

Financial Aid Checklist



Date Completed: **File your FAFSA as soon as possible after October 1**

___ / ___ / ___

On-line at www.fafsa.ed.gov (SUNY Cortland's Title IV code is 002843)

- SUNY Cortland's FAFSA recommended filing date is February 1.
- When you apply for the FAFSA form you will create an FSA ID and password that you will use to electronically sign your form. **Record this FSA ID and password** in the bottom section of this form for future use.

___ / ___ / ___

New York State residents should file their TAP application online during the same session as the FAFSA form. If not, you will need to do so at www.tap.hesc.ny.gov/totw/. The NYS TAP Grant and SUNY Tuition Credit amount on your award letter is an estimate based on your FAFSA data and is subject to change.

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Sign up **today** to be notified when The Excelsior Scholarship application will become available for the 2019-20 academic year. Sign up/apply at: www.tap.hesc.ny.gov

Once you have been accepted to SUNY Cortland and received sign in instructions for your myRedDragon account:

___ / ___ / ___

Complete all outstanding requirements on your myRedDragon account under the financial aid section. Be sure to check back regularly as new requirements can appear.

___ / ___ / ___

Review and Accept/Decline your award letter on myRedDragon. You will be notified by the Financial Aid Office when your award letter is available.

Once you receive your billing statement if needed you can:

___ / ___ / ___

Apply for a Parent Plus Loan via studentloans.gov. Be sure to apply for funding for both the Fall and Spring semesters at this time.

___ / ___ / ___

Apply for a private educational loan, if necessary. Apply for funding for both the Fall and Spring semesters at this time.

This section is to help keep your user IDs and passwords organized. This information should be kept **confidential and secure**. You will need this information to apply for financial aid each year.

	User ID	Password:	Financial Aid Office
FAFSA www.fafsa.ed.gov			Phone: 607-753-4717 Email: financial.aid@cortland.edu Web: cortland.edu/cost-aid/
NYS TAP www.tap.hesc.ny.gov/totw			
NYS Excelsior Scholarship www.tap.hesc.ny.gov			
myRedDragon My SUNY Cortland Account			

Additional Funding and Payment Options

There are additional payment options available to you and your family if the financial aid you have been awarded is not enough.

SUNY Cortland Payment Plan

The Student Accounts Office offers the option of paying your fall and spring semester bills in four equal monthly installments. There is a non-refundable, one-time application fee paid at the time of first installment. Please refer to the Student Accounts Office website for fee and additional information at cortland.edu/tuition-aid

Federal Direct PLUS Loan: Applications open July 1

Parents of dependent students can apply for a Federal Direct PLUS Loan from the federal government to help pay college costs such as tuition, room and board, books and personal expenses.

- Parents can borrow up to the total cost of attendance minus financial aid.
- Parent must have an acceptable credit history.
- Repayment begins 60 days after the last disbursement.
 - Repayment can be deferred until six months after student graduates or is no longer enrolled.
- If a parent is denied a PLUS loan, then the student would be eligible for an additional Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan.
 - \$4,000 for freshman and sophomores
 - \$5,000 for junior and seniors
 - To receive the additional loan amount, the student must email a request to the Financial Aid Office.
- Parents apply online at studentloans.gov
 - Parent must sign in using their user ID and password, not the student's.

For more detailed information, visit cortland.edu/toa

Private Education Loans: Applications open July 1

Beginning in July, students may apply for an additional loan through a private lender to meet educational expenses.

- Private education loans tend to cost more than other loan options. They traditionally are less expensive than credit card debt.
- Students can borrow up to the total cost of attendance minus the amount of financial aid received.
- Most private education loans require a cosigner.
- Interest rates, loan fees and repayment options vary by lender. They are based on credit score and the credit score of the cosigner.
- Students can apply online or call the lending institution.
 - It is up to the student to research lenders and determine the best loan option. The College's Financial Aid Office is unable to assist in the selection.

For more information, visit cortland.edu/toa and select Private Education Loans.

	Parent Plus	Private/ Alternative
Borrower	Parent (endorser if applicable)	Student and cosigner
Credit Approval Required	Yes	Yes
Require FAFSA	Yes	No
Interest Rates	Fixed Rate	May be Fixed or Variable
Origination Fees	Yes	Maybe
Amount	Same	Same
Cosigner Release	No	Maybe
Repayment	60 days after disbursement, with option to defer payments	Varies and may require payments while in school

Contact the Financial Aid Office with questions:

Phone: 607-753-4717

Email: financial.aid@cortland.edu

Web: cortland.edu/cost-aid/