



Winter 2015–2016 for the 2016–2017 academic year.

Dear Messiah College Student and Parents:

The instructions and applications for financial aid for the 2016–2017 academic year are now ready for your review. These forms are available via [our 2016-2017 on-line forms page](#). Included are most of the forms necessary to apply for Federal, state, and institutional aid.

Since most people file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) electronically, the United States Department of Education does not provide the paper FAFSA booklet to colleges. If you wish to file using the paper FAFSA, you will need to contact the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-433-3243. You should receive your FAFSA in 3 to 7 business days. **PLEASE REMEMBER THAT YOU MUST FILE A FAFSA EACH YEAR IN ORDER TO RECEIVE FORMS OF AID THAT ARE BASED ON YOUR FAFSA RESULTS.** Please see the *Financial Aid Instructions* for a listing of those types of aid, and be aware that the Messiah College Grant is one of these forms of aid.

If you filed an electronic FAFSA or electronic correction last year, you should receive a reminder from the Federal government instructing you to use your PIN to file electronically for the upcoming year. This reminder will be in the form of an email message (if you provided a valid email address) sent **only to the email address given as the student's email address when completing the FAFSA**, or a letter if you did not provide a valid email address. Please read our Financial Aid Instructions very carefully for more details on the PIN, the application process, options for filing your FAFSA electronically, and other aspects of the financial aid process.

Federal government regulations do not allow you to mail or electronically submit the forms before January 1, 2016. It could take as long as one month for the FAFSA to be processed and to reach our office. **YOU SHOULD SUBMIT YOUR FAFSA TO THE PROCESSOR NO LATER THAN MARCH 1st SO THAT IT ARRIVES IN OUR OFFICE BY APRIL 1st.** You must estimate income figures if your taxes will not be done by this deadline. The United States Department of Education allows you to estimate and it is completely acceptable to do so when required in order to meet financial aid deadlines. Electronic filing options might shorten processing time, but we urge you to file as soon as possible in order to allow for processing delays.

Communications from our office will be almost exclusively via the Messiah College email address, so please check this email account regularly.

The time line for the processing of financial aid applications should be as follows:

- **New students:** We start working on new student financial aid applications in early March. If you have filed a FAFSA by that date, within a few weeks you should receive an email message (at your Messiah College email address) with instructions for viewing your on-line Financial Aid Award Notice via MCSquare. After that date, you should expect to receive notification of the availability of your award within a few days of the date we receive your FAFSA results. This date could vary depending on outside factors.
- **Continuing students** should receive their package by July 15. Please keep in mind that we don't start financial aid packages for continuing students until May and they won't be finished until mid-July. If there are any items that are needed to complete your file, you will be notified via your Messiah College email account. It is not necessary for you to contact us about the status of your package until July 15, unless you have reason to believe there is a problem.

Please call us at 717-691-6007, FAX us at 717-691-2349, or contact us by email at FINAID@MESSIAH.EDU, if we can assist you in completing these forms.

Sincerely,

Greg Gearhart
Director of Financial Aid