

Financing *your* Education

FAIRMONT STATE UNIVERSITY
and
PIERPONT COMMUNITY &
TECHNICAL COLLEGE



2009-2010

in STATE

You are about to make the most important investment of your life. How can we help make it a little easier?

- First, understand that Fairmont State University and Pierpont Community & Technical College are excellent values. We keep our tuition reasonable, plus we offer an outstanding education that combines diverse programs, high quality instruction and real-world experiences.
- Second, we encourage all students to apply for financial aid. More than 86 percent of our students receive some sort of scholarship or financial aid. Even if you don't think you qualify, apply anyway. All students qualify for aid. Our office awarded more than \$40 million in financial aid last year.
- And third, the Financial Aid and Scholarships Office will work with you closely so you can make the most of the financial aid process.

*Never let funding hold you back from pursuing a higher education.
We can help you find ways to make it work!*

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT

www.fairmontstate.edu
www.pierpont.edu



APPLYING FOR FINANCIAL AID

To Apply: The FREE Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the primary instrument for determining eligibility for financial aid. You can complete the FAFSA online at www.fafsa.ed.gov beginning January 1 of the aid year. Worksheets to help you collect your financial information are also available on the same web site beginning in December prior to the aid year. Be sure to enter both school codes: **FSU – 003812** and **Pierpont – 040385**.

***tip**

Adding both school codes to your FAFSA will allow the financial aid office to process your application much faster regardless of which school you attend.

When to apply: Completing your FAFSA by March 1 will increase your chances of eligibility for Grants and Scholarships. Students who may be eligible for the Promise Scholarship must also complete the common application at www.wvapply.org by March 1. If you miss the March 1 date, you can still complete a FAFSA to be considered for Federal Aid. The FSU and Pierpont Scholarship Application, available online, must be received by February 1 of each year to receive merit based scholarships from FSU or Pierpont. You may also be considered for the State Grant if funds permit.

Don't Wait for Tax Returns: The FAFSA can be completed using estimated figures based on W2's, the previous year's tax return, your last paycheck, or the income estimator on the online FAFSA. Once your tax returns are completed, you can update your FAFSA online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

*tip

The FAFSA4caster is available on the same web site www.fafsa.ed.gov and can be accessed during your junior year or before January 1 of your senior year. This online tool gives you an estimated Expected Family Contribution (EFC) and an estimate of the aid you might be eligible for.

FAFSA Verification: The U.S. Department of Education randomly selects a number of applications in a review process called verification. You are notified of this on your Student Aid Report (SAR), the results of your processed FAFSA. Selected recipients will be required to provide additional documentation such as tax returns. Be sure to submit any documents upon receipt of the request.

*tip

Transfer or Returning Students Who Completed a FAFSA the Prior Year: You will be able to transfer some of your personal information from your previous year's FAFSA by using your Federal Student Aid PIN.

Veterans: Both Fairmont State and Pierpont are participating in the Yellow Ribbon Agreement with the Veterans Administration. When used with your Post 911 Chapter 33 benefits, all of your tuition and mandatory fees will be covered if you are eligible for 100% of your benefits. Watch for updates on our web sites or go to www.va.gov for more information. Remember to complete the Veteran Certification Information Card - "the Green Card."



TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID AVAILABLE

Federal Pell Grant: This grant is available to students with need determined by the information provided on the FAFSA and the resulting Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The maximum grant is provided at the Department of Education and awarded to students with an EFC 0. As the EFC rises, the award decreases. The maximum Pell Grant for 2009-2010 is \$5350 for two semesters with a 0 EFC.

*tip

An additional Pell award is now available for summer terms making it easier to accelerate or supplement your academic progress!

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG): Early completion of the FAFSA is required and is awarded by the school based on Pell Grant eligibility. All applicants whose FAFSA is received by the Department of Education processing center by March 1 will be considered until funds have been exhausted. Funds are limited.

Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG): This federal grant program is for first- and second-year college students who graduated from high school after January 2005. Students must be Pell Grant eligible, enrolled full-time and have completed a "rigorous secondary education program" as defined by the U.S. Department of Education. First-year students may receive up to \$750 and second-year students may receive up to \$1,300.

The National Science and Mathematics to Retain Talent (SMART) Grant: Third- and fourth-year college students who choose to study physical, life or computer science; math; technology; engineering; or a foreign language that is considered critical to national security, may be eligible for this federal grant. Students must be Pell Grant eligible, enrolled full-time and have a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA for classes in the above mentioned majors. Students may receive up to \$4,000 per year.

Federal Perkins Loan: This is a long-term, low-interest loan with a fixed 5% interest rate and a nine-month grace period after you graduate or leave school before beginning repayment. Funds are limited and available only to University students only with financial need who are enrolled at least half-time and have met the March 1 FAFSA priority date. A promissory note must be completed at ecsi.net prior to disbursement of funds. Perkins Loans are available to undergraduates and graduates. Funds are limited.

William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (subsidized and unsubsidized): FSU and Pierpont participate in the Direct Loan Program, which is available to students enrolled at least half-time. Award amounts vary, depending on grade level. An important distinction between the subsidized and the unsubsidized loan is that interest accrues on the unsubsidized loan and must either be paid while the borrower is in school or deferred and capitalized (added to the principal of the loan). The federal government pays the interest on subsidized loans as long as borrowers are enrolled at least half-time. The interest rate currently changes on July 1 of each year; however, it will not exceed 8.25%. A 1.5% fee is deducted from each disbursement and retained by the federal government. Students who have accepted their loans but who have not yet signed a Master Promissory Note will receive instructions about signing via the Internet at a later date. First-time loan borrowers in the Direct Loan Program are required to complete entrance counseling prior to receiving their first disbursement. You can complete this requirement online at www.dl.ed.gov. The loan will be disbursed in at least two payments and generally will be credited to the student's account for payment of tuition and other school charges. Any remaining funds will be paid directly to the student by check.

William D. Ford Federal Direct Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS): These loans are available to parents of dependent students who are enrolled at least half-time. A separate FSU and Pierpont Parent Loan application in addition to the FAFSA must be completed. This is a credit based loan. Eligible parents may borrow up to the cost of attendance, less any financial aid awards. Instructions to complete the Promissory Note will be sent upon credit approval. Repayment begins within 60 days after the final loan disbursement. The loan has a 4% fee deducted from each disbursement, which is retained by the federal government. The interest rate is fixed. The loan will be disbursed in at least two payments and generally will be credited to the student's account for payment of tuition and other school charges. Any remaining funds will be paid directly to the student by check.

Federal Work Study Employment: This program allows eligible students to earn money by working part-time up to 20 hours per week at minimum wage. This type of aid is not applied to charges at FSU and Pierpont. Recipients receive a paycheck twice monthly for hours worked. Priority is given to students who meet the March 1 priority filing date. Funding is limited. Students may be placed in Fairmont State offices or Pierpont offices regardless of school attended.

West Virginia Higher Education Grant: This grant is available to all West Virginia residents with need who complete and submit the FAFSA by the state's due date based on the student's status at the time of application. Priority date: March 1 for all students. (Students will still be considered for the State Grant after that date provided funding is available.) The state grant can pay tuition and mandatory fees up to \$3,300 a year.

PROMISE Scholarship: The PROMISE Scholarship Program covers tuition and mandatory fees for eligible West Virginia residents. High school students who have earned a 3.0 GPA (on a 4.0 scale) in their core and overall classes and attained a score of 22 or better on the ACT or at least 1020 on the SAT are potentially eligible. For more information, review the PROMISE Scholarship web site at www.promisescholarships.org. Also, please review the web site for renewal criteria.

Other WV programs: Higher Education Adult Part-time Students Grant (HEAPS) – tuition funds for part-time WV residents; Engineering, Science, & Technology, Robert C Byrd, and Underwood-Smith Scholarships; and Gear Up awards.

Other Sources of Aid: Churches, unions, fraternal organizations, high schools, civic organizations and employers offer substantial help. For listings, check with your local libraries and your high school guidance office.

PAYMENT OPTIONS

Fairmont State University and Pierpont Community & Technical College offer different payment options.

- All major credit cards, including Visa, MasterCard, Discover and American Express are accepted.
- Fairmont Installment Plan Service (FIPS): This service allows students to break their charges into four installments per semester after 100 percent of their financial aid is processed. There is a \$15 charge for enrolling in FIPS.

Students are billed each term via e-mail. The most efficient way to pay your invoice is at <https://epay.fairmontstate.edu>. You can review your account status, make payments and enter FIPS through this web site.

Students must use their Unified College Account (UCA) and password to access the web site.

If you have any questions regarding tuition or fees, please contact the Office of Enrollment Services at enrollmentservices@fairmontstate.edu or (304) 367-4892.

2009-10 EXPENSE BUDGET (Per Year)

The costs in this chart are estimated expenses for the 2009-2010 academic year. Your actual costs may vary. For example, your personal expenses may be higher or lower than our estimated cost. Room & Board fees in the chart are based on double occupancy rate and a 15 meal per week plan. We attempt to estimate realistic costs to allow our students to receive the maximum amount of financial aid available.

FAIRMONT STATE	LIVING WITH RELATIVE	LIVING ON CAMPUS	LIVING OFF CAMPUS
<i>DIRECT COSTS</i>			
Tuition & Fees	\$5,172	\$5,172	\$5,172
Room / Board	0	6,900	7,700
TOTAL	\$5,172	\$12,072	\$12,872
<i>INDIRECT COSTS</i>			
Books & Supplies	1,000	1,000	1,000
Transportation	1,900	1,000	1,900
Personal	2,900	1,500	1,500
TOTAL	\$5,800	\$3,500	\$4,400
TOTAL (estimated cost of attendance)	\$10,972	\$15,572	\$17,272

PIERPONT	LIVING WITH RELATIVE	LIVING ON CAMPUS	LIVING OFF CAMPUS
<i>DIRECT COSTS</i>			
Tuition & Fees	\$3,652	\$3,652	\$3,652
Room / Board	0	6,900	7,700
TOTAL	\$3,652	\$10,552	\$11,352
<i>INDIRECT COSTS</i>			
Books & Supplies	1,000	1,000	1,000
Transportation	1,900	1,000	1,900
Personal	1,500	1,500	1,500
TOTAL	\$4,400	\$3,500	\$4,400
TOTAL (estimated cost of attendance)	\$8,052	\$14,052	\$15,752

*sample

Sample Aid Award based on a zero EFC, resident, 1st year on campus student, FAFSA received by Department of Education Processor by February 1.

Cost of Attendance	\$15,572
Less EFC	\$ 0
NEED	\$15,572

Federal Pell	\$ 5,350
Federal SEOG	\$ 1,000
Federal ACG	\$ 750
State Grant	\$ 3,300
TOTAL AID	\$10,400

Falcon Scholarship	\$ 1,500
Subsidized Loan Offer	\$ 2,672
TOTAL AID	\$14,572

Unmet Need	\$ 1,000
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POSSIBLE SCHOLARSHIP	\$ 1,000
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Unmet Need	\$ 0
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* This is an example of an award package and may not be typical for all students.

SCHOLARSHIPS GENERAL INFORMATION

It is the intent of Fairmont State University and Pierpont Community & Technical College to promote and foster the highest degree of scholarship from its students. To assist students in this effort, we award scholarships primarily on merit and need. The objective of FSU's and Pierpont's scholarship program is to foster the recruitment and retention of a diverse student body with special talents.

Scholarships for talent and academic merit are very competitive. Each applicant is judged against all others applying for the same scholarship. So, be outstanding! Some scholarships are based solely on academic achievement, leadership and/or other contributions without reference to financial need. Others are earmarked for those who present strong academic and leadership potential and have demonstrated need.

Some scholarships are available for renewal for up to four years but you may need to submit an application each year. Others may only be available for freshmen or sophomores. Whatever the requirements, be sure you apply on time and submit complete application packets.

To Apply: You need to complete and submit the scholarship application to the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships by February 1. The application is available on both web sites www.fairmontstate.edu and www.pierpont.edu or from the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships. **All scholarships will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis until funds are exhausted. Funding is limited.**

There are over 100 scholarships available through FSU, Pierpont, and the Foundation. A few are listed below. If you have any questions about the scholarships listed here, please e-mail the Office of Admissions and Recruitment or the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships. All award amounts are per year.

- **Falcon Scholarships:** \$500, \$750, \$1000, \$1500; Renewable for 1 year – 1st Time Freshmen; Apply by Dec. 15 for next year
- **Pepsi Scholarship:** \$1250; 4 year award
- **Aladdin Scholarship:** \$1000; Renewable for 1 year – Must have Meal Plan
- **Charles McClain Scholarship:** \$ Full Ride (amount varies based on other aid and student status) 4 year competitive scholarship, requires separate application
- **Campus Life Scholarship:** \$2000, \$3,000; 1st Time Freshmen and Transfer Students
- **William White Scholarship:** \$500, \$1000, \$1500; Renewable for 1 year – FSU students only
- **Francis Pierpont Scholarship:** \$500, \$1000, \$1500; Renewable for 1 year – Pierpont students only
- **Neighborhood Investment Program Scholarship:** Total family income must be at or below 125% of National Poverty Guidelines (available online at either school's web site); must have GPA of 2.5 for renewal consideration

* more information on scholarships

- FASTWEB: www.fastweb.com (Financial Aid Search through the Web)
- College Scholarships: www.collegescholarships.com (College Connection Scholarships)
- College Quest: www.petersons.com (The Leader in College Search, Test Prep and Financial Aid)
- Scholarship: www.scholarships.com (Free College Scholarship Search and Financial Aid Resource)
- The College Board Online Scholarship: www.collegeboard.com (Your College Source)
- Scholarship News: www.free-4U.com (Scholarships, Fellowships and Grant Division)
- PROMISE Scholarship: www.promisescholarships.org

FINANCIAL AID TIMELINE

OCTOBER

- Last opportunity to take the ACT for Falcon Scholarship consideration
- FAFSA4caster available
- Fall Campus Visitation Day is Saturday, October 31.

NOVEMBER

- Last opportunity to take the SAT for Falcon Scholarship consideration.
- FAFSA4caster available.
- FSU and Pierpont Scholarship Application available.

DECEMBER

- FAFSA Worksheets available for download or print.
- FSU and Pierpont Scholarship applications become available.
- To be eligible for a Falcon Scholarship, you must have a completed admission file by December 15.
- The December test date is the last opportunity to take the ACT for PROMISE Scholarship consideration.
- FAFSA4caster available.

JANUARY

- Complete the FAFSA and include both the FSU school code — **003812** and the Pierpont school code — **040385** (formerly Fairmont State Community & Technical College).
- Submit the FAFSA to the federal processor by March 1 for priority consideration for need-based aid.
- Applications received after March 1 will be considered for Federal Pell Grants and Federal Direct loans only.
- FAFSA on the Web is available at www.fafsa.ed.gov.
- The January test date is the last opportunity to take the SAT for PROMISE scholarship consideration.

FEBRUARY

- February 1 is the priority application deadline for academic scholarship consideration.
- First letter requesting verification documents mailed (ongoing).

MARCH

- Submit the FAFSA to the federal processor by March 1 for priority consideration for need-based aid such as the State Grant and for the PROMISE Scholarship.
- Spring Campus Visitation Day is Saturday, March 27, 2010.

APRIL

- Notifications of West Virginia Higher Education Grants & Promise Scholarships are mailed from the respective agencies.
- Financial aid award notifications are sent by postal mail and/or e-mail to FSU and Pierpont applicants who met the March 1 FAFSA receipt deadline.
- WV Higher Education Grant Award Letter mailings from Higher Education Policy Commission.

MAY / JUNE

- Promissory notes for all accepted loans can be completed, as well as Entrance Counseling.
- Notifications are sent to students' FSU or Pierpont e-mail accounts if aid packages are revised.
- On-campus Orientation Days begin.

JULY

- Student invoices for the fall term are available online at <https://epay.fairmontstate.edu>.
- The first payment in the Fairmont Installment Plan Service (FIPS) is due.
- On-campus Orientation Days continue.

AUGUST

- Payment for fall term is due before the first day of classes.
- The second payment in the (FIPS) payment plan is due.
- Financial aid disbursed approximately 10 days prior to beginning of classes, refunds mailed, and classes begin.
- On-campus Orientation Days continue.

*meet the director



CYNTHIA HUDOK

Director of Financial Aid

"Financial aid has become an important part of going to college, and our staff is committed to making the financial aid process as simple as possible for you and your family. When one of the students we have helped graduates, we are as proud of that student as any family member would be."

financialaid@fairmontstate.edu

financialaid@pierpont.edu

Financial Aid and Scholarships

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Fairmont, WV 26554-2470

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OFFICE HOURS:

Mondays-Fridays 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

or by appointment