

Office of Student Financial Aid Services

October 2021 Podcast

Hernan:

Hello HUSKY NATION.

Thank you for joining us for our 2nd Money Talks Podcast. My name is Hernan Cortez, and I will be your commentator today.

Today we are going to chat about the:

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Wow, that's a lot of words. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid, but you know it as the FAFSA
AND
- We are also going to talk about the Institutional Aid Affidavit & Application for Undocumented Students

These are the applications students need to complete to be considered for financial aid. To chat about this, we have two special guests today. They are my peers here in the Office of Student Financial Aid Services and we are going to take a minute to introduce ourselves.

I'm going to ask them to state:

- Their Name
- Their Title
- The years in Financial Aid and
- One unknown fact about themselves.

I'm I'll start with myself. Obviously, you already know my name, it's Hernan Cortez, but I'm going to ask you if you can pronounce it in Spanish; Hernán Cortez. So, for you' s who want to try to roll the r's, give that a shot; Hernán Cortez. My title is financial aid officer and I have 8 years' worth of financial aid experience. And one unknown fact about myself is that I've run three half marathons in the last 12 years or so. So that is me.

Danyelle:

Hernan, I did not know that.

Hernan:

Surprise, right?

Danyelle:

Awesome.

Hernan:

So, with that, I am going to pass the baton over to Danyelle, who can introduce herself.

Danyelle:

Thank you very much. So, my name is Danyelle Rossetti. I am the Assistant Director of Financial Aid. I am the overseer of the client services unit. So, as far as financial aid experience I have just a little over 6 years and I think everyone in this room knows this fact about me, but you may not. I have a puppy; his name is Beau. I am clearly obsessed with him. He is almost a year old. He is a yellow lab and I love him dearly. So, I will hand it over to Yudelka.

Yudelka:

Thank you Danyelle and I do know about Beau. He is such a cutie. So, my name is Yudelka Nuñez-Gonzalez. I am a financial aid officer here at Storrs campus. I have about 13 years of financial aid experience. And an unknown fact, maybe unknown, about myself is that I am trilingual. I speak Spanish, English and Italian.

Hernan:

Wow that is awesome, that's awesome.

Danyelle:

I know the alphabet.

Hernan:

So, we are going to get started first with the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, again, also known as the FAFSA. So, I am going to ask Danyelle some of these questions. And the first question I want to ask Danyelle is what are some key dates and processes our UConn students should consider at this time, regarding the FAFSA?

Danyelle:

Alright, thanks Hernan.

First and foremost, the 2022-2023 FAFSA becomes available to all students beginning October 1st. That is this Friday, actually. The tax year 2020 will be utilized. The prior prior tax year is used in order to increase the likelihood of tax filers completing their taxes and that also being able to utilize the IRS Data Retrieval Tool. Which brings me to my next important item. Information can be mapped from the completed tax return by utilizing the IRS Data Retrieval Tool or the DRT as us financial folks call it. Now keep in mind that this does not apply to all filing statuses. Students and families who filed as Single, Married filing Jointly and Head of Household will have the ability to use this tool. However, a status like married filing separately, those folks will not be unable to utilize the IRS Data Retrieval tool. Just a friendly reminder that students want to input our Federal School code, which is 001417, this will ensure your application is sent to UConn for us to review. The on-time deadline for UConn is February 15th. This is for maximum financial aid consideration. So, keep in mind the February 15th deadline. You really want to get your application in by that date.

Hernan:

Awesome, Awesome Danyelle. Thank you for the info. Also, how do students or families accesses the FAFSA?

Danyelle:

All righty, there are two ways:

The first is the MyStudentAid mobile app, this application is really great and very easy to follow. You can download the application to a smartphone or a tablet. The other option is by going to studentaid.gov. To access the FAFSA, or the Free Application for Student Aid, students and in most cases a parent will need to have an FSA ID, this will serve as the electronic signature on the application. We get a lot of questions about the FSA ID; so, it's important to remember that both student and parent will create a separate ID. This is linked to each individual's personal information. That includes name, date of birth and social security number.

Once the FAFSA is submitted, students will be emailed a link to their Student Aid Report or we call it a SAR, this is where they can view their completed application and review any items that may have errors. If information needs to be changed, students can re-access the FAFSA and change the information. But again, it's important to remember that any time you make a change, you need to make sure you are resigning and submitting the FAFSA. And just a friendly reminder that the IRS Data Retrieval Tool used, if you use for you tax information, those items cannot be changed on the FAFSA.

Hernan:

Good info. Awesome. What happens after a family completes and submits the FAFSA?

Danyelle:

Once a family completes the FAFSA, the U.S. Department of Education will calculate what is known as the Expected Family Contribution, or EFC. This figure is used to determine the financial aid eligibility that the students will have for next year. Financial aid offers will be issued March 1st for incoming students and will be included in their acceptance letter, and then our continuing students will receive their aid offers in April.

Hernan:

Very good Danyelle, thank you for sharing this information with our listeners.

Danyelle:

Anytime.

Hernan:

So now let's chat with Yudelka, regarding the Institutional Aid Affidavit & Application for Undocumented students.

Yudelka, let me start by asking you, who is eligible to complete these forms?

Yudelka:

Sure Hernan. Let me start by saying that we are very excited to offer this help to our undocumented student population! The main eligibility requirements are:

- Students must be 30 years or younger as of June 5, 2012
- They were 16 years old or younger when they first arrived in the United States
- They must be Connecticut Residents
- And must have obtained a Connecticut High School diploma with two years of attendance in CT high school upon starting courses at a higher education institution.
- Also, I want to explain that for veterans, it is a little different. If they are veterans, they must have entered the U.S. when they were 15 years old or younger and must have been honorably discharged from the armed forces.

Hernan:

Thank you for that information. When can students and families complete the Affidavit and Institutional Aid Application and how do they access it?

Yudelka:

So, just like the FAFSA form, this application becomes available as of October 1st for the upcoming academic year.

The first step in the process is for the student to complete the Affidavit, in which the student will answer the questions to determine their eligibility. If they are deemed eligible, then they will receive an email with a link to continue with the application section. The application is going to resemble the FAFSA. The initial link to start this application can be found on our website: financialaid.uconn.edu/undocumented_students/ Once you are on the website you want to go under the first tab, titled "Institutional Need-based Financial aid for undocumented students". You will see the link under this tab and the student will log in using their UConn Net ID and password.

Danyelle:

Yudelka, so quick question. Can you briefly just explain to our listeners exactly what the affidavit is?

Yudelka:

Yes, an Affidavit is just a legal document where the student will confirm their eligibility requirements. If the student meets the criteria, then they will be allowed to continue with the application process.

Hernan:

Yudelka, what type of aid will these students receive?

Yudelka:

Students will be considered for institutional aid in the form of University Grants. This is essentially money that comes from university funding, it does not come from federal or state. Their financial aid offers are usually issued in early April.

Hernan:

Are there any important deadlines or processes the students should be aware of?

Yudelka:

Yes, the Institutional Aid Application needs to be completed by February 15th as well. So, for the upcoming year, you want to make sure you get it done by February 15, 2022. We like to keep the deadlines just consistent with the FAFSA so that all of our students have that consistency.

Hernan:

Sure, definitely. Makes sense.

Danyelle:

Makes it easier.

Yudelka:

And again, any details about the undocumented student aid and the application process can be found at our website financialaid.uconn.edu/undocumented_students/

Hernan:

Yudelka, thank you again for sharing that information. To our listeners, obviously it's important for you to know this information about the FAFSA and Institutional Aid Application for Undocumented students. It very important for you to be aware of these deadlines and you can start them now October 1st and make sure you submit them to us by February 15. Anything else you all want to share with our listeners?

Danyelle:

Yes! I would like to make an announce, which is very exciting. I would like to announce the Wilbur Cross Halloween Contest which will be taking place Friday, October 29th from 10:30-12:00. Please listeners, please come visit us and vote for the best office theme. Of course, you know, Financial Aid is going to win.

Yudelka:

We get competitive, for sure!

Danyelle:

Yes, we do. For our listeners who are not familiar with our building, we are the building with the big gold dome at the top, the big building on top of the hill. You can't miss us, please come visit us. Again, Friday October 29th from 10:30 to 12:00.

Hernan:

That's always a fun event, definitely. As always, to our listeners, please we welcome you to come visit us in our office. You can email us; you can give us a call. Our business hours are 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday. So please don't hesitate to ask us any questions. And also, just keep looking out for our next Podcast, which I am sure we are going to issue out in the next month or two. We are going to be talking about different topics, possibly topics like:

- What are the different types of Financial Aid – Gift vs Self-Help aid
- Federal Work-Study vs. Student Labor positions and awards
- And the different types of appeals you may be eligible for to adjust or receive financial aid

So, with that I want to thank both Danyelle and Yudelka for being with us today and thank you for listening and have a wonderful day.

All:

Thank you