How to Apply for Financial Aid

Thank you for considering Nebraska Christian College (NCC) to pursue your goals! The following steps will guide you through a positive and successful Financial Aid experience. Completing each step in a timely and efficient manner will assist our office in compiling the best possible Financial Aid package for you. Priority is given to students who have their files complete by **April 1**.

STEP 1: Apply for all scholarships you can find. We suggest you check with your church, local organizations, your high school counselor and online scholarship search sites. If you are a new student, you will need to be accepted to Nebraska Christian College of Hope International University, before you will receive a Financial Aid package.

STEP 2: Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.ed.gov. If you and/or your parents, do not have a Federal Student Aid (FSA) ID, you will each need to obtain one at https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm before you can complete the FAFSA. The FAFSA results will be sent to you via email in the form of a Student Aid Report (SAR) and sent to NCC electronically. The results will help the Financial Aid office determine the Federal and State aid for which you are eligible, including Pell grant, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG), Nebraska Opportunity Grant (NOG), Federal Work-Study, and Federal Student Loans (Direct Subsidized and/or Direct Unsubsidized). The following helpful hints will aid you in the application process:

- Complete your FAFSA on or after <u>October 1</u>. The application will be based on the tax information from the "prior-prior year", for example: The 2017-2018 FAFSA is based on the 2015 tax year.
- Use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool to link your IRS information to the FAFSA. This helps to minimize the need to submit additional paperwork to the Financial Aid office.
- Our School Code for FAFSA is <u>001252</u>, or select "Hope International University Nebraska Papillion, NE" from the drop-down menu to have the results sent to NCC.
- If you are considered dependent by FAFSA and your natural parents are divorced, you need to include the parent you most recently lived with. If the parent you are including has been remarried, you will also need to include your stepparent's information.
- If you are planning to get married prior to the start of the next academic year, contact the Financial Aid office to discuss your filing options.
- Sign the FAFSA with your FSA ID. Without a signature your application is not complete and we are unable to move forward in determining your eligibility.

STEP 3: Monitor your email and respond quickly to all communications from our office and/or other agencies to avoid processing delays. For returning students, monitor your NCC Student Portal for a list of any documents you need to submit.

STEP 4: Keep good records. Make photocopies of forms before submitting them to the Financial Aid office. If you scan form(s) and send them via email, an electronic copy will already be generated on your computer. Create a file (paper and/or electronic) specifically for your Financial Aid communications/documents. After your initial Financial Aid packet is mailed to you, much of the communication from us will be via email.

STEP 5: ASK QUESTIONS! If you are not sure of anything during the process, please ask. We are here to help you make the process as seamless as possible. You can reach the Financial Aid office at:

402-935-9416 <u>kelli.sprouse@nechristian.edu</u> 12550 South 114th Street Papillion, NE 68046

Thank you again for your decision to advance your education and professional goals at Nebraska Christian College! We look forward to walking alongside you during your journey.