



Financial Aid Parent Newsletter

Summer 2015 



Parent Newsletter: A Welcome

By Amanda B. Carter, Deputy Director

The end of the 2014-2015 academic year is in sight! Warm weather and finals are marking down the days to graduation and the start of the summer in Rochester.

In this version of the Financial Aid Office's Parent Newsletter, we provide you with information about a fantastic office on campus as well as details about what to look forward to for the fall semester.

Our office is still open during the summer months, so feel free to contact us if you have any questions about how summer financial aid works or about the upcoming 2015-2016 academic year.

Congratulations to all our students, and their parents, as we close out another successful year at Rochester!

Meliora!



Spotlight on: David T. Kearns Center for Leadership and Diversity in Arts, Science and Engineering

By Christina Schmidt, Financial Aid Counselor

The Financial Aid Office works with many different offices on campus over the course of the year. We'll dedicate time in our newsletter to let you know about those relationships and provide some insight on the ways we work to support your student. In this release, we'll focus on the David T. Kearns Center. I sat down to talk with Melissa Raucci, who works as an Academic Advisor in the Kearns Center.

CS: Can you highlight some of the services the Kearns Center provides to students?

MR: The center has pre-college, college, and graduate programs. The pre-college program provides college prep opportunities for students in the Rochester City School District. *Upward Bound* is a program dedicated to helping students graduate from high school and supports students' academic progress in math and science.

The college program supports students in times of transition and helps them to graduate on time. The Ronald E. McNair Post Baccalaureate Achievement Program supports students who seek careers in research and teaching at the University level. Kearns Scholars participate in workshops and receive mentoring in relation to their academic and career goals. And finally, the Xerox Engineering Research Fellowship is a summer research opportunity.

CS: What exactly does an academic advisor do?

MR: We offer advising to students beginning as freshman all the way through graduation. We connect students to faculty and University resources and services as they transition into college life. We work with students on short- and long-term academic, social, and emotional goals. It is important to take a holistic approach and create individualized plans for students' success.

CS: How does the Kearns Center work together with the Financial Aid Office?

MR: The Kearns Center helps to facilitate students' relationship with the Financial Aid Office. Many students don't know where to start when it comes to financial aid. We prepare students to meet with their financial aid counselors by helping them to ask the right questions about their aid. And finally, both offices serve students in the Higher Educational Opportunity Program (HEOP) through the Office of Minority Student Affairs.

CS: What is the most important thing for parents to know about the Kearns Center?

MR: When you are part of the Kearns Center, you are part of a family. We want students to feel comfortable and supported here at the University.

Learn more: The Kearns Center is located on the 4th floor of Dewey Hall. Visit them at www.rochester.edu/college/kearnscenter.



Financial Literacy

By Emily Hessney, Assistant Director

Our financial literacy program continues to grow, and we are so excited that students are getting more involved! We hosted an event on campus in February and collaborated with a sorority to co-host an event for National Money Smart Week in April as well.

In February, the Financial Aid Office hosted an event called Mind over Money, featuring a panel of guest speakers from the Career Center, Simon Business School, Admissions and Financial Aid, River Campus Libraries, and the Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Rochester. Students had an opportunity to interact with the panel in small groups in a hands-on game that allowed them to discuss the different types of financial decisions we make every day!

Another new and exciting resource for students is our [Super Simple Budget Sheet](#). This is a great, easy tool for students to use to start tracking their earnings and spending!

We always encourage students to check out [Financial Avenue](#), an awesome tool for learning about money management through videos, quizzes, and more! Our access code is 967FBF.

Last but not least, if you stop by our office in Wallis Hall, check out our brand new Financial Literacy Corner! We have tons of handy info that you can peruse while waiting for an appointment with your financial aid counselor. Feedback is always welcome!

Contacting Financial Aid

By Hali Skaggs, Senior Assistant Director

If you are like many parents, there was a time that you wanted to reach out to financial aid to ask a question or thank your student's counselor. Even though you wanted to contact them, you may have not known how. Here is a little cheat sheet on how to contact financial aid and find out who your student's counselor is. Remember, if you ever have any questions, do not hesitate to reach out to the Financial Aid Office.

Twitter: twitter.com/URFinAid

On our Twitter account, you can see commonly asked questions, explore updates to the Financial Aid Office, and even ask your own questions. Our office continually monitors Twitter posts and messages, so you are welcome to reach out to us this way. All you have to do is follow us. It's that easy!

Phone: (800) 881-8234 or (585) 275-3226

When you call us, your phone call will be answered by one of our awesome front desk staff members. These staff members are trained to answer your questions, so feel free to ask them anything. In order to schedule an appointment with your student's financial aid counselor, they will find a time that works best for both you and the counselor. These appointments can either take place over the phone or in person. Please note, we do not take same day appointments.

Email: <http://enrollment.rochester.edu/financial-aid/contact/>

On our website, you can find out who your student's financial aid counselor is based on last name. Every counselor's email address is listed. Just send your student's counselor an email with any questions you may have and they will get back to you with the answer. This is a great communication tool for quick questions.

Up Next

By Joyce Thomas, Office Manager

Returning Student Award Information for 2015-2016

Students who will be returning for the 2015-2016 academic year and have provided all elements of their financial aid application by the deadline of May 1, 2015, should expect to see an email regarding their aid for next year by mid-June.

All information regarding the status of a student's aid application is emailed to their University of Rochester email address, so students should keep an eye on their email over the summer months.

Disbursement of Financial Aid to a Student's Charges

All required documents must be received by the Financial Aid Office in order for a student's financial aid to disburse for the fall semester.

Students receive monthly emails notifying them of any outstanding documents that are preventing their financial aid from disbursing on time. These emails will begin in May 2015 and will continue over the summer months until their application is complete.

Missing documents can be submitted directly to the Financial Aid Office via email, fax, regular mail, or in person.

The Financial Aid Office
Wallis Hall
PO Box 270261
Rochester, NY 14627-0261

Telephone: (585) 275-3226
Toll free: (800) 881-8234
Fax: (585) 756-7664

Office Hours
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 8:30 am – 5:00 pm
Wednesday: 9:30 am – 5:00 pm