

## FINANCIAL AID AWARENESS

### 10 Questions to Ask Your Financial Aid Office – Answers provided

1. What types of financial aid do you offer?
  - BSU offers Federal, State and institutional aid. You need only complete the FAFSA form to be considered for all types of aid offered.
2. What are the **deadlines** for applying for financial aid? If I miss the deadline, does that mean I cannot apply at all for this year?
  - **The priority deadline for completing the FAFSA is March 1<sup>st</sup> of the academic year.** Applications received after this date are awarded on a funds-available basis.
3. If I don't apply for financial aid this year, will that affect my eligibility for financial aid in subsequent years?
  - Applications are awarded for only one academic year at a time. Not applying for aid in one year does not affect eligibility for subsequent years.
4. How do I apply for financial aid? Which forms are required?
  - To apply for all types of aid offered at BSU, only the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is required. Verification documents may be requested later for selected applications.
5. If I receive a scholarship, is my financial aid package affected?
  - If a student has not been awarded financial aid that meets the demonstrated eligibility, the scholarship is added to the award with no adjustments. If full eligibility has been met by other types of financial aid, changes may be required.
6. How does the financial aid application process differ for early admission students?
  - The financial aid process does not differ for early admissions students. Award offers for incoming students will be sent beginning in March.
7. When will I receive my financial aid award letter?
  - Award letters for incoming students begin in March and continue throughout the award year. Upper-class or returning students can expect award notices beginning in June.
8. Does BSU offer a payment plan that lets me pay my bill in installments?
  - A monthly payment plan is available. A \$25 enrollment fee per semester is required, but there is no interest or credit check to enroll.
9. If the financial aid award is insufficient or if my circumstances have changed, how do I appeal for more financial aid?
  - A written letter detailing the need for funds or a change in circumstances should be sent to the Financial Aid Office. Reviews will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
10. Where can I find information about other sources of financial aid?
  - The Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) has a number of programs available. See their website for details: [www.osfa.mass.edu](http://www.osfa.mass.edu). The TEACH Grant is available for students planning to become teachers in high-need fields. See the federal website for details: [www.teach-ats.ed.gov](http://www.teach-ats.ed.gov).
  - Your local high school or the college you plan to attend may have information about private scholarships. Be sure to check with employers and civic and religious organizations for private scholarship opportunities.