

BOSTON COLLEGE

2008-09 GRADUATE FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Please retain this sheet and use it to check off the required components of your financial aid application as you complete them. No action can be taken on your application until all application information has been received. Please be sure to answer all questions on both the Boston College financial aid application and FAFSA, including the asset section of the FAFSA regardless of tax return status. Incomplete applications will delay the review of your file.

You may check the status of your application using our automated forms information service which is available seven days a week from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. This service is accessible by calling (617) 552-3300 or (800) 294-0294. Students with a BC PIN can also check their status through their Agora Portal at portal.bc.edu. If you have specific questions regarding the 2008-09 financial aid process please contact the Office of Student Services at one of the phone numbers listed during our regular business hours.

Applicants applying to programs with admission deadlines before February 1 are advised to submit a FAFSA and BC graduate financial aid application by February 15.

Financial aid application materials should be sent to:

Boston College Financial Aid Processing Center
P.O. Box 489
Randolph, MA 02368

Required Materials

2008-09 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

Complete a FAFSA, or Renewal FAFSA, on the web as soon as possible after January 1 as it normally takes several weeks for Boston College to receive the processed data. If you have not yet completed your 2007 Federal Income Tax Return, we recommend that you use estimated figures on the FAFSA so that you may submit the form in a timely manner.

<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov> Boston College's Federal School Code: 002128

NOTE: Please be certain to electronically sign your FAFSA or Renewal FAFSA, which requires a PIN. If you do not have a PIN or forgot it, go first to <http://www.pin.ed.gov>.

2008-09 Boston College Graduate Financial Aid Application/Validation

You must complete every question on the 2008-09 application. If a question does not apply, please note "N/A" in the blank provided. **If any questions are left blank it may delay the review of your file.** Any special circumstances that you would like us to consider must be addressed in the Additional Information/Comments section or attach an addendum to the application. Be sure to include your name and Eagle ID number on each page. We recommend that you copy your application for your records prior to sending it in for review.

SUMMER Loan and/or Summer Federal Work-Study Applicants

Priority Deadline for FAFSA January 18, 2008
Date submitted electronically _____

Priority Deadline for BC Financial Aid Application February 29, 2008
Date sent to the BC Financial Aid Processing Center _____

ACADEMIC YEAR only applicants

Priority Deadline for FAFSA: March 3, 2008
Date submitted electronically _____

Priority Deadline for BC Financial Aid Application: April 15, 2008
Date sent to the BC Financial Aid Processing Center _____

Message to Late Applicants: In order to be considered for Federal Financial aid, your application and processed FAFSA must be received by us before the end of the enrollment period. Application materials for summer only students must be received by June 16, 2008. Application materials for summer and fall only students must be received by November 3, 2008, and application materials for academic year only (fall and spring) students must be received by April 1, 2009. **Students must plan ahead and be prepared to pay for books and/or living expenses until the funds have been disbursed.**

THE VERIFICATION PROCESS

You are not required to submit a copy of your 2007 Federal Income Tax Return to the Office of Student Services unless your application is selected for verification by the federal government. The Office of Student Services will notify you of additional application requirements if your application is selected for the verification process. There are several factors that may lead to the selection of a FAFSA application for the verification process. The most common reason is that the Federal government randomly selects 30% of all FAFSA applicants for verification. Other reasons may include having blank, illegible, or confusing information reported on the FAFSA. Applicants with incomplete verification requirements at the time of initial review will be issued a conditional financial aid award. The award will be verified following receipt and review of all requested documents. **If the verification process results in a change in your eligibility, your financial aid will be re-calculated**, and a revised award letter will be sent to you. Awards are not considered final until the verification process is complete; however, please read the section concerning Boston College Institutional Funds which may also affect financial aid that has been awarded to you at any time during the year.

FINANCIAL AID TRANSCRIPTS AND HEALTH PROFESSION STUDENTS

Incoming Graduate School of Nursing students who received educational financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will be required to have an FAT completed by each post-secondary educational institution previously attended before federal financial aid funds can be disbursed and credited to the student's account. This requirement is due to the fact that HHS/DSA student borrower information is not currently available from the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS). An incoming graduate nursing student who has indicated receiving financial assistance for a previous health profession program will be sent further information and a blank FAT form. That blank FAT may be photocopied and sent to each institution previously attended.

STUDENT LOAN DISBURSEMENTS

Federal financial aid regulations require that all Federal Stafford Loan funds be disbursed in two equal installments for loan periods longer than one semester. Therefore, summer/fall and spring applicants will receive three separate loan disbursements—two during the summer/fall loan period and one during the spring period. The first disbursement for each loan period will be scheduled for the beginning of the loan period, and the second disbursement for each loan period will be scheduled for the midpoint of the loan period. The loan proceeds do not credit your bill until the funds have been received from your lender. ***Students must plan ahead and be prepared to pay for books and/or living expenses until the funds have been disbursed.*** Detailed information about the Federal Stafford loan can be found at <http://www.bc.edu/stafford/>.

GRADUATE OR PROFESSIONAL STUDENT PLUS LOAN OR ALTERNATIVE LOAN

Information about the Graduate or Professional Student PLUS Loan or about private alternative education loans can be found at <http://www.bc.edu/offices/sterv/financial/finaid/grad/loans/>.

BOSTON COLLEGE INSTITUTIONAL FUNDS

Boston College Institutional funds (assistantships, fellowships, grants, scholarships, stipends, and tuition remission) are awarded by the individual graduate schools. Students who wish to be considered for institutional funds should contact the appropriate graduate school. Notice of receipt of these awards are electronically forwarded to the Office of Student Services by the individual graduate schools to ensure proper coordination of all University financial aid resources as required by federal financial aid regulations. **Total financial aid cannot exceed total calculated federal eligibility. If your total financial aid resources, including assistantships, fellowships, grants, scholarships, stipends, and tuition remission (but excluding alternative loans) exceeds your total calculated federal eligibility, an adjustment to need-based financial assistance is required.** Alternative loan funding may be used to fill the gap between calculated federal eligibility and the total cost of attendance for the academic year. **Depending on the timing of the notification from the academic department, it is very possible that adjustments to your award will be made anytime after the start of the academic year. These adjustments may necessitate the return of loan proceeds that have already been disbursed and may create a balance on your student account.**

DEFERMENT OF PRIOR FEDERAL EDUCATION LOAN(S)

Under certain circumstances, you may qualify for a deferment for prior federal education loan(s) that you have borrowed. If you are enrolled at least half-time in a degree or certificate program, you may qualify for a deferment. These loans may include Direct or FFEL Stafford Loans, or Federal Perkins Loans. Information about deferment provisions is available at the United States Department of Education website at <http://studentaid.ed.gov/>. Click on the link "Repaying Your Loans." You also may contact your lender or loan servicer for information about a possible deferment of your prior federal education loans.

PLEASE NOTE: Financial aid renewal is not automatic. Students must re-apply for financial aid each year in which they are interested in being considered for assistance. It is the student's responsibility to obtain the graduate student financial aid application annually from the Office of Student Services or from our website or from the appropriate graduate school.