

Q. Should I apply for financial aid?

A. First, consider the total annual cost of a Chaminade education. The tuition for 2016-2017 is \$15,500, an enrollment fee of \$800 and an EdTech fee of \$792. The technology fee is required of all students. These charges plus books and activities amount to an estimated annual cost of approximately \$18,000.

Then, calculate your ability to cover this cost. First consider all sources of income, adjust priorities and spending as able, and review assets available for use. If after this analysis you believe you cannot cover all of the educational expenses, we encourage you to apply for financial aid.

Q. Does applying for financial aid affect school admission decisions?

A. No. The committee which reviews candidates for admissions is “need blind”. They do not consider whether or not someone has applied for financial aid as part of their decision.

Q. Who can apply for financial aid?

A. Any student currently enrolled or new applicants for admission to Chaminade can apply for financial aid. Generally, aid will only be awarded for newly accepted students and current students enrolled for the following school year and whose tuition account is current.

Q. Can I complete the application in paper format instead of online?

A. All applications must be submitted via the FAST link on our website. If you are not comfortable with online applications it is suggested that you attend one of the Financial Aid Workshops we hold. Information is available on our webpage.

Q. What if my family cannot afford the financial aid application fee?

A. If you believe you cannot afford the financial aid application fee, please contact the Director of Financial Aid, Mrs. Anderson, to discuss your situation. The School has a limited number of waiver vouchers and if your family meets the income threshold, you may qualify for the use of an available voucher.

Q. How are financial aid grants determined?

A. Chaminade relies on the assistance of F.A.S.T. (*an online service*) in calculating the level of demonstrated need of each applicant based upon a completed application. These calculations consider gross income, nontaxable income, assets, liabilities, family size, the number of children in tuition paying schools below the college level, and situations where the income level does not support the spending level, among other items. Included in this calculation is an allowance for basic living expenses and taxes. The Financial Aid Committee reviews this data and will adjust the amounts based upon additional knowledge about your unique situation.

Q. What documents do I need to submit in addition to filling out the financial aid applications?

A. You will need to submit:

- 1) Your year- end paystub for all jobs worked in 2016. If you are receiving Social Security, unemployment or disability compensation you will need to submit a copy of these stubs.
- 2) If Self Employed send the first two pages of your 2015 IRS Form 1040 and Schedules C&E if applicable, unless this was previously submitted to Chaminade.
- 3) For **NEW financial aid** applicants requesting \$5,000 of assistance or more. Please provide a current credit report. This may be obtained at no charge from www.annualcreditreport.com if you have not received one in the last 12 months.
- 4) A copy of your mortgage statement, home equity statement or rental agreement
- 5) Documentation regarding child support – court documents or check copy
- 6) Support documentation for receipt of CalFresh, SNAP or Section 8 housing assistance
- 7) IRS form 4506T, which can be found on our financial aid website
- 8) A complete copy of your 2016 STATE and FEDERAL tax return including all schedules and business tax returns, such as K1's and 1120 for Corporations.
- 9) A copy of your 2016 W2 and/or 1099 for all jobs worked.

These documents will be needed for all adults in the household. Year- end paystubs, credit report, mortgage/home equity statements and form 4506T should be submitted directly to FAST no later than **January 13, 2017**. Tax returns and W2/1099's should be submitted no later than March 15, 2017. Upon review of your application, additional documents may be requested. **The appropriate Quick Processing Wizard must be with each mailing or scan of documents to expedite processing of your items. The document checklist on our website should be printed and used for reference.**

Q. What if my tax return has not been filed in time to submit it with my aid application?

A. It is recommended that you make an appointment with your tax consultant early in order to insure your return is complete by March 15, 2017. Tax returns must be received for your application to be considered complete and eligible for funding. All awards granted are contingent upon receipt and review of these documents.

Q. What if I have children at other schools that charge tuition?

A. If you have children at other K-12 schools that charge tuition, the cost of their education is considered as part of the School's review of your situation. If you are applying for aid from Chaminade, we expect you to apply for assistance at all schools. In situations where one of the schools does not have a financial aid program, a note should be included with the application explaining that.

College tuition is considered an investment rather than an expense, as it generally pays for itself with higher future wages. As such, many families and college students will utilize federally subsidized loans, as well as aid that may be available at the college level.

Q. What happens in cases of parental divorce or separation?

A. Regardless of the marriage status, the School does consider both biological parents as responsible for their child's education, regardless of any legal assertions to the contrary. Therefore, Chaminade requires both biological parents to complete financial aid applications.

Q. What happens if one or both divorced parents have remarried?

A. In cases of re-marriage, all adults in each household must submit their information in the application. In the case of a step-parent, their income and assets are to be included in the application and we will consider obligations a step-parent has towards his/her own natural children.

Q. What allowances are made if one parent cannot be located or refuses to complete the application?

A. Chaminade understands that some family situations can be very difficult. In such cases, a letter may be submitted to Chaminade from a priest, school official, social worker or attorney confirming that the other biological parent cannot be located or refuses to participate in any aspects of their child's life. The letter writer cannot be a relative of the applicant. The letter must state the following, as applicable:

- 1) The whereabouts of the other biological parent is unknown.
- 2) The other biological parent has provided no support and has had no contact with the family for at least two years.
- 3) It is in the family's best interest not to have further contact with the other biological parent.
- 4) Any other extenuating circumstances that the individual believes the School should consider.

This letter should be submitted directly to Chaminade College Preparatory, Financial Aid Office, 10210 Oakdale Avenue, Chatsworth, CA 91311.

Q. Is there a limit to the financial aid available?

A. While the School does have a generous amount of funds available for granting, there is a limit to the funds available and no guarantee that all demonstrated needs will be met. In keeping with its Marianist family spirit, Chaminade generally gives priority to returning students, new Catholic students, new students who are siblings of existing or past Chaminade students, and new students that are children or grandchildren of Chaminade alumni. Additionally, we consider students who are rated highly by the Admissions Committee, but also endeavor to award grants to families with varying levels of need in line with our mission to have a diverse student body.

Q. Is the aid awarded for one year only, or for each year my child attends Chaminade?

A. Aid awards are for one year only. Families on aid must re-apply for each subsequent year they wish to receive such assistance. While there are no guarantee as to future aid grants, normally once a family

is receiving financial aid, they will receive grants of similar amounts in future years unless their financial situation changes. However, students in the financial aid program are expected to maintain a 2.0 GPA and remain in good standing.

In cases where a family's financial situation deteriorates, more aid may be granted. Conversely, if a family's financial situation improves or new information comes to light, aid awarded may be reduced or eliminated if the Financial Aid Committee deems such action appropriate.

Q. If my family has an unexpected financial emergency; can I apply for financial aid after the deadline?

A. We understand that sometimes a family's financial situation can change unexpectedly. While funds are more limited for these types of grants, we encourage you to apply if needed. When applying late, please notify the Director of Financial Aid at banderson@chaminade.org that you are submitting an application. Additionally, we encourage you to contact our Tuition Manager to discuss your situation and possible alternative solutions.

Q. Can I still apply for financial aid after the deadline?

A. Yes. The bulk of financial aid funds are utilized in meeting the demonstrated needs of families applying by the filing deadline. However, funds may become available for grants subsequent to the deadline. Thus, if you are truly in need, we encourage you to apply as we may still be able to help you. Late applications that are complete and submitted by April 15th will be reviewed by the Financial Aid Committee in May. Those submitted/completed after April 15th but before June 30th will normally be reviewed in early August. We encourage families to pay all required tuition payments pending notification of awards in case sufficient aid is not available.

Q. When will I know if I have been awarded financial aid?

A. Applications will only be considered if they have been filled out completely and all requested documents have been submitted. For financial aid applications submitted by the due date of January 13th, a financial aid decision letter will be sent to you by the end of March. For late applicants, please refer to the question regarding late application.

Q. Can I appeal the financial aid decision if I believe it is insufficient?

A. You may appeal the financial aid decision if your financial situation has changed or you believe the Financial Aid Committee may have misunderstood your current situation. In such cases, you may be asked for additional documentation. Please contact the Financial Aid Officer at banderson@chaminade.org for instructions to submit an appeal.

Q. Will my family have to repay the financial aid?

A. No. Financial aid is a grant, not a loan. If at some future date your family's financial situation improves, we hope you will consider making a donation to our financial aid program to help enable other deserving students to attend Chaminade.

Q. Does Chaminade offer scholarships?

A. The only merit based scholarships offered by Chaminade are the "Future Leader of Chaminade" scholarships. This program funds one scholarship of \$1,000 for a student leader from selected Catholic parish schools. Students for these scholarships are selected based upon recommendation submitted by parish priests and school principals. All other grants are based upon demonstrated financial need. It should be noted that the terms scholarship and financial aid may be used interchangeably at Chaminade.

Q. Will my financial aid status and information remain confidential?

A. The School takes seriously its responsibility to maintain confidentiality over all financial aid information and records. It is recommended that you redact any social security numbers listed on your supporting documents and that you personally scan or mail your documents to FAST. Chaminade must comply with any legal requests from courts or attorneys to provide documents. Parents are expected to keep their financial aid awards confidential and not discuss them with other families or teachers.

Q. What if I have additional questions?

A. Please contact the Director of Financial Aid, Mrs. Anderson, at banderson@chaminade.org or in the Business Office at (818) 366-9284.