Agenda

What will we cover today...

- Aid determination
  - Merit Aid
  - Need-based Aid
- Estimated awards
- Verification - Missing Information
- Cost of Attendance and Special Circumstances
- Private Scholarships
- TCNJ Authorized Users

Note: Our Office of Student Accounts handles the following services:

Billing – Charges – Payments – Health Insurance – Refunds – Parking Services – Get-It Card Services – College ID Cards - and others. For questions on these matters please reach out to them at stuaccts@tcnj.edu
At TCNJ, aid eligibility is evaluated by two offices:

- The **Office of Admissions** determines eligibility for **institutional merit-based scholarships**:
  - If you are eligible for institutional merit aid, the student would have been notified of such during their initial admissions acceptance AND this amount would have been included in the student’s estimated aid package.
  - First-year in-state applicants to TCNJ are automatically considered for merit scholarships upon submission of their Common Application.
  - Awards are based on a student’s overall academic record (including strength of curriculum, GPA, class rank and strength of high school).

Contact the Admissions Office for Merit scholarship questions – **TCNJInfo@tcnj.edu**
Aid Determination

Federal and State Grants, Loans, Scholarships and institutional need-based aid – Office of Student Financial Assistance

- The FAFSA results are used for this determination based on the calculated Expected Family Contribution (EFC)

- Institutions have no control as to how the EFC is calculated – it is based on a federal formula

- The State of NJ uses a different eligibility formula

- It is not too late to apply for aid – you will need a processed FAFSA to apply for student loans

- If you are eligible for aid based on your FAFSA results (a student loan is considered aid), this amount would have been included in the student’s estimated aid notification
Aid Determination - Federal & State Need-based Eligibility

Who qualifies for need-based aid?
(Example - family of 4, with 1 in college)

- Federal Pell Grant: A family with a household income **over $60K a year** traditionally will **not qualify**

- NJ State Grant: A family with a household income **Over $70K a year** traditionally will **not qualify**
Estimated Award Notices

Emails were sent on March 29th, to the email address used by the STUDENT on the Common Application, with information on how to view Estimated awards on-line (PAWS)

- Only COMPLETE records receive an aid offer
- No action (accept/decline) is required at this time
- For planning/budgeting purposes - official offers are sent in late June
- Continue weekly up to deposit day if any updates are received
Reasons why the STUDENT may not have received an estimated award email

- Did not file a FAFSA (or recently completed)
- Incomplete/Rejected FAFSA
- Recently offered Admission
- Did not provide SSN to Admissions (or on the Common App.)
- Did not list the TCNJ School Code (002642) on the FAFSA

If you did all of these please contact us at osfa@tcnj.edu so we can check your record
FAFSA Verification (audit) May Be Required!

A random selection picked by the Federal processor – about 20% of FAFSA records at TCNJ are selected

Forms located at:

https://financialaid.tcnj.edu/forms/verification-forms/

The State of NJ may also selected a record for audit – they would reach out to the student separately via email

The audit matrix used by the federal/State entities is not shared with schools

Must be completed before we can disburse any aid, even for most student loans
Verification - Missing Information Letter

- Hard copy letters sent until May 1.
- After May 10th, emails to TCNJ email address.
- The letter has instruction for viewing the outstanding items on-line.
Once admitted – students may view outstanding documents on their “To Do List” Which May Include Financial Aid Verification Documents
You may view our current Costs of Attendance (COA) budgets here:

https://financialaid.tcnj.edu/about/cost-of-attendance/

Note: The 2021-2022 COA budgets will not be finalized until the Governor signs the State budget in July. Use these amounts for budgeting purposes but anticipate a slight increase (3%) for next year. For Out-of-State/International budgets anticipate a 6K-7k reduction based on the tuition reset.

Special Circumstances:


In certain cases the financial aid office can remove the 2019 income reported on the FAFSA and replace it with projected 2021 income if an acceptable Special Circumstance occurred after the FAFSA was filed. Please review our Special Circumstances page (link above) to see if you qualify. Some acceptable conditions are:

Currently Unemployed – Retired – Disabled – Death of a Parent – Separation/Divorce

*Please note that even if you meet a Special Circumstance condition this does not guarantee eligibility for grants.*
Private Scholarships

- **You are required** to report all private scholarships that you will receive for the 2021-2022 school year.

  Priority Deadline: Report as soon as possible
  Online Form Available after April 20\(^{th}\), 2021

- TCNJ will give you a *temporary credit* on your TCNJ bill until the scholarship funds arrive.
- Actual **scholarship funds must be received one month after classes start!**
- Reporting Instructions can be found at the following link: [http://financialaid.tcnj.edu/about/scholarships/private-scholarship-awards/](http://financialaid.tcnj.edu/about/scholarships/private-scholarship-awards/)
- Private Scholarship checks must be sent to:

  TCNJ
  Student Accounts
  PO Box 7718
  Ewing, NJ 08628

  *Students name and ID should be listed on the check.*
TCNJ Authorized Users

- Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)
  - Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records
- Students can create/edit/disable authorized users

TCNJ Authorized Users (Auxiliary Access)

An Authorized User is an individual who has been granted permission to view and discuss a student's billing, financial aid, and/or education records. TCNJ students are eligible to grant this access to up to three individuals with whom they wish to share their account details. Once enrolled as Authorized Users, these individuals are granted auxiliary access to the College's information system (PAWS), where they can log in to complete the following tasks:

- View financial aid
- View the student To-Do list
- View and pay the bill
- View education records

Authorized Users are also eligible to discuss pertinent account details with TCNJ officials, who would otherwise only be able to discuss this information directly with the student. Students can sign up an Authorized User by following the instructions found here.
The Office of Student Financial Assistance
Green Hall – Room 101

Current Office Hours
Monday through Thursday
8:30am to 4:00pm
Please monitor our webpage since COVID may impact these hours

609-771-2211
osfa@tcnj.edu*

*Recommended method during limited campus operations