

Winter 2009–2010 for the 2010–2011 academic year.

Dear Messiah College Student and Parents:

The instructions and applications for financial aid for the 2010–2011 academic year are now ready for your review. These forms are available in your on-line application packet at [www.messiah.edu/offices/financial\\_aid/forms/](http://www.messiah.edu/offices/financial_aid/forms/). Included are most of the forms necessary to apply for Federal, state, and institutional aid.

One of these forms is a *FAFSA On The Web Worksheet*, provided by the United States Department of Education (U.S.E.D.). Since most people file the FAFSA electronically, U.S.E.D. is now providing only the *FAFSA on the Web Worksheet* to colleges. **If you wish to file using the paper FAFSA booklet, 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 enclosed *Financial Aid Instructions* for a listing of those types 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, 2010. It will take about 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 1 SO THAT IT ARRIVES IN OUR OFFICE BY APRIL 1.** 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 there is no reason that an estimate cannot be done. Electronic filing options might shorten processing time, but we urge you to file as soon as possible in order to allow for processing delays.

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. Remember 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 that there is a problem.

**All students and parents – Important new information:** New federal regulations require us implement additional safeguards for your personal information. In order to meet these requirements, we will be implementing a challenge process during the upcoming year. The details are not yet complete, but this will likely involve a pass code that parents must have in order to discuss the student's financial aid records. This is for your own protection, but we realize that, initially, this will probably cause some frustrations. Please bear with us as we implement this important new system. More information will be sent to you when available.

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

Sincerely,  
Greg Gearhart  
Director of Financial Aid