**LESSON 6**

**Week 6: Tuition & Jobs (October 5-October 11)**

**Important Dates/Notes:**

- *Now:* Check Financial Aid Status this week!
- *Now:* Begin searching for outside scholarship opportunities (See lesson)
- *January 1:* FAFSA may be filed starting on this date.
- *March 1:* FAFSA deadline for maximum funding available.

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**Topic A:** As registration for the next semester approaches, it’s a good time for students to get a “checkup” on any financial aid status they may have. All students should be checking their “eWeb” account to be sure they don’t have any financial (or Health Center) holds on those accounts. Any changes to financial aid will be reflected on the outstanding documents. Remember, if students have aid that has not paid to their balance, they will not be able to register for the next semester.

*Ask your student (1): “Have you checked for any “Unsatisfied Requirements” under the Financial Aid Review Status on eWeb?”*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHOOL COSTS</th>
<th>FINANCIAL AID</th>
<th>STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Tuition, fees, meal plan, and housing.)</td>
<td>(Loans, scholarships &amp; grants you have accepted.)</td>
<td>(The difference between school costs and financial aid)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Topic B:** Once your student has figured out the cost of school minus any financial aid, it’s time to consider how the difference will be made up. Paying for school can seem like a daunting process, but there are resources at Eastern to assist students in making the experience easier. For more extensive information on everything “financial aid,” please see their office’s website: [http://www1.easternct.edu/finaid/](http://www1.easternct.edu/finaid/)

There are four basic types of aid (scholarships, grants, loans and employment) that students may access in financing their education. Students must be matriculated and in a degree seeking program to be eligible to receive grants and federal loans.
Scholarships

Scholarships are considered gift aid which does not have to be repaid. Scholarships are awarded through University, State, and external organizations. Each organization will notify your student separately of their qualification for funds.

Those given through the University admission process are based on high school achievement; sometimes in combination with financial need. These awards often have annual conditions for renewal related to the specific award (i.e. a specific cumulative Grade Point Average or maintaining a full-time credit load). The University also has scholarships available due to the generosity of donors and friends of Eastern.

The State of Connecticut also makes available two scholarships for students who ranked in the top 20% of their high school junior class or have a combined SAT score (Critical Reading, Math and Writing) of 1800 or higher or an ACT Composite Score of 27 or higher. Check the State of CT website or the website for your state for details about what they have to offer.

External organizations often have funds to give to students. Check with your local organizations like the Lions Club and look online. If the organization is legitimate, they will not charge to apply. There are also a number of scholarship search engines like Fastweb that return a number of scholarship opportunities.

Ask your student (2): “Have you created an account on www.fastweb.com (or other scholarship sites like ....) to see if there are scholarships you can apply for?”

Ask your student (3): “Send me at least one scholarship for which you can apply.”

Grants

Grants are awarded, and vary in amount, based on financial need and do not have to be repaid. Financial need is the cost to attend the University minus the results of the FAFSA or EFC. At Eastern, grants may be funded by the state or federal government and from the University’s own resources. While Pell Grant is an “entitlement” program that guarantees funding to any eligible student, all the other grant programs have limited funding and awards are based, among other things, on whether a student files the FAFSA by Eastern’s Financial Aid Priority Dates: Pell Grants, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG), Governor’s Scholarship Program Grant, CT State University Grant, Connecticut Minority Teacher Incentive Grant and the Federal TEACH Grant.

Loans

Loans represent financial aid that must be repaid over time and interest rates vary from program to program. Eligibility for borrowing through the federal programs is determined by filing the FAFSA on an annual basis and requires at least half-time enrollment (6 credits/semester).

The Direct Stafford Loan is by far the largest loan program through which students borrow. This program serves both students who demonstrate financial need as well as those who don’t. Undergraduate students who demonstrate financial need qualify for a combination of “subsidized” and “unsubsidized” loans, while undergrads who don’t demonstrate need and graduate students only qualify for “unsubsidized” loans. The term “subsidized” means that the federal government pays the interest on the loan for the student as long as the student is enrolled as at least a half-time student. “Unsubsidized” means that the student must pay the interest that accrues during their college career or defer the interest payments until they graduate.

Other loans include the Perkins Loan, Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS), Graduate PLUS, and Alternative (Private) Loans.
**Topic C:** Many students obtain jobs on campus to help pay for their tuition, or at least make some money to spend on necessities.

**Employment**

Working during college is also a longstanding part of the way students help finance their educations. In fact, holding a part-time job is one of the factors that improves a student’s chance of persisting to graduation as it provides another opportunity for the student to make campus connections that provide support. Eastern provides opportunities to work on and off campus through funding made available by the Federal Work Study Program and the institution itself. If eligible for Federal Work Study, funds will be posted as part of their package if they indicate an interest when filing the FAFSA, demonstrate financial need and meet Eastern’s priority filing date. Such awards allow students to earn approximately $2,600 during the academic year based on working approximately 10-12 hours per week.

To see what jobs Eastern is currently offering both work-study and non work-study students, see this website: [https://www.ecsujobs.org/](https://www.ecsujobs.org/)

**Ask your student (4):** “Have you created an account on escujobs.org and looked for open positions?”

**Assignment:** See questions in Lesson to ask your student.

**Points:** 4 points for question 1 *(You MUST get an answer to this question.)*
- 2 points for question 2
- 2 points for question 3
- 2 points for question 4

*(Total: 10 possible points)*