

# Financial Aid 101

## FINANCIAL AID ADMINISTRATORS: What do they do and who do they help?

STUDENTS AND FAMILIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Know what aid is available, who qualifies for aid, how aid is equitably distributed, and the renewal requirements for subsequent years.</li><li>Help students file applications accurately and verify their eligibility for aid. Assist students on a personal level by fostering financial literacy and debt management, and by mitigating unusual circumstances that might otherwise hinder a student's academic progress.</li><li>Advocate for streamlining and simplifying the aid application process and for policies that ensure the federal financial aid programs are structured and implemented in a way to promote postsecondary access and success.</li></ul>
FOR THE INSTITUTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Help enroll and retain students; many students could not attend or remain in school without financial assistance.</li><li>Facilitate receipt of financial aid to help students meet institutional costs.</li><li>Manage student employment; on-campus jobs help support academic departments, libraries, food service, and other facets of institutional operations. Ensure compliance with voluminous and detailed federal, state, and local statute and regulations, and often coordinate campuswide compliance.</li><li>Maintain membership and participate in professional associations, such as NASFAA, which provides opportunities for advocacy and professional development.</li></ul>
FOR THEIR COMMUNITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Connect student employees with community service opportunities, literacy projects, and local businesses.</li><li>Act as a resource for high school counselors and community based college access programs and initiatives.</li><li>Speak at college nights or other events to explain budgeting, financial literacy, and financing an education beyond high school. Serve as a resource for adults who may have an interest in attending or completing college.</li></ul>
FOR POLICY MAKERS AND STAFFERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Offer feedback from an institutional perspective on student aid legislation and proposals.</li><li>Provide financial aid success stories of students from your state or district.</li><li>Explain the financial aid needs and challenges of students in your state or district.</li><li>Supply statistics detailing the amount of aid that benefits students from your state or district.</li><li>Illustrate how compliance with certain existing and proposed statutes can hinder opportunities to assist and counsel students.</li></ul>



**ILASFAA**

ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT  
FINANCIAL AID ADMINISTRATORS

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