FAFSA Issue!

What exactly is the FAFSA and how do you know if you are filling out correctly?

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (or FAFSA) needs to be resubmitted each year. Students can submit the FAFSA as early as January 1st. The information on your FAFSA will help to determine how much financial aid you are entitled to for the following school year—i.e., the FAFSA you fill out this semester is for the 2012-2013 school year.

There is no absolute deadline, but it is best to complete your application as soon as possible. Given how important and complex the form is, the process can feel intimidating. But there are many resources—including the workshop noted below—and people at IC willing and waiting to help you.

So be sure to utilize these free resources! We hope to see you at next week’s FAFSA Workshop!

FAFSA Workshop: Next Tuesday!

On Tuesday, February 7, at 4:00, in Baxter 100, Financial Aid Assistant Directors, Beck Birdsell and Quincy Bejster, will present a FAFSA Workshop for TRiO students!

Everyone who attends will have their own computer to work on as the facilitators walk students through the FAFSA process step by step! An invaluable workshop you do not want to miss!

There are several items of information you will need to bring with you to the workshop in order to complete your financial aid application.

MATERIALS NEEDED: SEE PAGE 2!
Guest Column: Becky Birdsell, Assistant Financial Aid Director

**FAFSA: Navigating a Complex Process**

Financial Aid is a topic that concerns most students and their parents. We understand that the financial aid process can be confusing and at times complex. When you have questions about financial aid, you will find the answers in the Office of Financial Aid. Our staff wants to assist you and your family in any way possible. We want to make the process of applying for and receiving financial aid as simple and as seamless as possible.

Be sure to attend our FAFSA Completion Workshop on February 7, 4:00 pm, in Baxter 100. We will help you complete and submit your 2012-13 FAFSA online. Can’t attend the workshop? Schedule a personal appointment to come to our office and we will help you complete the FAFSA.

Contact our office if you have any financial aid questions or need help completing your FAFSA. You can reach us by phone: 217.245.3035, email: finaid@ic.edu or in person: Tanner Hall, 2nd floor.

**FAFSA Workshop Materials (Continued from Page 1)**

You are strongly encouraged to bring the following information to the workshop (*note: information not required):

1) Your FAFSA PIN number
2) Your parent(s) FAFSA PIN number
3) Your 2011 income information
4) Your parent(s) 2011 income information
5) Your asset information
6) Your parent(s) asset information

**Financial Aid To Do List**

1. After January 1, you and your parents prepare income tax returns for the previous year
2. Complete and electronically submit the FAFSA after January 1st but before Illinois College’s priority deadline of March 1. The Financial Aid Office is happy to help you submit your FAFSA. Call (217.245.3035) to set up an appointment.
3. Review your processed FAFSA for errors. If it needs to be corrected contact the Financial Aid Office at 217.245.3035.
4. You may be required to provide the Financial Aid Office with additional information (verification worksheet, IRS Tax Transcript) – submit requested documents in a timely manner
5. Review your Financial Aid Award Letter when you receive it and share/show it to your parents
6. Complete the Acceptance Form, included with your award letter, and return it to the Financial Aid Office in a timely manner
7. If you will be borrowing student loans, follow the procedures outlined by the Financial Aid Office on your award letter or on our website, www.ic.edu/finanaidlinks