



Important Updates from the New York State Higher Education Corporation (HESC)

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Have Questions About your NYS Grants or Scholarships? Schedule a Call with HESC Online

HESC is pleased to announce that you can now schedule a 1-on-1 call with a HESC representative through HESC's new online appointment scheduler.

This new scheduling system allows you to book an appointment at any time and reserve the day and time that is most convenient for you, Monday through Friday between 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., (excluding holidays).

To schedule an appointment, visit <http://reservation.hesc.ny.gov/scholarships>.

Are You Ready for Fall Classes?

No matter how your college chooses to conduct classes this year, you want to make sure you've taken all the right steps regarding your NYS financial aid award. This includes ensuring your HESC student account information is up-to-date and accurate.

Now is the time to log into your [HESC Student Account](#) to verify your:

- **College code:** Did you transfer schools? Did you recently decide what college you are attending? Be sure the code reflects where you will be in the fall.
- **Your tax filing information:** This section is about if you filed taxes in 2018, and if you did, it should reflect your information – not your parent(s)'.
• **Your parent(s)' tax filing information:** This should contain your parent(s)' tax filing status and information, not yours.

Accurate information will ensure your college receives notification of your NYS financial aid awards.

Q: How do I verify my identity for my HESC PIN account if I don't have a license or a NY-State Non-Driver's ID?

If you recently filed your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), HESC will use your FAFSA information to automatically verify your identity. If you filed electronically, HESC will receive your FAFSA information from the U.S.

Department of Education approximately three to five days after you've filed.

If your identity still cannot be verified, check your HESC account to be sure your name, social

security number and birth date appear exactly as entered on your FAFSA and, if necessary, update your information in your HESC account.

All About TAP...

Did you know that you need to complete a NYS Student Aid Payment application for each year that you wish to receive your TAP award?

If you received a TAP award last year (or any prior year), you must complete a **NYS Student Aid Payment** application for the 2020-21 academic year in order to receive your award. Completing your application allows HESC to know that you are still in school and seeking your awards for the current year.

And don't forget your FAFSA! If you haven't filed your 2020-21 FAFSA yet, start [here](#) and then follow the link on the FAFSA confirmation page to the NYS Student Aid Payment application. If you already filed your FAFSA, but still need to complete your NYS Student Aid Payment application for 2020-21, click [here](#).

What's new on the NYS Student Aid Payment application?

You may have noticed that the NYS application now requires a signature of your parent, if you are a dependent, or your spouse if you are an independent student. To avoid delays in processing, be sure to have completed this requirement.

Please note that while the parent signature is required for the application, if you are a dependent student, only the student needs a HESCPIN – unlike the FAFSA where both the student and parent have an FSA ID.

If you haven't completed your FAFSA or NYS Student Aid Payment application yet, start [here](#) and then follow the link to the NYS Student Aid Payment application. If you have already filed your FAFSA, but still need to complete your application for TAP for 2020-21, go [here](#).

Got TAP Questions? We've Got the Answers...

Q: How do I make sure I meet the full-time status requirement for TAP?

To be eligible for TAP, full-time status means taking at least 12 credits towards your major — also referred to as your program of study — as an undergraduate student. Your credit enrollment is reported to HESC by your college after the add/drop date. To avoid losing an award because of your enrollment status, you must take at least 12 credits in classes that are applicable toward your program of study each semester (and

Q: When I completed my 2020-21 application for TAP, I answered that I filed tax returns in 2018, but only my parents did. How do I modify that?

You can update your information by logging into your [HESC Student Account](#) and clicking on "Update Student Tax Information." There, you can make any updates needed to your account.

accepted towards completion of your degree).

The Excelsior Scholarship and Enhanced Tuition Awards Programs...

The Excelsior Scholarship application is open! You can find the application at hesc.ny.gov/excelsior. The deadline to apply is August 31, 2020.

The application for the Enhanced Tuition Awards, for student attending participating private colleges in NYS, is also open at hesc.ny.gov/eta. The deadline to apply is August 31, 2020.

Please note that the COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically reduced state revenues and the processing of new applications is pending on Federal assistance, which has been delayed since April. Excelsior Scholarship and Enhanced Tuition Awards may have to be reduced and/or prioritized for current recipients as provided for under the program.

My Student Account Tips and Tools

Have you submitted the FAFSA, but can't complete the NYS Student Aid Payment for TAP because you received an error message to "...complete the FAFSA"? That can be frustrating!

If you didn't complete your NYS Student Aid Payment Application, when you submitted your FAFSA, you will need to wait until your information is sent to HESC before completing the NYS Application. This can take three to five days.

If, after five days, you are still unable to complete the NYS application, it could mean that there are issues with your FAFSA processing. This may be a result of missing application information or missing required signatures.

Check your FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov and make any necessary updates. Once your updates process, you should be able to complete your NYS application. Check for updates on your TAP status through your [HESC account](#)

NYS Higher Education Services Corporation

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