



Office of Financial Aid

What application materials do I have to complete to renew or apply for financial aid for 2009-2010?

If you currently are an undergraduate day student (i.e. freshman, sophomore, junior), undergraduate evening student (i.e. SCE, TCP) or a graduate student matriculating in a degree granting program, the only application you have to complete is the Free Application For Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). You must apply or renew your FAFSA every year to be considered for federal, state and/or institutional assistance. Seniors, who will complete their final semester in December 2009, must also file the 2009-2010 FAFSA.

Do I really have to complete a FAFSA?

If you have any type of financial assistance (i.e. need-based aid [including loans and work-study], state aid, athletic money or parent loans) you MUST complete a new or renewal FAFSA by the due date applicable to you (see below). If you do not complete the application and have it sent to Providence College by the appropriate deadline your renewal amount of financial assistance could be reduced. Funding is often limited and adhering to all deadlines is very important. If you are completing the FAFSA for the first time, your application for institutional grant assistance will be considered following the review of all aided returning students who meet the application deadline. Please note that funding is not guaranteed and is subject to availability.

I probably do not qualify, should I complete the FAFSA anyway?

Yes! Many families mistakenly think they don't qualify for aid and prevent themselves from receiving financial assistance by not applying. It is important to remember that eligibility can change from year to year based on increases in the cost of attendance, fluctuations in income, number of family members in college or other circumstances. In addition, aid such as unsubsidized Direct Stafford and Parent PLUS loans are available regardless of need and require a completed current year FAFSA.

Where can I apply or renew my FAFSA application?

Applying or renewing your FAFSA is easier than ever! Visit www.fafsa.ed.gov and click on 'Fill Out Your FAFSA'. Select the 2009-2010 School Year. After you put in your personal information, if you filed a FAFSA last year, you will be asked if you want to pre-fill your 2009-2010 FAFSA with last year's answers. If you are renewing your application or applying for the first time, you will need your PIN number and a PIN number from one of your parents to sign the application at the end. The FAFSA is available as early as January 1 each year.

What is a PIN number?

A PIN number is a personalized 4 digit number issued only to you by the U.S. Department of Education that can be used to electronically sign your new or renewal FAFSA. Both you and one parent (if required) should apply for a PIN in order to complete the entire process online. If you forgot your PIN or would like to apply for one, you can visit www.pin.ed.gov at any time.

When does the FAFSA have to be received by Providence College?

- Undergraduate Day Students.....April 15, 2009*
- Undergraduate Evening Students.....6 weeks prior to the start of the semester*
- Graduate Students.....6 weeks prior to the start of the semester

*If you are a resident of RI or MA we strongly encourage you to complete your FAFSA by your state's deadline in order to be fully considered for state grants. RI requires the FAFSA to be filed no later than March 1, 2009 and MA no later than May 1, 2009.

What happens if I miss the published deadline?

Deadlines are strictly adhered to for the determination of institutional funds available for renewal awards. For a variety of reasons, we expect that in these challenging economic times our applications for need-based financial aid will increase. Since institutional resources are limited, and in order to give some aid to the maximum number of individuals who qualify and meet our published deadlines, it is extremely vital that students respond to all of our communications so that we can allocate our limited resources equitably. Students who miss the deadline will likely have a reduction in the amount of institutional assistance that will be available for the 2009-2010 academic year.

How does the FAFSA get to Providence College?

In order for Providence College to receive your new or renewal application you must enter our six digit school code on your FAFSA. Our school code is 003406! Your application is submitted to the U.S. Department of Education and they will send it to Providence College once they have processed your application. Please make sure you submit your FAFSA to the U. S. Department of Education in enough time for Providence College to receive it by the published deadline applicable to you.

How will I know if Providence College has received my FAFSA?

If you complete your FAFSA online and provided your email address you will receive a confirmation email containing your Student Aid Report (SAR). It is very important that you review your SAR to ensure no errors were made during processing. There are comment sections that will tell you of any problems the U.S. Department of Education had processing your application. Some comments will require you to take immediate action and it is important that you stay on top of them! The most common problems that students need to resolve involve signatures, citizenship and selective service issues. All errors must be resolved in order to prevent any delays in receiving your aid package or having funds applied to your student account.

My SAR says that I have been selected for a process called verification! What does that mean?

Each year the U.S. Department of Education randomly selects a certain percentage of our student population to be verified. The Office of Financial Aid will send an email to your Providence College account asking for the documents that will satisfy this process. These requirements will also be available for viewing in your CyberFriar account. Most often you will be required to submit complete tax information from the previous year for both you and your parents (if required). Your aid will not be awarded or renewed until all requests for this additional documentation have been satisfied. Please note, failure to submit the required tax documents in a timely manner or by any deadline communicated to you could jeopardize your funding.

When will I know what my financial aid will be?

If you met your appropriate FAFSA deadline (see reverse) and all requests for additional documents (i.e. verification process, etc.) from the Office of Financial Aid have been satisfied, then notification of aid for 2009-2010 academic year will begin mid-June 2009. Just a reminder, all communications of Financial Aid Notices are electronic and available for viewing in your CyberFriar account. An email will be sent to your Providence College email address letting you know when your notice is ready for viewing and where you can download literature meant to accompany your award information.

Do I need to complete a FAFSA if I am studying abroad in one or both semesters next year?

Yes! If you would like to use the federal aid, state aid, parent PLUS or alternative student loans you are eligible or applied for, you should renew your FAFSA by the deadline applicable to you (see reverse). Over the summer, the Center for International Study will send the Office of Financial Aid notification of all students who have been approved to study abroad. Your institutional aid will be adjusted per current college policy and you will be notified by our office of the additional paperwork required from you in order to retain your eligible/transferrable aid.

How do I complete the FAFSA if I anticipate my financial situation changing in 2009-2010?

You still must renew your FAFSA by the deadline applicable to you (see reverse). Your 2009-2010 FAFSA is based on the 2008 tax year and all information reported must be true as of the date you are filing your FAFSA as well as consistent with the tax information reported to the IRS. Even though tax information from 2008 may not be an accurate reflection of your family's current ability to pay, it is very important that we collect your original tax year information before we can make any adjustments or projections. Any adjustments made must be a qualifying change in circumstance as defined by the Office of Financial Aid and be accompanied by supporting documentation. A separate 'Special Conditions' form will be available on our website or can be mailed out upon request beginning mid-February 2009. This form will help guide you how to best communicate a change in your situation to us as well as what documentation is needed. All documented and completed appeals are reviewed at the end of August and notifications are sent shortly thereafter. It is likely that appeal decisions will not be made until after the fall bills are due (i.e. August 15). Families are encouraged to make payment arrangement with the Bursar's Office by the due date on their bill to avoid late payment fines. Please understand that since funding is expected to be extremely limited, there is no guarantee that additional institutional funds will be available for our families that have demonstrated a change in their circumstances.

If I have more questions about my financial aid, where can I go?

Harkins 215! We are here to help you! Please come and visit our office, our website www.providence.edu/Admission/Undergraduate+Financial+Aid/, email us at finaid@providence.edu or call us at 401.865.2286 if you have any additional questions, comments or concerns. In addition, the U.S. Department of Education provides FAFSA help at 1.800.433.3243.