

# FAFSA completion

By Office of Financial Aid

While the spring semester is just getting started, the Office of Financial Aid is already preparing for the upcoming academic year. Beginning January 1, 2011, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid 2011-12 became available to fill out for the upcoming academic year (beginning Fall 2011). We encourage all students interested in receiving federal aid to fill out the FAFSA early. The priority deadline for IIT is April 15, 2011. However, since some forms of federal and state aid are limited, we encourage students to do this as early as possible. Even if your or your parents' tax return is not complete for 2010, families can use an estimation of their 2010 income in order to complete the FAFSA. Corrections to the FAFSA can be made later once the tax filing process is complete.

The Office of Financial Aid is changing the award packaging policy for students selected for verification in 2011-12 by the Department of Education. Verification is a process that compares the FAFSA to tax information and is required for selected students; federal aid cannot disburse to a student's account until this process is complete. For the upcoming academic year, the Office of Financial Aid will not award federal aid to selected students until verification is complete. This means students will not have a financial aid package until the requested documentation is submitted and reviewed by our office. We encourage students to fulfill requirements for this process and be in touch with our office so we can provide a financial aid award as quickly and smoothly as possible.

As always, please feel free to contact our office with any questions at 312-567-7219 or [finaid@iit.edu](mailto:finaid@iit.edu).



## FAFSA filing tips

By Ryan Kamphuis  
CAMPUS EDITOR

January 1 doesn't just mark the beginning of a new year. For this nation's college students, January 1 marks the unveiling of the brand new FAFSA. The Free Application for Student Aid is the de facto standard when it comes to financial aid applications. Most schools, IIT included, require all students who hope to receive financial aid in any form, whether it be in the form of loans, grants, or scholarships, to file the FAFSA.

Filing the FAFSA is a long process, and many students complain of how difficult it is to complete the form, despite the fact that it gets easier with each year. Finding all the paperwork, information and numbers that one needs to finish the FAFSA can be very stressful.

While anyone who goes to IIT and receives aid has already filed the FAFSA before, the mandatory re-application can still be a confusing process. The form changes from year to year, as does your own financial status. And on top of that, very little of the application can be carried over from the previous year's application. To help make the entire FAFSA process go a little bit smoother, here are a few simple tips that will make the whole process much easier.

### File your Taxes before your FAFSA

While it is very important to get your FAFSA filed as soon as you can, and you are allowed to file it before you complete your taxes using estimated income figures, things go much smoother if you wait a few weeks and complete the FAFSA after you finish your taxes. This allows you to enter your exact income figures into the form, and won't require you to estimate your income, and then correct your form with the exact figures later. Also, by filing your taxes before the FAFSA, you speed the verification process. Every FAFSA that is submitted is verified by the Department of Education and the Internal Revenue Service to ensure that the income figures are the same on

both your tax return and your FAFSA. If your taxes are already filed, that process takes lesser time.

### Re-discover your PIN ahead of time

As you probably remember, whenever you needed to approve a part of your FAFSA or 'sign' the application when you were finished, you need to use your Department of Education PIN. It's a good idea to look through your records or online for your PIN ahead of time. That way if you're not able to find it, you can contact the DOE and get a new PIN as soon as possible. Nothing is worse than finishing the FAFSA, and then having to wait a week to actually file it because you lost your PIN.

### Make a list of Information

One of the most difficult things about filing the FAFSA is getting all of your parent's financial information for the form. There's a lot of information to get, and it's difficult to get all of it when you no longer live with them. One suggestion to make getting this information easier is to go through the entire FAFSA and type up a paper listing every bit of information you need from your parents. That way you can just email your parents the list, and they can systematically fill it out and get it back to you. And the best part of this solution is that once your parents send you that list back, you now have all of that information in one place. You won't have to go digging through paperwork to find the figures you need; it's all right there!

These are just a few tips on completing the FAFSA. There are thousands of helpful resources online that will make the whole process easier. But, one of the best resources for tips, suggestions and help on the FAFSA is IIT's Office of Financial Aid. Simply put, they've been dealing with the FAFSA for a long time, and all that experience makes them experts! If you ever have any questions about the FAFSA, financial aid, or paying for college in general, the Office of Financial Aid are the people to ask. You can find the Office of Financial Aid in Room 104 of Main Building or email them at [finaid@iit.edu](mailto:finaid@iit.edu). Good luck with your FAFSA!

## University Calendar



Tuesday

2/1

**Undergraduate Research Day**  
**Office of Undergraduate Research**

12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m., MTCC

Undergraduate Research Day is an opportunity to showcase the outstanding research performed by IIT undergraduates both on- and off-campus. Students who are currently involved in research or who performed research this summer are encouraged to present a poster of their work.

Wednesday

2/2

**Transition Metal-Catalyzed Synthesis of N-Heterocycles from Azides: Relationship between Structure and Mechanism**

**Chemistry Colloquium**

3:15 p.m., LS 111

Lecture by Tom G. Driver, Department of Chemistry, University of Illinois at Chicago

Thursday

2/3

**Chinese New Year**

*All day, everywhere!*

**Ions in Channels**

**Physics Colloquium**

3:50 p.m., LS 111

Lecture by Bob Eisenberg, Department of Molecular Biophysics, Rush University

Friday

2/4

**Leadership Academy Scholarship applications due!**  
*Everywhere*

**Orientation to Vedic Studies - Introduction to Yoga**  
**Vedic Vision Society**

12:50 p.m. - 2:00 p.m., Wishnick 119

This is the first lecture of the four-part certification course and the topic for this lecture is "Introduction to Yoga."

**HawkEYE Workshop: Frustration Free Financing**  
**Office of Student Life**

12:50 p.m. - 1:40 p.m., MTCC Auditorium

Manage organization finances and spend money like a professional after some guidance on the procedures and policies.

Sunday

2/5

**Chinese New Year Day Parade**

1:00 p.m., Chinatown

Monday

2/7

**ARTstor training in Galvin Library**  
**Galvin Library**

12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m., Galvin Library

Learn how to use ARTstor, a digital library of more than one million images in the arts, architecture, humanities, and social sciences. Sign up here: <http://tinyurl.com/artstortraining>.