tips on financing a college education

Going to college is not an inexpensive proposition. It helps to plan ahead and to be well informed when it comes to seeking scholarships, grants and loans. Wichita State University Director of Financial Aid Deb Byers explains steps in an interview with Joe Kleinsasser, Director of News & Media Relations, that parents and students can take to lighten the financial burden. The following quotes are from Kleinsasser's interview with Byers:

"Of course, it's always advisable to plan for your student's college education as early as possible. So many families will try to start setting something aside soon after their children are born so that they have those savings put in place. There are many opportunities for investing. You should talk to a financial adviser or tax accountant for what might be best for you and your family. Financing a college education is one of the most important investments your family is going to make in its lifetime. And two of the biggest hurdles are knowing what's available as well as filling out the federal aid application itself."

Types of Aid

"It's important to know what types of aid are available when you talk about financial aid. Basically the categories are going to be in the way of grants, loans, work study options and scholarships. Those might be funded from federal, state, the institutional level, or from outside sources in your local community."

"Most federal aid is based on financial need. There is one type of student loan, unsubsidized student loans or parent loans that can be assessed, though, that are not need-based. In addition to that, students should check out the resources with their individual colleges and look at also the state resources that are available, which may or may not be based on financial need."

Application Deadlines & Tips

"It's important for students to know about application deadlines. If they're applying for federal aid, most of the schools require an early spring application priority date or deadline. However, it's important to note that if you've missed that deadline you still should sit down and file the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) as soon as possible, because there will still be some funds available."

"One of the biggest tips in terms of filing for federal student aid is to be organized just like you would be for your taxes. In fact your taxes for 2006 will be used in the federal aid application for '07/'08, so gather that information, and also be prepared to answer questions about the resources that you had in untaxed income or benefits, as well as asset information."

Adapted from excerpts by Joe Kleinsasser
www.wichita.edu/newsline
TRIO DSS TUTORING

If you are currently enrolled this semester, and a student in our program, DSS has free tutors on staff to assist you! Currently we have someone to help you with Math, Science, English, Business, Sociology, and Spanish. We also have an English Writing Specialist in our office that can edit your essays and papers before you hand them in. It is our goal to help you succeed!

TUTOR JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Want to make a difference in a fellow student's life? Want to get paid for it? Help yourself while helping others! DSS is taking applications for tutor positions for Fall 2007. Applicants must be at least in sophomore standing with an overall GPA of 3.0 or above. DSS also welcomes volunteer tutors. Contact Kendra at 978-5956 or drop by 158 Grace Wilkie Annex for an application for tutoring opportunities.

STUDENT OF THE SUMMER!

Introducing Sara Judd! Sara Judd was April's student of the month. Sara has continued to show her exceptional dedication to learning through DSS this summer with the Harry Potter Literary Seminar. Therefore, we have decided to extend Sara's honors for the entire summer! Sara is a sophomore planning on majoring in either history or anthropology. Sara is also the Educational Focus Group Leader at the Mental Health Association. After earning her Bachelor's degree, she plans on pursuing her graduate studies in either Anthropology or Archaeology, which she says fascinates her.

Back To School

The official start of summer is marked June 21st. For those not taking Summer sessions, however, the fun probably began the moment you dropped your pencil after taking final exams. Considering there are less than two months left before Fall semester begins, it's time to start preparing for another semester of academic success. Ask yourself the following questions:

- Are you ready financially?
  Make sure all paperwork is completed to ensure your financial aid is processed in a timely manner. If you are not a recipient of financial aid, keep your eyes out for scholarships and create payment arrangements if necessary to ensure unpaid classes are not dropped before the semester begins.

- What classes should I take?
  See your favorite Academic Advisor to ensure you are on the right path to graduation.

- Am I ready to enroll?
  After seeing an Advisor, enroll in choice classes as soon as possible. This will eliminate the inconvenience of a course being closed due to being full.

- Is my schedule cohesive with my abilities?
  Make sure the schedule you have chosen is practical and not overwhelming. Your time and energy should be focused on studying and not time issues.

- Am I ready for summer’s end?
  Sure, you are! The sooner we see Fall, the sooner we graduate!

Taking unnecessary classes can stall academic success and lead to higher stress levels.

Margery Hannah, DSS English Writing Specialist
TRIO DSS SEMESTER CALENDAR

July
2  Second Summer Session Begins
4  Independence Day
27  Summer Session Ends
30  Fall Pre session Begins

August
8  Financial Aid Available
10  Direct Deposits Begin
16  Fall Pre session Ends
Refund Checks Mailed
16-17  DSS Open House
28  Convocation

WORKSHOPS ARE REVAMPED

DSS listened to the voice of our program students and revamped our workshops! The changes include having all workshops in our newly decorated classroom right across the hall from our office, in 163 Grace Wilkie Annex. We will have refreshments and feature new interactive workshop topics. DSS Workshops are only offered to program students. These are the workshops for the Fall semester.

PQRST
(A Textbook Reading/Study Strategy System)
Tuesday, September 11th, 2007
1:45 - 2:45PM
163 GWA
Phil Bowers

Microsoft Word & MyWSU Tutorial
Thursday, October 11th, 2007
1:45 - 2:45PM
163 GWA
Shanda Burch

Time Management
Wednesday, November 7th, 2007
2:00 - 3:00PM
163 GWA
TBA

Yes, You Do Have Skills
November
TBA
163 GWA
Randi Langley

DSS OPEN HOUSE

Join us on August 16 and 17 for fun and entertainment at our open house! We will have games and activities as well as refreshments. Whether you are new or returning to DSS we are sure to have new information about the program for 2007-2008. You will have the opportunity to meet with your Academic Advisor to get a jump start on a successful semester. This year we will be giving away door prizes too!

DO YOU DESERVE THE GIFT

DSS has two $25 gift certificates to the WSU Bookstore. These certificates were intended for students with the highest GPA honored at the luncheon. After several attempts to contact the students with no success, we have decided to offer them to our students who are faithful Beacon readers.

If you feel that you deserve one of these certificates let us know. You can submit up to one page of reasons why you should win. These reasons should be typed or very well hand written. We will look over each entry and pick the best two as winners!

Don't miss your opportunity for a shopping spree at the best bookstore in Wichita!
TIME & STUDY REMINDERS

1. Make A Realistic Class Schedule - Plan to study 2 - 3 hours a week for each hour in class
2. Make A Weekly Schedule
3. Go To Class - Or you will probably not pass
4. Don't Wait For Inspiration To Strike - Just Start Working
5. Make Use of All The Time You’re Given For Long Term Projects And Assignments

5 THINGS TO NEVER DO IN COLLEGE

1. NEVER lie to your professors.

Notice of Nondiscrimination: Wichita State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, gender, age, marital status, sexual orientation, veteran status, or disability. Any person having inquiries concerning this may contact the Office of Equal Opportunity, Wichita State University, 1845 Fairmount, Wichita, KS 67260-0001, (316) 978-3001.

Adapted from Molly Seltzer, Fastweb.com

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