

# 2026-2027 STEPS TO PROCESSING FINANCIAL AID

## 1. APPLICATION

Complete the Free Application for **Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at Free Application for Federal Student Aid (studentaid.gov)**. This application will determine eligibility for federal and state grants, college work-study, and federal student loans. Students must reapply each year. **Mid-State's School Code is 005380**.

In order to complete the 2026-2027 FAFSA, students and parents must establish an FSA ID. This FSA ID must be verified by the Department of Education before an application can be completed (3-5 business days).

**FREE** application completion sessions are offered at Mid-State. Visit **Financial Aid (mstc.edu/financial-aid)** to schedule an appointment.

## 2. VERIFICATION

The Department of Education randomly selects one-third of financial aid applicants to have their financial aid information verified. Your Student Aid Report will indicate whether you have been selected, and Mid-State will send you a letter. You can check your To Do list in the Tasks tile in your MyMSTC portal to see if we have requested additional documentation. Students may be required to submit a 2024 IRS Tax Return Transcript. This document can be requested by logging on to **IRS website (irs.gov)**. Submit all documents within 30 days of the request date.

## 3. ADMISSIONS

To be eligible to receive financial aid, students must be accepted into a financial aid-eligible academic program at Mid-State. Undeclared program students are not eligible to receive financial aid. Students must be enrolled at least half-time (six credits) per semester to receive most types of financial aid. Pell Grant amount is based on enrollment intensity. Each credit of enrollment is a different Pell amount until a student reaches 12 credits or more, then Pell would be the same. Students enrolled less than half-time with Pell eligibility may receive only a partial Pell Grant.

## 4. AWARDS

Once you have completed the process and have submitted necessary forms to our office, we can determine your eligibility for financial aid. **You will receive a Financial Aid Offer Letter from Mid-State indicating the amount of grants, loans, and college work-study you may receive for each semester you are enrolled in 2026-2027**. Grants are automatically accepted. Students must accept or decline College Work-Study and Federal Direct Stafford Loans on MyMSTC. A Student Guide is sent with the offer letter and is available at **Financial Aid (mstc.edu/financial-aid)**.

New students who accept the loan will also be required to complete a Master Promissory Note (MPN) as their legal document to repay and complete Entrance Loan Counseling if this is their first loan at Mid-State. Go to **Federal Student Aid (studentaid.gov)** and select the Loans and Grants tab. Internet Explorer is not supported for viewing this site.

## 5. DISBURSEMENT OF AID

Financial aid will be applied to student accounts after the census date of each semester. Estimated disbursement dates are posted on the Financial Aid webpage at **Financial Aid Disbursement Dates (mstc.edu/paying-for-college/financial-aid/financial-aid-disbursement-dates)**. Tuition can be deferred until all eligible financial aid is released.

## 6. BOOK CHARGES

Most students who are awarded and have financial aid pending will be able to charge their books against their financial aid. If the student has enough financial aid to cover tuition and fees, their excess aid can be used toward a book charge. Please see the **Financial Aid page (mstc.edu/financial-aid)** to learn about book charge eligibility and instructions.

## 7. UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES

If there is a severe change in your (or your parents') financial circumstances after your financial aid has been processed, it may be possible to complete a Re-evaluation/Professional Judgment form to evaluate your need based upon current financial information. Forms are available by contacting the Financial Aid office. Documentation will be required.

## 8. SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS

Students must maintain satisfactory academic progress to remain eligible to receive financial aid by completing at least 67 percent of their cumulative credits attempted and maintaining at least a 2.0 cumulative grade point average. Students are allowed a maximum of 150 percent of the program length to complete their degree or diploma. To learn more, visit **Maintaining Eligibility (mstc.edu/paying-for-college/financial-aid/maintaining-eligibility)**.

## 9. BE PATIENT

The application, analysis of need, awarding, and additional steps to verify information and make corrections can add weeks to the process. Applying at least one month prior to the start of classes is your best assurance of receiving aid when you need it. The Financial Aid office is working hard to ensure you receive all the aid in which you are eligible for. If you have any questions along the way, do not hesitate to reach out to Financial Aid.