

Cornell University
College of Veterinary Medicine

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Dear Applicants for Financial Aid,

Financing an education and applying for financial assistance can be a complicated process. Enclosed is an instruction booklet to help you through this complexity. The required applications are:

- **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** – do the FAFSA on the Web: <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>.
Cannot file before **January 1, 2015**.
- **College Scholarship Service PROFILE** – register for an application - connect to College Board Online on the Web:
<http://www.collegeboard.com>.

These two forms (with complete student and parent* information) will give Cornell's College of Veterinary Medicine the financial information necessary to assess your eligibility for Federal, State and College funding.

* The Federal government considers any student enrolled in a graduate or professional program independent for federal financial aid. However, College policy states that if a student is less than 30 years old and unmarried and wishes to be considered for College grants or scholarships, complete parental data must be included on the above forms.

Below is some general information that should make the application completion process easier. Please read **carefully** as applications with errors or incomplete applications may delay aid offers:

- **Read instructions thoroughly before completing the applications.** Worksheets are available to help organize information.
- The FAFSA Title IV school code is **002711**, address: Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. This **MUST** be included or we will not receive the electronic information we need.
- School code for PROFILE registration is: **2822**.
- When reporting taxes on FAFSA and PROFILE, make sure to report taxes owed by student/parent, **NOT taxes withheld**. Make sure to use the correct corresponding line on the Federal tax return (see application). Incorrect amounts may delay awards.
- Send any explanation of entries on application forms or explanations of special circumstances directly to the Veterinary College Financial Aid office. Make sure to include the student's name on the letters.
- Print completed applications for your files. You may be asked to submit them to help clarify final figures.
- **ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE SIGNED AND DATED.** UNSIGNED APPLICATIONS **WILL NOT** BE PROCESSED.
- Financial Aid Offers will be available to view on the web once completed. You will also receive a paper copy in the mail which will need to be signed and submitted as acceptance of the offer. Any requests for adjustments need to be made in writing.

IT IS THE STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO CHECK THE FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION TRACKING PAGE ON THE WEB TO MAKE SURE ALL FORMS ARE SUBMITTED IN A TIMELY MANNER.

The web site address is <https://secure.vet.cornell.edu/financialaid/15-16/logon.asp>

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The following **SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS** override the FAFSA/PROFILE instructions:

- **Estimated tax figures:** Estimates for students are **NOT** accepted. Students must use actual figures from a completed 2014 federal tax return. Parents (only) may use estimates or actual figures from 2013 returns but must submit copies of both 2013 and 2014 federal tax returns and W2's by June 1, 2015. Adjustments may be made if amounts differ by more than \$5000.

- **Parental Data:** If you are less than 30 years old as of December 31 of the year of admission, you must provide complete parental data on both the FAFSA and the PROFILE to be eligible for consideration for College gift aid. Exceptions are considered only by **official documentation** of the following:
 1. A parent is, or both parents are, deceased. (a copy of the death certificate is required)
 2. A court order exists which forbids parent contact with you.
 3. The whereabouts of the parent has been unknown to you for a period of at least ten years.
 4. You are married.

- **Family size:** **DO** include yourself in your parent's household size and the number in college on the FAFSA. Make sure to also include any dependent siblings (those still on the tax returns). On the PROFILE, include yourself and any other siblings who are full time students even though they, too, may be considered independent according to federal definition. Our assumption is that colleges attended by your (independent) siblings have the same expectations as we do: family assistance before school assistance. We are trying to identify all the students whose colleges are expecting your parents to contribute.

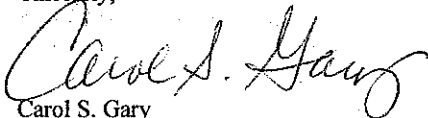
If there is any question as to whether or not your sibling will attend college in the fall, please DO NOT INCLUDE them in the number in college. It is easier to add them later.

- **Assets:** On the PROFILE, both you and your parents must include the value of your principal residences (if home owners) as assets. When estimating the value of real estate (home, farm, business and other real estate), **be realistic**. Estimates, which are out of line with national indices provided by the Department of Education, will require resolution, which will hold up financial aid offers.

NOTE: Please make sure to put the student's name on parental tax returns, as last names may be different.

I hope this general information helps make the financial aid application process a bit less complicated. If you should have any questions about the forms or what the questions are asking, please feel free to contact our office for clarification.

Sincerely,



Carol S. Gary
Director of Student Financial Planning
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Cornell University