

# Lenses of Transition



NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY FINANCIAL AID OFFICE

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## The Impact of #EarlyFAFSA



If you have not completed your 2017-2018 FAFSA for next fall, spring and summer using your 2015 income information—you still have time! Simply use your FSA ID at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov) TODAY!

Beginning October 1, 2016 students were able to complete the FREE Application for Federal Student Aid or FAFSA for the 2017-2018 award year—almost an entire year ahead! This was made possible by changing the ‘need analysis’ formula to look at two years prior taxable income instead of one year prior. Students and families no longer had

to estimate income to meet early priority file dates because the income taxes from two years prior were already complete (2015)!

Students who plan on attending Fall, 2017, Spring, 2018 and/or Summer, 2018 can still complete the 2017-2018 FAFSA if they have not done so.

Colleges and universities were rolling in FAFSAs during the fall with increases to the magnitude of 30-40%. At Northeastern, continuing students completing the FAFSA out paced high school seniors. Of those seniors in high school (Fall, 2016 freshmen) between 10-20% of them nationally had not even applied for admission. Nonetheless Northeastern was able to send out estimated award offers to new students as early as Decem-

ber, 2016 and have awards reflected on NEIUport for continuing students as early as November, 2016.

The 2018-2019 FAFSA will be available to file beginning October 1, 2017 using 2016 tax income information. Even better, the IRS Data Retrieval will be available for 2018-2019 with new security features that actually ‘mask’ or hide income information so both in the application and the Student Aid Report or (SAR). This prevents anyone other than the student from being able to access the income information transferred from the Internal Revenue Service. Don’t worry, if you need to see your income information you can ask that the Financial Aid Office provide you with this information.

## What would #YearRoundPell Look Like? #PellYes

The U.S. Department of Education announced this month that year-round Federal Pell Grants will be available for the 2017-2018 award year, allowing full-time students to take summer classes and graduate sooner. Students who attended fall and spring semesters full time were not

able to receive any Federal Pell Grant for summer because 100% of the annual award had been used. With year-round Federal Pell, students get up to 150% of the annual award to use for the summer semester with just one click from submitting registration.

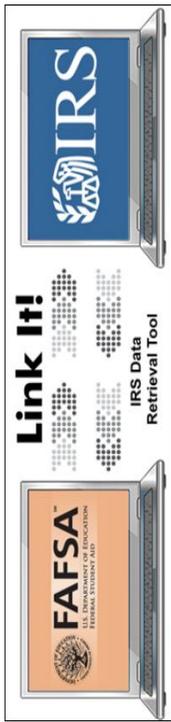
Beginning Fall, 2017 students who use 100% of their Federal Pell Grant in fall and spring, will have access to Pell during Summer, 2018 if enrolled at least half time (6 credit hours).

DON'T FORGET THAT THE **MINIMUM STANDARDS OF ACADEMIC PROGRESS** IS RUN AT THE END OF EVERY TERM! AFTER GRADES ARE PROCESSED FOR SPRING, THE FINANCIAL AID OFFICE IS REQUIRED TO EVALUATE THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA—WHICH INCLUDES ALL DEVELOPMENTAL COURSEWORK:

- ZERO GRADE POINTS EARNED
- NEVER ATTENDED COURSEWORK
- CUMULATIVE GRADE POINT AVERAGE—UNDG FOR 2.0; GRAD FOR 3.0
- CUMULATIVE COMPLETION RATE (PACE)—67%
- MAXIMUM TIMEFRAME—UNDG FOR 180; GRAD FOR 54

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The IRS Data Retrieval will be available for use in transferring 2016 income information into the 2018-2019 FAFSA beginning October 1, 2017.

To prevent others from seeing or using income being transferred, all income will be masked. Students and families using the IRS Data Retrieval do not need to submit tax transcripts or W-2 statements.

## Lenses of Transition



### What is the status of my Illinois MAP Grant?

Colleges and universities are required to reflect an estimated Illinois Monetary Award Program Grant (commonly called 'MAP') on all award offers—whether hard copy or electronic (such as NEUport). Institutions are also required to use the following language *“The number of grants made through this program, as well as the individual dollar amount awarded, are subject to sufficient annual appropriations by the Illinois General Assembly and*

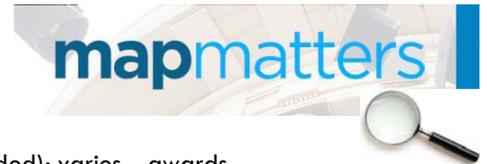
*the Governor.*” Northeastern Illinois University in good faith fronted MAP Grants for Fall, 2016 and Spring, 2017, but has yet to be reimbursed. The University also plans to front MAP Grants for the Fall, 2017 semester again in hopes that either a budget or ‘stop gap’ measure is approved.

June 15 college students across the State outlined to House members the pain of the budget impasse. June 16

students and faculty testified to the impact the budget stalemate has had on student access for those institutions who are unable to front load the monies and await reimbursement.

To read more on why #mapmatters or to look up your legislatures by district, visit <http://www.isac.org/home/map-matters/>.

### Summer Financial Aid Options



**KIS—Keep It Simple.** Summer financial aid eligibility is based on your class, grade level and assistance remaining from the fall and spring semesters. In other words, it is a trailer to the award year. NEIU students who enroll for the summer term may be eligible for one or more of the following programs:

#### FEDERAL

Pell Grant—varies based on amount previously paid in Fall, 2016 and Spring, 2017 (at

any institution attended); varies based on Lifetime eligibility usage  
 Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (SEOG)—\$350.00  
 Federal Work Study—\$1,250  
 Federal Perkins—\$750  
 Federal Direct Loans—varies based on amount previously disbursed in Fall, 2016 and Spring, 2017 (at any institution attended)

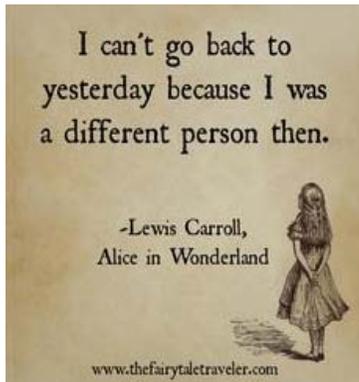
#### INSTITUTIONAL

Eagle Performance (merit)

awards  
 Graduate Tuition Scholarships  
 Undergraduate Tuition Scholarships  
 University Foundation Scholarships

#### IMPORTANT DEADLINE

Summer Direct Loan borrowers need to complete ALL Direct Loan Requests PRIOR to Friday, July 17, 2017. The time between July 13 and the end of the term is critical to linking the eMPN and online counseling prior to the end of the term.



Despite the Illinois budget impasse and financial constraints on the University, the Financial Aid Office remains committed to extended hours, improving student service and campus wide collaborative efforts.

### Contact the Financial Aid Office

#### OFFICE HOURS

- Tuesday through Thursday —8:30am until 6:00pm; Monday and Friday—8:30am until 4:30pm
- Fax—(773) 442-5040

#### CONTACT US

- Telephone Center - (773) 442-5016 - (773) 442-5011 - (773) 442-5007
- Email—Financial-Aid@neiu.edu, Student-Employment@neiu.edu;

Scholarships @neiu.edu

#### WEB RESOURCES:

- [www.neiu.edu](http://www.neiu.edu) (Financial Aid)
- <https://neiu.academicworks.com> (Online Institutional Scholarship Application)
- [www.neiuport.neiu.edu](http://www.neiuport.neiu.edu) (Login, password and