HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Financial Aid *News*

Volume 5, Issue 4 **August 2026**

Look for Financial Aid events happening during the semester, important information about student loans, financial literacy, and featured information in our financial literacy newsletter! File the 2026-2027 FAFSA. You may be eligible for PELL, TAG, CCOG, EOF or NJSTARS grants! Go to studentaid.gov to begin.

Back to School Checklist

Did you file your FAFSA application? File by September 15 to meet state deadlines if you are a new student.

Did you register for classes? Courses close out fast and you may not get the schedule that meets your timetable, so register NOW!

Is your financial aid file complete with all missing documents? Go to Liberty Link https://libertylink.hccc.edu/Student/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2fStudent

Did you purchase your books? Book voucher is available now until September 18. Check your HCCC emails to see if you qualify.

Did you make a payment plan if your financial aid doesn't cover your tuition? Go to Student Accounts to set up your payment plan

Have you created an NJFAMS account for state grants? Go to https://njfams.hesaa.org/NJFAMS/login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fNJFAMS%2fint%2fFinAid%2findex.aspx

Have you applied for a Federal Work-Study job to work on campus? Go to https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/019e6fba5fb272899b4ca6ca9881013c

If you can say yes to all these questions, you are ready to start school!

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Important Direct Loan Changes for the 2026-2027 Award Year!

If you plan to borrow a Direct Loan and enroll less than full-time at any point during the academic year, the amount you can borrow may be reduced under a new federal calculation called the Schedule of Reductions (SOR).

This change comes from the Working Families Tax Cuts Act (Pub. L. 119-21), signed into law on July 4, 2025. Final regulations are still pending, so some details may be updated before disbursements begin.

What Is Changing?

Under the prior rules, your annual loan limit was based mostly on your grade level and dependency status. Beginning in 2026-2027, if you enroll less than full-time, your annual loan limit will be reduced based on the number of credits you take.

FORMULA:

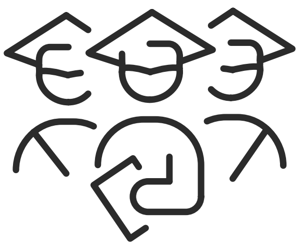
SOR Percentage = Total credits enrolled ÷ Total full-time credits for the academic year × 100 SOR Annual Loan Limit = Your initial annual loan limit × SOR Percentage

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- You must be enrolled at least half-time to receive any Direct Loan disbursement.
- Your loan limit may be split across terms using Equal Disbursements or Proportional Distribution.
- If your enrollment changes after a disbursement, we must recalculate your loan eligibility.
- If your remaining eligibility is zero or negative, no further disbursements will be made.

Confused about Deadlines and Disbursement Dates?

Check out our new webpage at:
https://www.hccc.edu/paying-for-college/financial-aid/deadlines-disbursement-dates/index.html



Attention Alumni and Graduating Seniors with Student Loans

Go to studentaid.gov and complete your exit counseling and find out about repayment options!

Glossary of Financial Aid Terms

Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) – You or your family's wages, salaries, interest, dividends, etc. minus allowable deductions as reported on a federal tax return.

Cost of Attendance (COA) – The amount it will cost a student to attend a postsecondary school. The cost considers those payable to the school (also referred to as direct or billable costs), but not limited to tuition, room, board, and students' fees and costs paid to others (or indirect, non-billable or discretionary) costs. The COA represents the highest dollar amount of financial aid a student can receive during an award year.

Enrollment Status – The number of credits, clock hours or classes the student is enrolled in, or whether they have withdrawn, graduated, etc. Enrollment status affects eligibility for and the amount of financial aid a student may receive. It also affects when student loans enter repayment status.

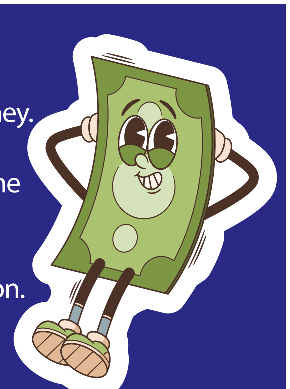
Schedule of Reduction (SOR) – Annual loan limits are reduced for students who are not enrolled on a full-time basis.

Financial Aid Humor

The only exercise I've done this month is running out of money.

I'm looking forward to the Apocalypse since it's apparently the only way that I won't have to pay back my student loans.

Shut up and take my parents' money to pay my college tuition. My parents changed my guardianship, so I guess my education has begun!



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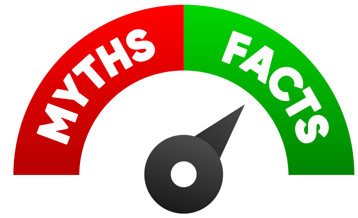

MYTH
file your FAFSA once during your college experience

FACT
file your FAFSA every year you are in college beginning October 1

MYTH
your financial aid file is never on hold

FACT
your financial aid file can be on hold because you have missing documents, no SAP appeal, or no attendance in classes

MYTH
Nothing happens to your financial aid if you withdraw from classes

FACT
a return of Title IV (R2T4) funds is calculated to determine the amount of financial aid we can keep

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