Each year, about 30 percent of students’ financial aid applications nationwide are chosen for “verification,” a process of confirming data supplied by the applicant and/or parents on aid applications. Through verification, RHIT resolves discrepancies on students’ aid applications.

If your application is selected for verification or if there are discrepancies on your aid application information, you will receive a letter from us alerting you that you have been selected for verification. The letter will explain what documentation will be needed for the verification process.

New federal regulations mandate that financial aid offices can only accept IRS tax transcripts to verify income. We can no longer accept copies of tax returns. Aid funds cannot be disbursed until you have submitted all requested documents and their accuracy has been checked. The review process can take four weeks or longer.

DO
- Turn in all documents requested by the OFA as soon as possible.
- Be sure all documents are signed.
- Be sure your name and student ID number are on all documents you submit
- If tax documentation is requested, call the IRS at 1-800-908-9946 to request transcripts of your IRS forms

DON’T
- Forget to sign your forms
- Submit incomplete or illegible documents; if you do they will be returned to you with a request for acceptable forms, causing a delay in processing your aid
- Submit photocopies of income tax forms; only tax transcripts are acceptable

If you have any questions regarding verification, please contact the Office of Financial Aid.

Loan Counseling for Graduating Seniors

If you are a senior planning to graduate this May, please mark your calendar for the Senior Loan Counseling session. These sessions will provide you with information on how to pay back the loan, how to contact your lender, and consolidation options. The dates for the loan counseling sessions are:

- Tuesday, May 1 3:25-4:15pm
- Wednesday, May 2 5:00-6:00pm
- Thursday, May 3 1:35-2:25pm

All sessions will be held in the Kahn Room.

We want to keep you informed. The Financial Aid Office will be producing a newsletter for each term. Watch for the Summer/Fall Newsletter in July.
How Your Need is Determined

The financial information you and your family provide on your FAFSA is analyzed by the federal need analysis processor using “Federal Methodology,” a standard formula established by the US Congress. It is used by the federal processor to calculate the expected family contribution (EFC) - how much individual students and their families are expected to contribute toward their educational expenses each year. After analyzing your financial information, the federal processor sends the results to the college, indicating how much you and your family should be able to contribute toward your education. If the cost of attendance at RHIT is greater than what the processor indicates your family is expected contribute, then the college considers you to have financial need.

Expected Family Contribution (EFC) consists of expected parental contribution and/or student contribution, depending upon the student’s classification (dependent or independent). The methodology used by the federal processor takes into account the family’s income and assets, employment, cost of living expenses, taxes, family size and the number of family members.

Withdrawals and “F” Grades - How Does that Affect your Aid?

Withdrawals from one class or from all of your classes within a given term (after the first week) can affect your eligibility for financial assistance now and in the future. Likewise, earning all “F” grades can affect your current and future eligibility. To comply with federal regulations, the financial aid office may need to reduce or cancel previously disbursed financial aid. The immediate consequences could cause you to owe the college money. For the future, withdrawing or earning “F” grades could result in your inability to meet Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) requirements. Student who fail to meet SAP standards cannot receive financial aid. The student is welcome to appeal the termination of aid.

If a student decides to withdraw from a class after the first week of courses, their financial aid could be affected. The OFA highly recommends that students see them before dropping a class after the first week.

FAQs

Do I have to file a FAFSA if I only want my Merit Scholarship? No, you do not need to file a FAFSA if you just have Merit Scholarship money. If you decide to apply for a Stafford or Parent PLUS loan, you will need to file the FAFSA due to federal regulations.

If I receive a refund, can I have it directly deposited into a banking account? Yes, you will need to contact the Human Resource Department to fill out the appropriate paperwork to have your refund direct deposited.

If I want to lower my loan amount, who do I call? If you want to lower your loan for the whole year or term, contact the Office of Financial Aid and we will be happy to lower the amount of your request.
Award Notifications

The upperclassmen award notifications will be mailed to the students mid-May. In preparation of the notification, we ask that all FAFSA data be provided before May 1. If you are from the Indiana and would like to be considered for state aid, you must have your FAFSA submitted before March 10th of each year.

If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Financial Aid.

Stafford Loan Changes

Subsidized Stafford Loans made on or after July 1, 2012 will have an interest rate of 6.8% compared to the current interest rate of 3.4%. This could change if Congress votes to lower the rate. This was mentioned in the State of the Union address but we have no word regarding lowering the rate as of today. Also, Subsidized Stafford Loans that are made on or after July 1, the interest will start accruing during the grace period. Starting July 1, all Stafford Loans will be charged an upfront 1% processing fee. This means you will receive less funding in your disbursement. All Parent PLUS Loans will be charged a 4% processing fee up-front. Currently, Stafford loans are charged a .5% and the Parent PLUS Loans are charged 2.5%. The Stafford loans prior to July 1, 2012 that have been disbursed got an upfront rebate. To keep the rebate, you must make 12 months of on-time payments. If you fail to make 12 months of on-time payments, the rebate is put on the balance of the loan.

If you have any questions regarding these changes in the Stafford Loan, please contact the FAO.

Pell Grant Eligibility

Despite fears nationwide that budget-cutting in Washington, DC, would result in major cuts to the federal Pell Grant program, recent debates in Congress yielded only relatively minor changes to the program. With the new 2012—2013 academic year, the Pell Grant eligibility will be lowered. To be eligible for the Pell Grant this current year, your expected family contribution (EFC) number had to be $5,273 or less. Starting in the new academic year, your EFC number to be eligible for a Pell Grant must be $4,995 or less.

Beginning July 2012, the eligibility period for Pell was reduced from 27 academic terms to 18 academic terms. Also, “low-income” has been redefined—families reporting $23,000 or more will be expected to contribute to a student’s education costs, whereas the amount had been $30,000 previously.

While the changes are not without their critics, there seems to be a collective sigh of relief that the changes weren’t worse.
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New Outside Scholarship Opportunity:

U.S. Bank Scholarship Program

Deadline: March 31, 2012
Forty $1,000 scholarships will be awarded randomly
Easy online application:

www.usbank.com/scholarship

FinAID.... Math Problem

With each Winter and Spring RHIT Financial Aid Newsletter there will be a challenge. The first 10 undergraduate students that correctly answer the challenge question will win a $50.00 scholarship. You will need to email the answer to Melinda Middleton at middleto@rose-hulman.edu. The first 10 correct answers received by Melinda will be the winners of the $50.00 scholarship. Winners will be notified by email.

BAILEY CHALLENGE

If you add three mathematician’s, end to end, you get one eel. This is demonstrated in the diagram with each letter representing a different digit. The letters E and M cannot represent zero. Find M, A, L and E so that the addition is correct. Prove (translate to "convince yourself and me") that there are exactly three distinct solutions.

MA
MA
MA
EEL

Challenge was written by Professor Emeritus Herb Bailey