

MCC FA Presentation Transcript

Slide 1-Financing Education Beyond High School

Hello and welcome.

Today's presentation, presented by MiraCosta College, will guide you through the maze of financial aid. It will include the different types of grant and loan programs available to you as well as other funding sources to assist you with paying for a college education.

Slide 2-Think of Financial Aid as an Umbrella Term for

Colleges and Universities offer a variety of financial assistance in the form of
Grants which are money that does not have to be repaid;
Loans which must be repaid, often with interest;
Work-study which is a program that allows a student to work to earn money;
Scholarships which are usually merit based; and
Tuition fee waivers which are available at California Community Colleges.

Slide 3-Funding Sources

So where does the money come from?

Financial aid comes from a variety of funding sources including the federal government, state government, the institution you are attending and private sources such as community donors or alumni associations.

Slide 4-Federal Programs

Let's look at the various federally funded programs.

Pell Grants are the largest source of free money for college from the federal government. Pell Grants are need based and can be used to pay for tuition, fees and living expenses.

In addition to Pell Grant, you may also be eligible for the Academic Competitiveness Grant which is a program for eligible first and second year college students.

The Smart Grant is a grant program for eligible third and fourth year students and is available at four year schools only.

A student with exceptional need may be eligible to receive the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant. Unlike the Pell Grant, funds are limited so you must apply early.

Slide 5- Federal Programs Continued

The Federal Work-Study program allows for students to work and earn money that is considered financial aid. Any monies earned through this program are excluded on the next year's financial aid application under Worksheet C. .

If a student loan is needed to assist with funding college expenses, research Federal Student Loans (Stafford Loans). Interest rates are low and four repayment plans are available. Loans have a 10 year re-payment period. No credit checks are needed.

There are two types of Stafford Loans, subsidized and unsubsidized. Subsidized loans are based on financial need. The government will pay the interest on the student's behalf while enrolled in school in at least half-time study and again during the six month grace period after a student graduates or is no longer enrolled half-time.

Unsubsidized loans are for all eligible students regardless of income or assets. These loans are not need based and the borrower is responsible for paying the interest on the loan. However, deferring the interest while in school is an option. It is of economic advantage to pay the interest quarterly while enrolled in college to avoid compounding of interest.

Slide 6-Federal Programs Continued

Direct loans have the same eligibility criteria as Stafford loans. The difference is the funding source. Stafford loans are funded through banks and other lending institutions while direct loans are funded directly through the department of education.

Perkins Loans are low-interest loans awarded to students with exceptional financial need. No interest accrues while enrolled at least half-time. After a student graduates or is no longer enrolled in half-time study, a nine months grace period is granted before repayment begins.

Plus Loans are available to parents who want to borrow on behalf of the student. Credit checks are needed. Interest accrues from the date loan funds are first disbursed until the loan is repaid in full and repayment begins 60 days after the loan's last disbursement.

Slide 7-State Programs

Now let's look at State programs.

The Board of Governors Enrollment Fee Waiver (BOGW) will waive your enrollment fees at California community colleges. You must be a California resident to apply. Complete the application, available at your financial aid office, or complete the FAFSA for eligibility determination.

Extended Opportunity Program and Services provides grants, counseling and tutoring services to low-income, educationally disadvantaged students. Although financial aid offices work closely with EOPS, it is a separate program.

If you are at least one quarter Native American you may be eligible for higher education grants through the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Contact your tribe for additional information.

Slide 8-State Programs cont'd

Cal Grant is a California grant program. To apply you must complete the FAFSA and submit GPA verification to the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC). Most high schools and colleges will submit your GPA electronically. If not, you can obtain a GPA Verification form at most high schools and colleges or on-line at www.csac.ca.gov. The first Cal Grant deadline is March 2nd and is for all applicants, both entitlement and competitive awards. The second deadline is September 2nd, and is for community colleges students only.

There are three types of Cal Grants, Cal Grant A, B and C. Cal Grant A helps pay for tuition and fees at four year colleges. The amounts vary depending on whether or not you attend a UC, CSU, or private school. You must have a minimum 3.0 GPA to be considered for Cal Grant A.

Cal Grant B provides a living allowance of up to \$1551. In addition, it provides tuition and fee assistance at four year colleges. A minimum GPA of 2.0 is required for the entitlement grant.

Cal Grant C assists with the costs of career or technical education program that are two years in length or less.

The Chafee grant program can provide up to \$5000 annually in free money to foster youth and former foster youth for educational expenses. There is a separate application for this grant program. A FAFSA is also required.

Slide 9-Institutional/Private

Many institutions are able to assist with the cost of education. One example is the California State University system. They offer State University Grants to California residents with financial need. The amount of the award varies. Check with your school to see what institutional grants they have.

Scholarships are available through community organizations, foundations, religious organizations and businesses as well as professional and trade organizations. Your school's scholarship office may have a list of scholarships currently being offered as well as other resources such as free online scholarship directories.

Internships are designed to provide workplace experience and new skills. The Internship Program offers business, industry, and organizations the talents and energies of students who not only contribute to workforce development but strengthen the link between the educational and business communities. It also provides opportunities for students to gain

experience in their field, determine if they have an interest in a particular career, create a network of contacts, or gain school credit. Internships may be paid or unpaid.

Slide 10-Financial Aid Prerequisites

Federal and state financial aid programs have basic eligibility requirements that must be met:

Students must have a high school diploma or its equivalent, complete a high school education in a home-school setting approved by the state, or pass an “ability to benefit” exam approved by the department of education.

They must have a social security number.

Males must register for Selective Service if they are between the ages of 18 and 25.

They must be a US Citizen or eligible Non-Citizen and,

Students must be admitted and enroll in school pursuing an eligible degree or certificate program or other recognized credential.

Slide 11-Definition of Independent Student

Every year the hot topic for most students is their dependency status. You may live on your own and have your own source of income but if you do not meet the definition of an independent student defined by the department of education, you will need to provide parent information on your federal aid application.

If you are 24 years of age as of December 31 of the award year you will be an independent student.

If not, you must meet one of the following:

- Be Active duty military
- Be a Veteran of Armed Forces
- Be a student who has already completed a bachelors degree
- Be Married
- Have Legal dependents other than a spouse
- Be Ward of the Court or
- Be an Orphan

Please note that if you do not meet this criteria but you have other extenuating personal circumstances that are preventing you from obtaining your parent’s information contact the financial aid office and disclose this information to them. You may to be an independent student by exception.

Slide 12-Applying for Aid

The first step in the financial aid process is completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online @ www.fafsa.ed.gov.

Make sure you meet all deadlines. You should complete the FAFSA by March 2nd. Remember that Cal Grant uses your FAFSA information to determine your eligibility. Check with your school so you meet their deadline for submitting any follow-up paperwork.

If you have any questions about the financial aid process contact your school directly. You may need to complete additional forms before your eligibility can be determined. You should keep copies of all forms submitted to the financial aid office.

Slide 13-Tools to Help You

Here are some important websites that you will need when completing the financial aid application process.

You will need a Personal Identification Number (PIN) which will be your electronic signature when completing the on-line FAFSA. If you are dependent, you will need a PIN for yourself and a separate one for your parent(s). With a PIN you can check the status of your application online, make corrections, and file a renewal FAFSA the following year.

FAFSA on the Web is the site used to electronically apply for federal financial aid. As mentioned before, you will need to have a PIN to sign your FAFSA.

You can list many schools on your FAFSA since you may be unsure which school you will attend. The Title IV School Code list allows you to search for specific schools to list on your FAFSA.

You should also visit the MiraCosta College financial aid website for additional information and other important links.

Slide 14-FAFSA Application Pointers

Here are some FAFSA pointers to expedite your filing process.

Use your PIN to sign the FAFSA on the Web

Use the correct school year application. When you file online you will notice a drop down box with a year selection. Choose the right one.

Round figures to the nearest dollar. Do not include cents.

Enter your legal name as it appears on your Social Security Card

If possible, use completed tax forms. You may want to use last years tax forms as estimated numbers if you know you are not going to file until he April tax deadline. You will however need to correct any tax estimates as soon as you complete your return.

You and Your mean the student, not the parent

And College means any school beyond high school

Slide 15-FAFSA on the Web Worksheet

If you are uncertain as to which college you will be attending, you can list up to 10 colleges at FAFSA on the Web. List schools in order of preference and always list a California college first so that you will be considered for Cal Grant.

Slide 16- FAFSA on the Web Worksheet

Untaxed income from all sources should be included on the FAFSA. Complete the untaxed income section for student and parent (if dependent) to determine the total amount of income.

Slide 17- FAFSA on the Web Worksheet

List asset information as of the day you are completing the FAFSA. Do not include the house you live in as an asset nor should you include business value if you have less than 100 full-time employees.

Slide 18- FAFSA on the Web Worksheet

Some of your financial information may be excluded when determining eligibility for financial aid. Excluded income includes Education Credits, earnings from Federal Work Study, paid child support, and student grant and scholarship aid reported on federal tax returns.

Slide 19-Scholarship Links

The following lists of websites are credible scholarship search links. Scholarships are a very important funding source for your education in addition to federal aid. It is to your advantage to research your scholarship options.

www.fastweb.com
www.review.com
www.fool.com/csc/csc.htm
www.collegeispossible.org
www.collegenet.com
www.icanaffordcollege.com

Slide 20-Important Phone Numbers

Feel free to contact the MiraCosta College Financial Aid Office for general financial aid questions or questions specific to your MiraCosta financial aid file at 1 888 201 8480 ext 6711.

Another important number to keep is the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1 800 433 3243 or for hearing impaired dial 1 800 730 8913. Call this number if you have questions regarding your FAFSA submission.

For questions regarding your Cal Grant, call the California State Aid Commission at 1 888 224 7268

And for student loans questions you may call 1 916 526 8424.

Keep in mind it is sometimes better to contact your school directly before calling these agencies. Most of the time your school will be able to assist you.

Slide 21-MiraCosta College

For those of you who plan to attend MiraCosta College our Title IV school code is 001239. By attending a community college first you will save thousands of dollars in tuition and have your general education requirements completed before you transfer to your four year school.

Slide 22- What Happens Next?

What happens next?

Each college you listed on your FAFSA will determine your eligibility for financial aid.

Your college will subtract your expected family contribution from their cost of attendance to determine financial need.

Your expected family contribution is the amount of money the government believes you and your family could reasonably contribute towards your education and can be located on your electronic student aid report.

Your cost of attendance will vary depending on where you live and what college you attend but will include tuition, fees, books, supplies, housing, food transportation and personal expenses. Because your cost of attendance will vary, so will your financial need from school to school.

After the school determines your financial need, they will then put together a financial aid offer.

Slide 23-A College Aid Package

Here is a sample award offer for a four year school.

Your offer will usually list your college costs for the year, the amount that will be covered by a mix of grants, scholarships, work-study, loans, other aid and the amount you will have to contribute.

This student was awarded a Pell Grant, a State Grant, School Grant, Supplemental Grant, Scholarship, Work-Study and Loans. If you notice, this student's total award matches his financial need. His education is fully funded.

Slide 24-Questions

This concludes the financial aid presentation. To view this presentation again, visit www.miracosta.edu/fapresentation.