

General Information

Columbia admits candidates solely on the basis of academic and extracurricular achievement and personal merit and without regard to need if they are not foreign students. While transfer admission is need-blind, **only limited institutional grant aid is available for transfer students.**

Columbia may therefore be unable to meet the full need of all admitted transfer students. Please understand that as grant aid is limited, **a failure to submit the required financial aid forms by the stated deadlines will result in a greatly decreased chance of receiving grant aid.**

TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID

All financial aid is awarded only to students who demonstrate financial need; in other words, we do not offer scholarships for academic merit, artistic talent or athletic ability. Most financial aid awards from Columbia include a combination of grants and a part-time job during the academic year.

In our quest to make Columbia affordable, all students receiving Columbia grant funds will no longer be required to take out a student loan. For more information, please visit our website: www.studentaffairs.columbia.edu/finaid.

INDICATING INTENTION TO APPLY FOR COLUMBIA FINANCIAL AID

All financial aid applicants must check "Yes" to the question "Are you requesting need-based financial aid from Columbia?" on the Transfer/Combined Plan Application for Admission I. Applicants who do not state at the time of application that they are applying for financial aid will not be considered for need-based institutional financial aid after admission unless they can demonstrate extenuating circumstances which resulted in a significant change in the family's situation.

ONLINE APPLICATIONS

All Columbia financial aid forms can be downloaded from our website: www.studentaffairs.columbia.edu/finaid.

Key Definitions

NEED BLIND

Columbia admits candidates solely on the basis of academic and extracurricular achievement and personal merit and without regard to need if they are not foreign students according to the definition below.

STUDENT/PARENT CONTRIBUTION

Columbia believes that the primary responsibility for meeting the cost of a college education lies with the student and his or her family. Parents are expected to contribute to the extent that they are capable, and students are expected to use a portion of their assets, such as bank accounts or trust funds, and to work during each summer to help contribute toward educational costs.

FINANCIAL NEED

Financial need is determined by analyzing the information reported on the financial aid application forms:

- CSS PROFILE
- FAFSA
- A complete 2008 Federal Income Tax Return (including all schedules and W-2s).

Helpful Hints

- Be sure to meet all deadlines. Need-based institutional aid can be guaranteed only to students who meet deadlines for all forms.
- Print the student's name and Columbia Application ID number on all documents which you submit to the Office of Financial Aid & Educational Financing.
- To download forms, track documents, or contact us, please visit our website: www.studentaffairs.columbia.edu/finaid.

Forms

CSS PROFILE: published by the College Scholarship Service in Princeton, New Jersey. Apply online at www.collegeboard.com/profile; you need a secure browser and a credit card. Questions: Call 1-305-829-9793 (TTY 1-800-915-9990). **Columbia's code numbers are: Columbia College, 2116; The Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science, 2111.**

FAFSA: Free Application for Federal Student Aid. You may get a paper copy of FAFSA from your current financial aid office or by calling 1-800-4FED-AID. **You may complete the FAFSA online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Columbia's FAFSA code numbers are: Columbia College, E00485; The Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science, E00486.**

TAX RETURNS: 2008 federal income tax returns and W-2s must be submitted. Signed copies of parent and student 2008 federal income tax returns and W-2 forms are required for verification of the information which you report on the financial aid application forms, and should be mailed as soon as they are completed. If 2008 taxes cannot be completed before April 20, send copies of 2007 taxes and 2008 W-2s. If your parents will not file a 2008 federal tax return, they must file a Parent Tax Non-Filer Certification Form (available from our website). If you will not file a 2008 federal tax return, you must submit a Student Tax Non-Filer Certification Form (available from our website). Copies of tax returns must include all schedules and W-2 forms.

CANADIAN/MEXICAN STUDENT

FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION: (download from www.studentaffairs.columbia.edu/finaid) This form should be completed by students who are Canadian or Mexican citizens. Canadian or Mexican citizens who are U.S. permanent residents should NOT complete the Canadian or Mexican application.

CSS INTERNATIONAL STUDENT

FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION: (download from www.studentaffairs.columbia.edu/finaid) This form should be submitted by any student NOT falling into one of the following citizenship categories: U.S. Citizen, U.S. Permanent Resident, U.S. Refugee Visa, Canadian Citizen, Mexican Citizen.

Instructions for Transfer Applicants

- 1. CSS PROFILE:** See definition on previous page. Visit CSS online at www.collegeboard.com/profile and complete the form by **April 20, 2009**.
- 2. NON-CUSTODIAL PARENT STATEMENT:** If applicable, this must be submitted via the CSS Profile website by **April 20, 2009**.
- 3. BUSINESS/FARM INFORMATION:** If applicable, the appropriate 2007 business tax documents relating to parent- or student-owned business, corporation, partnership and/or farm must be submitted to Columbia no later than **April 20, 2009**.
- 4. FAFSA**
See definition on previous page. Visit FAFSA online at www.fafsa.ed.gov and complete the form by **April 20, 2009**. Applying online expedites the processing of your application. Please electronically sign with PIN numbers or print and mail the FAFSA signature page at the same time you submit your data online. If you and/or your parents have not yet completed 2008 tax returns when you complete the FAFSA, you should estimate 2008 income data to the best of your ability.
- 5. TAX RETURNS**
2007 federal income tax returns and W-2s are **due April 20, 2009**. Signed copies of parent and student 2008 federal income tax returns and W-2 forms are required for verification of the information which you report on the financial aid application forms. Mail signed copies of your and your parents' taxes to the Office of Financial Aid & Educational Financing by April 20, 2009. If 2008 taxes cannot be completed before April 20, 2009, send copies of 2007 taxes and 2008 W-2s. If your parents will not file a 2008 federal tax return, they must file a Parent Tax Non-Filer Certification Form (available from our Web site). If you will not file a 2008 federal tax return, you must submit a Student Tax Non-Filer Certification Form (available from our Web site). Copies of tax returns submitted to the financial aid office must be signed and must include all schedules and W-2 forms.

Instructions for Foreign and International Students

Foreign students are those who do not fall into any of the following categories: citizens and permanent residents of the United States, persons granted refugee visas by the U.S., citizens of Canada, and citizens of Mexico. Citizens of Canada and Mexico will require visas to study in the U.S. but are not considered foreign for financial aid consideration. Admission to Columbia is not need-blind for foreign students.

Instructions for Canadian and Mexican Students

Canadian and Mexican citizens must submit the Canadian/Mexican Student Financial Aid Application, **postmarked by April 20, 2009**. This application can be downloaded from www.studentaffairs.columbia.edu/finaid.

2008 tax returns are due by April 20, 2009. Mail signed copies of your and your parents' taxes to the Office of Financial Aid and Educational Financing by April 20, 2009.

Instructions for Foreign Students who are not from Canada or Mexico

Foreign students must submit only the CSS International Student Financial Aid Application, **postmarked by April 20, 2009**. This application can be downloaded from www.studentaffairs.columbia.edu/finaid.