

The Castleton Student and Financial Aid

Castleton State College makes every effort to insure that each and every student who is accepted and wishes to enroll has the financial ability to meet his or her educational expenses. Financial aid is offered in the form of loans, scholarships, grants, and employment. We encourage all candidates for admission to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Some state agencies may require additional forms. Castleton's Financial Aid Office can assist students and parents with questions or concerns they may have regarding financial aid.

Eligibility for these funds is determined by calculating the cost of attendance/budget minus the expected family contribution (EFC). The federal processor has calculated the family contribution based on the information you and your family provide on the FAFSA.

Amounts to be awarded are based on what funding is available and the maximum federal eligibility limits. Any special circumstances should be brought to the attention of the financial aid office.

How do I apply for financial aid?

You need to complete and submit a FAFSA (Free Application for Financial Aid). You can complete this application on-line by going to the Castleton State College website www.castleton.edu and click on the financial aid button. Go to the section "How to Apply For Financial Aid." You can also apply by mailing a paper FAFSA. These applications are available at your high school guidance office or from our Financial Aid Office. The official FAFSA website is www.fafsa.ed.gov.

Castleton State College's school code is 003683.

Request for a pin number

Apply for a U.S. Department of Education PIN by visiting www.pin.ed.gov. Students and parents of dependent students need to apply for a PIN. The PIN is needed to electronically sign your online FAFSA.

When do I apply?

Applications may be submitted to the federal processor starting January 1. Financial Aid is awarded on a first come-first served basis. Therefore, you are encouraged to apply as early as possible. We will consider anyone who applies by April 1 to be an on-time applicant. On-time applicants do not have to worry about program funds being depleted.

What information do I need to complete the FAFSA?

- Social Security number
- Driver's license number, if you have one
- W-2 forms from the previous year
- Federal income tax returns from the previous year (i.e.: for 2007-2008 use 2006 tax return information)
- Current bank statements and records of stocks, bonds, and other investments
- Untaxed income received
- Business or farm records, if applicable
- Alien registration number, if not a US citizen
- If you are a dependent student, you will also need your parent(s)' social security number(s), your parent(s)' income and financial records as listed above.

What if our previous year's federal tax forms will not be completed early?

If you are concerned because you or your parents will not be able to complete federal tax forms early in the year, you may use estimated figures from the prior year's tax return. When you do complete the federal tax return, send a signed completed copy including all W-2 forms to the financial aid office. Be aware that your initial award may change due to corrections made to your FAFSA.

What happens once I send in the FAFSA?

Once your application is processed, you will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) from the federal processor. It is very important to review this report for accuracy, as your financial aid eligibility will be determined based on this information.

When will I receive a financial aid award package?

Once you have been accepted for admission to Castleton and the financial aid office has received your processed FAFSA, your financial aid eligibility will be determined and an award letter will be mailed to your home address. The award package may include a request for additional documentation. Please submit this paperwork as soon as possible.

What are the different types of financial aid and which ones do I need to pay back?

- There are two types of financial aid:
1. Gift aid – which does not have to be repaid
 - Pell grant
 - FSEOG – Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant
 - State grant
 2. Self help – which have to be repaid or earned through employment
 - Stafford Loan – Federal student loan and is offered as subsidized or unsubsidized
 - Perkins Loan – Federal student loan
 - Plus Loan – Federal loan for parent(s)
 - Federal Work Study – Funds that are earned through work. These earnings are not applied to the student's account. The student receives a paycheck bi-weekly for the hours worked. Employment is not guaranteed. You must apply for a work study position.

What funds are considered need based aid?

Pell grant, FSEOG, Federal Subsidized Loan, Perkins Loan and Federal Work Study are all need-based aid. Need is determined by subtracting the federal eligibility index from the cost of attendance.

If I have no need, what financial aid is available?

The Federal Unsubsidized Student Loan and the Parent Plus Loan, which are low interest federal loans are considered non-need based aid.

Does the college have a payment plan?

Castleton outsources their payment plan through AMSTuitionPay. For more details you may contact AMSTuitionPay at 1-800-635-0120 or go to their website at www.TuitionPay.com.

Does Castleton offer scholarships?

Scholarships for new students are available through the Admissions office. There is a Castleton Fellowship which is offered through the Honors Program, Music Scholarship, and a Spanish Scholarship. Check our web site for details and deadlines or call the admissions office.

Do I need to inform Castleton if I receive a scholarship or other assistance?

In accordance with federal guidelines, the Financial Aid Office is required to take all resources into account when determining your eligibility for financial aid. Should you receive an outside scholarship, grant, tuition remission, or any form of assistance you must notify our office in writing. Receipt of additional assistance usually results in a reduction in loan(s) and/or work study.

What is the cost to attend Castleton?

2006-2007* rates are:

- Tuition: (Undergraduate)
VT Resident – \$6,648 (\$8,184 Nursing major)
Non-Resident – \$14,376 (\$15,600 Nursing major)
- Fees: Student Activity Fee – \$180
New Student Fee – \$195
- If you live on campus: Room \$4,134;
Board (meals) \$2,808
- Health Insurance: \$1,235 – All full-time students are required to carry health insurance. If you have your own, you can have this charge waived.

Graduate students can check our website for rates or call the admissions office.

*For updated costs check our web site
www.castleton.edu/financialaid

What other expenses do I need to consider?

We estimate the following:
Books: \$1,000/year (\$1,500/year Nursing)
Personal: \$612/year
Transportation: \$676-\$1,390/year

Also, you could have fees attached to courses such as lab fees.

Who is my contact person should I have question?

Questions on Financial Aid may be directed to the Student Services Center by calling 802-468-6070.

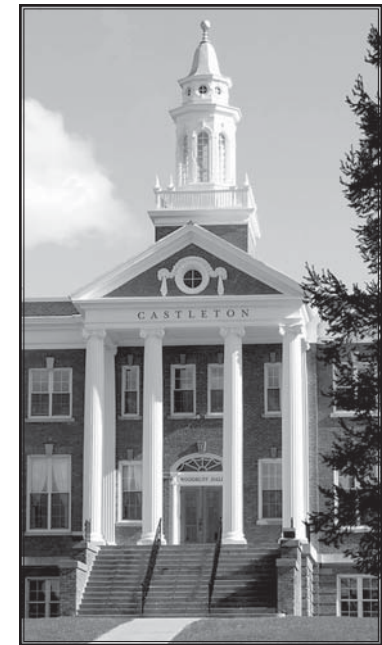
Helpful Hints

- Stay in touch with your Admissions Office to make sure they have everything they need to make a decision on your application. The direct number is 802-468-1213 or 1-800-639-8521.
- Check your SAR (Student Aid Report) from the federal processor to make sure the information is correct and complete.
- Contact the financial aid office to make sure your FAFSA information has been received.
- Have federal tax returns and W-2's available upon school's request for verification of information.
- Check the Castleton web site for scholarship information. New student scholarships are managed through the Admissions Office.
- Vermont residents can apply for a state grant on-line at www.vsac.org.
- Non-residents should inquire within their own state grant office.
- Be aware of scams. You should never pay to apply for a scholarship or to complete the FAFSA.
- For additional information on financial aid check our website at www.castleton.edu/financialaid

Castleton State College
Financial Aid Office
Woodruff Hall
62 Alumni Drive
Castleton, Vermont 05735

802-468-6070 • Fax: 1-802-468-5237

FINANCIAL AID



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Castleton

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www.castleton.edu