

KEY TERMS YOU WILL NEED TO UNDERSTAND

Aid Package – A combination of aid (possibly including a scholarship, grant, loan and work) determined by a college financial aid office.

Credit Hour – A unit of academic credit that often represents one hour of class time per week for a period of study (semester, quarter, ect.).

Expected Family Contribution (EFC) – An amount you and your family are expected to contribute toward your education and living expenses. It is used to determine your eligibility for financial aid.

Federal Direct Loan Program – Loans made by the federal government directly to qualifying students and parents through participating colleges.

Federal Pell Grant – Financial assistance awarded by the federal government on the basis of need.

Federal PLUS (Parent Loans for Undergraduate Students) Program – Provides low-interest federal loans to credit-approved parents of eligible undergraduate students.

Federal Unsubsidized Stafford Loan Program – Provides low-interest federal loans which are not based on need.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) – The application required for students to be considered for federal student financial aid. Go to www.fafsa.ed.gov to fill out the form online or call 800-433-3243 to obtain a paper FAFSA form or electronic filing information. The FAFSA is processed free of charge, and it is used by most state agencies and colleges.

Grants – Awards based on financial need that do not require repayment.

Scholarships – Nonrepayable awards to students based on merit or merit plus need.



Student Aid Report (SAR) – The information you will receive approximately 2-4 weeks after your FAFSA has been processed.

Transcript – The official record of high school or college courses and grades, generally required as part of the college application.