SwiftStudent
A New Tool To Help Students Navigate Financial Aid

Now Even More Important Amid COVID-19

April 28, 2020
Technical Reminders

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Navigate Financial Aid
Now Even More Important Amid COVID-19

April 28, 2020
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@SwiftStudents
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We believe it's critically important to assist college students seeking adjustments to their financial aid, now more than ever during our #COVID19 national emergency. Our new, free digital tool SwiftStudent will be available mid-April. Please stay tuned.
Dr. Monica Parrish Trent
Vice President, Network Engagement
Achieving The Dream

Abigail Seldin
Chief Executive Officer
Seldin/Haring-Smith Foundation

Ambre L. Reed
Associate Director, College Relations
Achieving The Dream
277 INSTITUTIONS
OVER 4 MILLION STUDENTS
44 STATES PLUS D.C.
CARES Act
Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund

https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/heerfinstitutionalfaqs.pdf
Abigail Seldin
Chief Executive Officer
Seldin/Haring-Smith Foundation
How can I request a change to my financial aid package?

Visit our free site at https://formsswift.com/swift-student
What’s an appeal?

If you are a college student receiving federal financial aid to attend school, you can submit an appeal or a request to your school to adjust your financial aid package. A financial aid appeal or request is available to qualifying students at all types of institutions (Graduate, 4-year, 2-year and trade) offering federal financial aid.

Federal law allows your financial aid office to make changes to your financial aid package under certain circumstances. Each school has its own processes and requirements. If your financial aid office accepts an appeal or a request, your financial aid package may change in one of the following ways:

• Your cost of attendance (COA) may go up
• Your expected family contribution (EFC) may go down

It is also possible that neither of these changes will occur, but that the financial aid office may remind you of grant aid or federal loans that are available under your original financial aid package.

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What’s an appeal?

Submit a financial aid appeal at **any time** throughout your college journey.
SwiftStudent will help you write a financial aid appeal letter – **for free.**

- Learn about eligibility
- Use a free template to write an appeal letter
- Print and take to your financial aid office
- Wait for your school to accept or reject your request

Visit our free site at [https://formswift.com/swift-student](https://formswift.com/swift-student)
How to start my appeal

Eligibility, supporting documents, and letter templates vary by appeal type.

Check out the free guidance and templates at:
https://formswift.com/swift-student

All of these templates are designed for students currently receiving or applying for federal financial aid. Even if your appeal is not accepted, your school’s financial aid officers may be able to direct you to other resources once they better understand your situation.
Types of appeals available via SwiftStudent

- Ask the financial aid office to exclude parental information when they calculate my financial aid
- Ask for financial aid to cover my child care costs
- Ask for financial aid to cover expenses associated with my disability
- Ask for more financial aid if my financial situation changes after I fill out the FAFSA
- Ask for financial aid to cover my dependent care costs
- Ask for my financial aid to be reinstated if I miss Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) requirements
- Ask for more financial aid if FAFSA does not capture a financial difficulty I am currently facing
- Ask for financial aid to help with a car repair
- Ask for additional help if I have a financial emergency
- Ask for financial aid to cover a computer or other supplies that I need for school
- Ask for financial aid to help with food or housing
- Ask for an extension if I miss a financial aid deadline

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Templates for individuals writing in support of a student’s appeal request

- Write a letter of support for a student seeking a dependency override
- Write a letter explaining the cost of the childcare I provide for a student parent

Visit our free site at https://formsswift.com/swift-student
SwiftStudent offers free, customizable template letters to help you share your situation with the financial aid office.

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SwiftStudent addresses the barriers students face – and **saves time** for financial aid officers.

**SwiftStudent offers students:**
- a way to start the appeal conversation with college financial aid officers
- clear information about financial aid requirements and appeal types
- customizable template letters to help you share your situation with your school

**SwiftStudent offers financial aid officers:**
- a free resource to enhance the existing appeals process
- a path to receiving clear aid requests aligned with federal requirements
- customizable template letters for students that will enable easier evaluation

Visit our free site at [https://formswift.com/swift-student](https://formswift.com/swift-student)
SwiftStudent is **free** to students and to financial aid offices. There’s no sign-up process.

To make SwiftStudent available to your students, all you need to do is share it with them.

You can download our poster and flier, or use these slides for community presentations on financial aid.

You can also share our free SwiftStudent worksheet to help your students keep track of their conversations with the financial aid office.

Visit our free site at [https://formsswift.com/swift-student](https://formsswift.com/swift-student)
About SwiftStudent

SwiftStudent is the only free, digital resource that provides financial aid appeal letter templates for students.

The content for SwiftStudent was organized by the Seldin/Haring-Smith Foundation in partnership with leading higher education organizations.

SwiftStudent is powered by the company FormSwift, a leading provider of tools to help you easily create, edit, and sign any document.

Visit our free site at https://formswift.com/swift-student
Thank you for joining us today
We welcome you to send additional questions via email or twitter

SwiftStudent@shs.foundation
or tag us
@SwiftStudents

ATDWebinars@achievingthedream.org
Or tag us at
#ATD_Network