**Time To Apply for Financial Aid for 2014-2015**

Financial Aid Application Steps:

1. Complete the 2014-2015 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.gov by **March 1st**.

2. Approximately two weeks after electronically filing your taxes, use the FAFSA’s IRS Data Retrieval Tool to transfer 2013 IRS information into your FAFSA.

3. Respond to requests for additional information from the OSFS. Requests are sent to your Emmanuel College e-mail address.

**Looking for Additional Aid Opportunities?**

**Emmanuel College Endowed Scholarships**
Emmanuel College Endowed Scholarships are funded by alumni and friends of the College based on criteria established by the donor. To apply, please visit the “Student Financial Services” section of **MySaints**; the application deadline is **March 1, 2014**.

**Private Scholarships**
For your convenience, the OSFS has compiled a list of private scholarship opportunities under the “Student Financial Services” page of **MySaints**.

**Federal Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant**
Students may be eligible for federal aid of $4,000 maximum awarded each year to undergraduate students intending to teach full time for at least four years as a highly qualified teacher at a school or educational service agency (ESA) servicing low-income students and in a high-need field. If interested, please visit www.TEACHgrant.ed.gov and notify our office.

**Tax Documents & Tax Benefits**
The Office of Student Financial Services recently mailed 1098-T tax statements to eligible students for the 2013 tax year. Students may access their 1098-T under “Online Academic Resources” by selecting “Student Financial Services” and “My Financial Documents”.

These statements include tuition and mandatory fees charged for the spring, summer, and fall 2013 terms. For information about higher education tax benefits, please visit the Internal Revenue Service website at www.irs.gov.
**Moving Off Campus?**
The responsibilities of maintaining an apartment and developing a budget require effort and discipline. Students think living off campus is cheaper, but it provides its own set of financial challenges that should be considered before signing a lease.

**Effect on financial aid:** Changes to your housing status may affect your financial aid. Please meet with your Student Financial Services counselor to review your financial aid.

**Security deposits:** Most rental agencies require a security deposit, and you may need to pay this deposit (in addition to the first month’s rent) before the end of this academic year.

**Start-up costs:** If you rely on financial aid, including parent and student loans, to pay for your room and board costs, these funds are not disbursed into your account until late October, so you must have the funds to pay for September and October rent.

In addition to this expense, you should be prepared to pay other basic start-up expenses such as application fees, cable, utilities, Internet, groceries, furniture, etc., before your refund check is available.

**Leases:** Most leases require a 12-month commitment, even if the student does not plan on residing in the apartment during the summer. If you plan on living with roommates, financial matters are easier if all names are on the lease and utility bills.

We encourage you to develop a cost plan of reasonable off-campus expenses and compare it to room and board rates. If you need help with this process or would like to discuss the impact of living off campus on your financial aid award for the upcoming year, we encourage you to meet with your Student Financial Services counselor.

**Study Abroad & Travel Courses**
If you are interested in studying abroad in the fall, or are considering participating in one of the travel courses offered through Emmanuel, we encourage you to visit our office to speak with your counselor about financing options prior to making deposits.

**Emmanuel College is Attending AICUM’s Financial Aid Advocacy Day**
The Office of Student Financial Services and twelve Emmanuel College students will visit the State House on Monday, February 24th to advocate for financial aid with AICUM (Association of Independent Colleges & Universities in Massachusetts). Students will meet with their state representatives and senators.

**Follow us on Twitter!**
The Office of Student Financial Services is now on Twitter. Follow us @ECOSFS. We regularly update our page with current announcements regarding financial aid, scholarships, and upcoming deadlines.