

IT'S CHECK-IN TIME!

2024 - 2025 FALL FINANCIAL AID NEWSLETTER
VOLUME XXIII, ISSUE ONE

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Check-Out FSA IDs for FAFSA Contributors

Beginning with the 2024-2025 FAFSA students need to be familiar with three new terms:

1. FTI—Federal Tax Information
2. FTI Consent— permission for the US Department of Education to use direct tax information from the Internal Revenue Service
3. FTI Contributors—All contributors need an FSA ID to provide FTI Consent. FTI Contributors include:
 - Applicant (student)
 - Applicants parent (s) - only for dependent students
 - Applicant’s spouse (only if taxes are not filed jointly)

In preparation for 2025-2026 FAFSA scheduled to be released December 1, make sure all FTI Contributors have an FSA ID. This includes undocumented parents.

What The FAFSA is going on with 2024-2025?

... And more importantly, will this continue in 2025-2026?

Financial Aid Offices across the country continue to pivot one technical issue from another with packaging awards for the 2024-2025 academic year

ISSUE ONE: Financial Aid Offices gained access to FAFSA data early March. Some data did not contain student FSA ID (signature). Some students still have this issue however, signature can be added through the FAFSA correction process in studentaid.gov.

ISSUE TWO: Some data did not contain Federal Tax Information consistent with inflation, which meant the Student Aid Index was

incorrect. This issue is resolved.

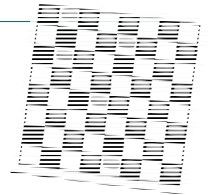
ISSUE THREE: Some data with federal processing system did not reach Financial Aid Offices. Some students still have this issue however, the Financial Aid Office can force a new FAFSA transaction that can be extracted into the University database.

ISSUE FOUR: Some data did not contain Student Aid Index information to award student eligibility. Some students still have this issue however, the workaround is issue three can resolve issue four as well.

ISSUE FIVE: Implementation of Unique Universal Identification (replacing social security number) caused delays in MAP Grant awarding. Some

students still have this issue particularly when there are spaces or hyphens in the last name. However, the Financial Aid Office has a workaround to resolve. If your MAP Grant is not displaying and you completed a FAFSA or RISE Act Application, please contact the Financial Aid Office.

ISSUE SIX: Movement of Pell Grant determination and Student Aid Index calculation to cloud-based, caused delay in awarding Federal Pell Grant. There is a workaround to this issue. If your Federal Pell Grant changed to zero, please contact the Financial Aid Office.



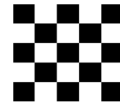
TOP 5 THINGS EVERY FRESHMAN SHOULD LEARN ABOUT FINANCIAL AID DURING THEIR FIRST YEAR

1. Be aware of Financial Aid Office Location, Hours of Operation and how to connect with a Financial Aid Advisor.
2. Understand the importance in Accuracy and Completeness of documentation, verification requirements and Disbursement
3. Know how to login into NEIUport in order to register, view financial aid requirements, view awards, apply for scholarships, download documents, sign up for direct deposit and view University balance.
4. Understand Cost of Processes.
5. Understand opportunities available through Student Employment and Career Services.

Attendance— distinguish between direct and indirect cost, Student Aid Index and Borrowing History.



Check out our Contact Information



APPLYING FOR PRIVATE SCHOLARSHIPS—KEEPS YOUR DEBT IN CHECK!

ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE (FINANCIAL HOLDS)

Email: StudentPaymentServices@neiu.edu
Telephone: (773) 442-5165

CASHIERS

Telephone: (773) 442-5184

FINANCIAL AID

Email: Financial-Aid@neiu.edu
Telephone: (773) 442-5016

SCHOLARSHIPS

Email: Scholarships@neiu.edu
Telephone: (773) 442-4606

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

Email: Student-Employment@neiu.edu
Telephone: (773) 442-4696

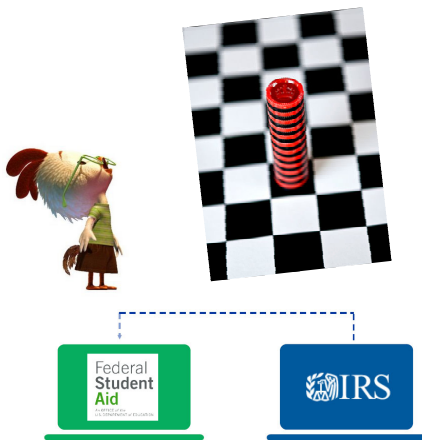
STUDENT LOAN DEPARTMENT & CREDIT BALANCE REFUNDS

Telephone: (773) 442-5175

The GOAL is to pay off your University balance before the end of each semester. Once you have applied for your FAFSA or Alternative Application, your next step is to apply for Scholarships using [NEIUpport, My Financial Aid tab, Scholarships & Grants!](#)

1. **Academic Works**—Click on the link that reads ‘Apply for scholarships Online’
 - Login using your NEIUpport login information
 - Complete a General Application and browse for other opportunities
 - Upload resume, letters of recommendation and/or personal statement
2. **Scholarship Spotlights**– Click on the link that reads ‘Scholarship Opportunities’
 - Check out ‘Scholarship Spotlights’ link from the left hand side menu
 - Among Scholarship Spotlights include setting up a profile with Scholarship America, Scholarship360 and MyScholly!

THE 2025-2026 NEW FAFSA CONTINUES: IT WILL MAKE YOUR CHECKERS STACK



After a frustrating and difficult 2024-25 FAFSA cycle for schools, students and families, the US Department of Education is taking a new approach to 2025-26. U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona stated, “Thanks to the partnership of our stakeholders, we’ve developed a better implementation process for 2025-26. I look forward to continuing to work with our partners to ensure this school year’s FAFSA implementation better serves our nation’s students.”
What does this mean to me,

you may ask. To have time for more testing, the release of the 2025-26 FAFSA will be delayed until on or before December 1. Using this approach, the Department will launch full functionality, including submission, processing, and corrections at the same time. The Department said it will release the 2025-26 FAFSA to selected groups for testing on October 1. This process will allow the Department to test and resolve issues before making the form available to all students and contributors. NEIU will

request to participate in this selection and partner with ISAC to host FAFSA completion workshops in October, November, January and February. The completion workshops will be at main campus, El Centro and Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies.

