academic years within eight calendar years after you completed or withdrew from the academic program for which you received the TEACH Grant.</p>	<p>Up to \$4,000 per year to students who intend to teach in a public or private elementary or secondary school that serves students from low-income families. Aggregate maximum of \$8,000 for graduate studies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you receive a TEACH Grant but do not complete the required teaching service, you will be required to repay the grants as a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan, with interest charged from the date of each TEACH Grant disbursement. 	<p>Complete all sections of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Student must list SUNY Empire State College (school code 010286) as the school of record on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.</p> <p>Student also must complete the TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve and complete TEACH Grant counseling requirements.</p>
Veterans Tuition Awards (VTA)	<p>Matriculated graduate students who are New York state residents discharged under other than dishonorable conditions from the U.S. armed forces and who are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vietnam veterans who served in Indochina between December 22, 1961 and May 7, 1975. Persian Gulf veterans who served in the Persian Gulf on or after August 2, 1990. Afghanistan veterans who served in Afghanistan during hostilities on or after September 11, 2001. Veterans of the armed forces of the United States who served in hostilities that occurred after February 28, 1961, as evidenced by receipt of an Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Navy Expeditionary Medal or a Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal. 	<p>For full-time study (defined as 12 credits), a recipient shall receive an award of up to the full cost of graduate tuition for New York state residents at the State University of New York, or actual tuition charged, whichever is less.</p> <p>For part-time study (defined as 3–11 credits), awards will be prorated.</p>	<p>To establish eligibility for the initial year, complete a Veterans Tuition Award Supplement from HESC at 888-697-4372. Then for full-time graduate study — complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and an Express TAP Application (ETA). Part-time graduate study — complete only the Veterans Tuition Award Supplement. All applications must be completed by May 1 of the academic year for which an award is sought.</p>
Unsubsidized Federal Direct Stafford Loan — 5.28 percent fixed interest rate for loans disbursed between July 1, 2021, and June 30, 2022	<p>Matriculated graduate students enrolled at least half time (5 credits), who are U.S. citizens, nationals, or resident aliens. Student must not be in default on a federal student loan or owe a repayment of federal funds. Student must maintain good academic standing. The amount borrowed in conjunction with estimated financial aid cannot exceed SUNY Empire’s budget.</p>	<p>Amounts include funds students may receive from the subsidized Direct Loan program. Graduate students: \$20,500 maximum per academic year. Graduate cumulative maximum of \$138,500 including Federal Subsidized Loans received for undergraduate study.</p>	<p>Complete all sections of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. The student also must complete the Entrance Loan Counseling Form and a Master Promissory Note for Subsidized/Unsubsidized Loan (MPN) online at www.studentloans.gov. The MPN is valid for 10 years. Loans must be repaid with interest, so students should borrow only what they need.</p>
Direct PLUS loans for Graduate Students — 6.28 percent fixed interest rate for loans disbursed between July 1, 2021, and June 30, 2022	<p>Graduate students may apply for a Direct PLUS loan to help pay for their educational expenses. The student must be matriculated, attend at least half time (5 credits), and be a U.S. Citizen or eligible noncitizen. The student must not have an adverse credit history (a credit check will be done).</p>	<p>Up to the cost of attendance minus any other financial aid.</p>	<p>Complete all sections of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. The student also must complete the Direct PLUS Loan Application and Master Promissory Note online at www.studentloans.gov. Student must have applied for the maximum eligibility in Federal Direct Stafford loans before receiving a PLUS loan.</p>
Federal Work Study (FWS)	<p>Matriculated graduate students who are enrolled at least half time (5 credits), and not in default or owing a refund of federal funds. Need based on a federal formula. Student must maintain good academic standing. Number of awards determined by the Financial Aid office.</p>	<p>Award based on need. Typical award is \$4,000 per year.</p>	<p>Complete the FAFSA indicating “yes” for work study. Students are not automatically granted FWS unless they had the award the prior year. Contact the Federal Work Study coordinator at Work.Study@esc.edu for additional information if you would like to participate in the Federal Work Study program.</p>
SUNY Graduate Diversity Fellowship Program (GDFFP)	<p>This fellowship will assist the college in the recruitment, enrollment, and retention of students in master’s-level programs who can demonstrate that they will contribute to the diversity of the student body in their program, especially those who can demonstrate that they have overcome a disadvantage or other impediment to success in higher education. Preference is given to applicants who have not yet enrolled as matriculated graduate students at SUNY Empire.</p>	<p>Full tuition and fees plus a small stipend for the fall and spring terms. Other federal and state financial aid may be reduced if the student is already funded up to SUNY Empire’s standard student budget.</p>	<p>Contact the School for Graduate Studies Grad@esc.edu www.esc.edu/GradStudents</p>

Disclaimer

The chart above lists the most common student aid programs. Additional information in regard to New York state grants, institutional grants and scholarships, external scholarships, and alternative loan programs can be found at www.esc.edu/FinancialAid