

Financial Aid Appeals

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May 2020

<https://marshallhs.fcps.edu/student-services/college-career-center> (parents)

Google Classroom (students) 56iicf7

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Basic Steps to Make Your Appeal

1. Write down what **amounts you need** of each type of aid (grants, loans, work study). Use another college's package if helpful, but don't sound like you're haggling or comparison shopping.
2. List the **new information**, with specific numbers, that the college didn't know from the first request: lost income, new bills or debts, lost savings, new costs, etc. **Update your FAFSA or CSS Profile.**
3. **Learn what each college requires** for the appeal, it can be different for each school. **Call** to find out, some have specific forms to fill out.
4. Gather **documentation** for items in #2 above. Be ready to send. E.g., bills, new W-2, pay stubs, etc.
5. Contact an **admissions rep** to advocate on your behalf. If you don't have a specific contact, check who serves GCM or ask Mr. Humphreys.
6. Follow the college's appeal steps. If you couldn't find them out, send to a **specific person** you've been talking to in the office of financial aid, or if none, to **undergraduate financial aid**. Give them time to respond.
7. If appropriate, **schedule a call** with the financial aid contact to talk and go over your new request
8. If you can wait, **don't deposit** until you have the new, final aid packages. Remember, you still need to meet the deposit deadline to save your spot.

Other Tips

- **Don't withhold or minimize** information. They will likely know and be less helpful.
- Focus your information and talk on **numbers and aid facts**. Be **brief and to the point**. Info about how much you want to go to this school or why you are so qualified as a student - personal or academic characteristics - are not for this discussion. They already accepted you, they want you to attend and picked you over other people, so that is settled.
- One exception to above is if you think you qualify for **specific merit aid** that you did not get. If so, say what merit scholarship it was and have your qualifications ready. **Be specific** with GPA, scores, achievements, etc., vs. "I'm a great student".
- Think ahead and **prioritize your needs** and what you amounts you need to commit to different schools. You may need to decide without much time, so be ready.
- Have a **backup plan**.
- **It's not over** - remember, you can also plan to **transfer** if you're not happy and you can also look for **undergrad scholarships** and you will **re-apply yearly** for aid in college.

Example of an Appeal Letter & Resources

How to Write an Aid Appeal Letter with **Example Letter**

<https://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/paying-for-college/articles/2019-04-10/how-to-write-a-financial-aid-appeal-letter>

5 Strategies from U.S. News/Mark Kantrowitz of www.finaid.org

<https://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/paying-for-college/articles/2016-04-18/5-strategies-for-appealing-a-college-financial-aid-package>

Understanding Financial Aid Letters - NACACnet.org

<https://www.nacacnet.org/news--publications/podcast-college-admissions-decoded/understanding-financial-aid-award-letters/>

Comparing Aid Letters & Parent/Student Guide to Aid Process

<https://www.finaid.org/calculators/awardletter.phtml>

