APPLYING FOR FINANCIAL AID TIPS

When applying for financial aid, APPLY ONLINE. What are the benefits of applying electronically? According to the U.S. Department of Education, FAFSA on the Web is:
1. Faster. It may take only days to process instead of weeks.
2. More Efficient. By using skip logic based on your particular information, you will need to answer fewer questions.
3. More Accurate. You are walked through the form, and answers are checked before you submit your application.
4. Convenient. Formatted for Windows and Apple computers, it can be accessed anywhere using Netscape and Microsoft browser versions.
5. Apply Now. The sooner you apply the better off you will be. If there are any problems, they can be resolved long before school begins in August.
6. Link to your or your parents federal income tax transcript. FAFSA on the Web doesn’t require software to be installed and can support unlimited users so thousands can apply at once.

www.fafsa.ed.gov

Bring in a copy of your FAFSA confirmation to the SSS offices.

View the 2016 SSS Financial Aid workshop at:

https://vstream.dixie.edu/DSC/Play/b39822179afbf4f92152e01fd5ed4e1d

MID-SEMESTER GRADE CHECKS DUE
Thursday, March 3, 2016

Mid-semester grade checks are due Thursday, March 3, 2016. As an SSS participant, this is one of the required activities for all students. A form was e-mailed to you, or you can download a form from the SSS website or pick up a form on the bulletin board across from the SSS Offices. The last day to drop is Friday, March 4, 2016.

By completing the grade check and meeting with an SSS advisor, they can review the grade check and inform you if it is in your best interest to drop or stay in a class.
NEWS YOU CAN USE

DSU ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Current/Continuing students are those students who are currently attending Dixie State University but did not receive an Academic Scholarship upon admission as a freshman. Students who have earned good grades at DSU are eligible for scholarship consideration based on meeting the following requirements:

- Utah resident
- Minimum of 30 credit hours completed at DSU.
- Minimum Grade Point Average of 3.3 or above, earned at DSU.
- Applicants must not be receiving any other scholarships awarded by DSU, or associated agencies.
- Awards require full-time enrollment (15 CREDITS) in eligible programs.
- Award amounts may vary depending on number of applications and availability of funds.

See: http://new.dixie.edu/financial/scholarships/currentreturning_student_scholarships.php

Deadline is April 15, 2016

Need-Based scholarships are available to students with unusual circumstances. Students are required to complete a FAFSA (Free Application For Federal Student Aid) prior to being considered for any need-based monies. Personal interview and documentation of circumstances may be required on a case-by-case basis. Need-based scholarships are awarded year to year based on FAFSA information.

The value of higher education and creating a purpose in life:

- Discover purpose in life and a sense of meaning
- Graduate successfully
- Attend the college of your choice
- Develop a broad base of key life skills
- Learn important financial and money management skills
- Build job skills and workplace readiness
- Have meaningful relationships
- Successfully resolve conflicts
- Avoid bad choices and stay out of trouble
- Stay out of debt and build savings
- Find and succeed in meaningful jobs
- Earn enough to create a comfortable life
- Own your own home
- ...and much more, to realize all the success and happiness due them with A GOOD EDUCATION.

TRANSFER CHECKLIST

1. Complete Admission Application: include the application fee; do not send cash.
2. Send Official Academic Transcript: Request official transcripts to be sent to transfer institution from all colleges or universities attended. If transferring fewer than 24 semester hours, submit official high school transcripts plus ACT or SAT scores.
3. Complete Scholarship Application: Attach a copy of an official transcript. Must be received by the deadline. Contact departments to see if an interview or audition should be scheduled.
5. Seek Advisement: Meet with a college or departmental advisor.
Registration for Summer Semester begins
March 21, 2016
Set up an appointment to register early with any of the SSS advisors. The summer class schedule is now online.

1st 5-week term May 16- June 17
8 week term May 31- July 22
2nd 5-week term June 20– July 22
14 week term May 9 August 12

Registration for Fall Semester begins
April 11, 2016
Review your student graduation plan (SGP) and think of the classes you will need to graduate. Classes begin August 22, 2016. Fall schedule will be on-line March 23th.

NORTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY TOUR
SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 21 & 12
For those students who have not signed up for the Spring University Tour, come by Jonathan’s office, Browning 119, and let him know if you are interested in going. We will leave Thursday and return on Friday. We have scheduled April 21 – 22, 2016. SSS pays for your food and lodging. We will visit UVU, UofU, WSU and USU. We will stay Thursday night at the La Quinta in Logan. A $10 deposit is required for the SSS staff to make appointments at the universities. This money will be refunded when the student arrives for the tour.
This is a great way to visit the other institutions in the state and decide where you want to go before sending in your application. There are six places in each van, so first come first served for sophomores. Eight students have already signed up.

SPRING SEMESTER MID-TERM GRADE CHECKS DUE
Thursday, March 3
You have just over a week to get each of your college instructors to sign your grade check and evaluate your academic progress.
A quick and simple way is to log into Canvas and print your grades report, and attach it to your mid-semester grade check form. If any grade is less than 75% then you will need to meet with your professor to discuss your grade and have your professor sign your grade report.
After having each instructor sign your paper, you will need to turn it in to Mace Jacobson, Larry Esplin or Jonathan Morrell.
If you plan to apply for a spring participation grant your mid-semester grade check is due Thursday, March 3, 2016 by 3:00 PM.
GETTING THE MOST OUT OF CLASS NOTES

Before the lecture
• Separate your notes for each class into different folders or tabs.
• Write the name and date of the class on the first sheet for each lecture.
• Review the previous session notes and the current chapter in your text.
• Adopt a strategy for taking notes (ex: Cornell system, outline format, mind maps)

During the lecture
• Do not perform other activities during the lecture (ex: another course’s homework)
• Develop your own shorthand technique. It doesn’t have to be pretty, just legible.
• Mark areas that the instructor emphasizes by underlining, circling or highlighting.
• Make sure to take down examples that are presented. Mark with an EX:
• Paraphrase; look for common themes.

After the lecture
• Review your notes as soon as possible, preferably within 24 hours.
• Rewrite or type your notes.
• Formulate possible test questions based on your notes.
• Write a brief summary of the lecture notes.
• Compare your notes with other students; fill in the missing gaps.

MARKING YOUR TEXTBOOKS

You’ve been told not to write in books, but the $120 textbook is YOURS! Now mark it!
Many students find that underlining or highlighting is an effective way to help them remember and find
textbook material. Since all of the markings occur in the textbook rather than a notebook, it is easy to study
between classes or for other short periods of time.

SURVEY—Scan the material, chapter titles, headings, subheads, illustrations, diagrams and captions.
READ—Beginning with the first section, turn each heading into a question in your mind or write the answer
in the margin of the textbook. Then read to find the answer.
MARK—When you have finished reading a section, go back and identify the topic sentence. Underline or
highlight only those words in the section that convey the main idea. Do not underline complete sentences.
Do not read and mark at the same time! If you do, you will not remember the material as well.
REVIEW—Check to see if the material you marked is clear and meaningful. Be careful when you review to
read the highlighted main ideas and details as well as your comments and notes. Feel free to add new com-
ments. By the time an exam rolls around, revise your initial markings and details, and this will reinforce the
material for an exam.

Textbook marking is a skill that is a learned process. The more you do, the better you get.

Selected A Career Yet?

As students progress through college, constant questions arise, “What is your major?” and “What are you going to
do once you graduate?” For many students these questions are still a mystery. That is where SSS can help. The SSS
staff is available to help find answers to these questions.

The reality of today’s workplace requires you to take full responsibility for your career path. Our society has be-
come accustomed to speed, but career planning takes time and requires you to slow down enough to consider some
tough questions. Time has become one of life’s precious resources. As you approach career selection, many times you
demand, “Just tell me what I should do!” But if you give yourself some time and attention as you examine the follow-
ing options, you are more likely to find solid enduring answers.

One of the challenges of career planning is to take the time to do it right. We recommend that you set aside at least
two hours to review and work through activities in one of the following career guides and visit an SSS staff or staff at
the Career Center (fifth floor on the Holland Centennial Commons) to help you get started.
$ SCHOLARSHIP SITES $  
Most students are always looking for ways to get more money to go to school. Here is a very comprehensive list of scholarship sites to help you finance your education.

Dixie State University general scholarship site.  
http://dixie.edu/financial/scholarships/

General Financial Aid and Scholarship Sites:  
www.finaid.org  
www.fastweb.com  
www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college  
www.collegenet.com/mach25  
www.salliemae.com (Plan for College)  
www.collegeview.com  
www.collegenet.com

Specific Scholarship Sites  
www.fafsa.ed.gov Federal Student Aid  
www.gmsp.org Bill Gates  
www.free-4u.com Various  
www.faam.org Calendar, & Aid Info  
www.collegequest.com Apply to over 1200 Colleges  
www.plato.org Student Loans  
www.finaid.org Aid Estimator & Search  
www.collegescholarships.com  
www.fastaid.com Private–Sector  
www.collegeboard.org  
www.uncf.org United Negro College Fund

Start your scholarship search now for fall semester.

Planning on Summer Term?

Now is the time to start thinking about summer term. SSS registration begins March 21th. Classes during the summer are longer but the term is shorter. Six to nine credits is considered a full load during summer term.

Summer SSS Participation Grants

The application for summer Participation Grants Applications are due Friday, April 22th. The applications are on the bulletin board outside the SSS offices in the Browning. You must have a PELL grant and have your mid-semester grade checks turned in to be considered. You must have a 2.5 GPA. This is contingent on federal funding.

TEN SECRETS TO SUCCESS

1. Make a 5-year plan  
2. Always be open to learn new things  
3. Shrug off your setbacks  
4. Stand for integrity  
5. Keep yourself in good physical shape  
6. Realize that you, not others, ultimately control your success  
7. Celebrate your achievements  
8. Brainstorm alternatives to tough decisions  
9. Develop a support network  
10. Remind yourself that every day is a new opportunity.

2016 SSS Final Banquet will be held Thursday, April 28 at 7 pm in the Gardner Center. We will celebrate this year’s graduates and other student accomplishments and successes. It is free to you. Plan to come and celebrate another success year with SSS.

Time Management Quiz

Y N Do you estimate how many hours you will need to study each week?  
Y N Do you meet assignment deadlines?  
Y N Do you begin working on semester-long projects early in the semester?  
Y N Do you write a daily “to do” list?  
Y N Do you prevent social activities from interfering with your study time?  
Y N Do you have a job that requires fewer than 10 hours a week?  
Y N Do you set specific goals for each study period?  
Y N Do you begin your study time with your most difficult assignment?  
Y N Do you complete most of your studying during your most productive hours each day?  
Y N Do you think of being a full-time student as you would a full-time job?

How many “YES” answers do you have???

9-10: Using very effective time management techniques  
7-8 Not bad… could improve a little  
6-7: Could really benefit from learning time management skills

5 or below: Listen very carefully today and take good notes (You need help!!!!!!)
Check out the Scholarship list on the SSS Website

SEMESTER BREAK March 7 - 11
LAST DAY TO DROP CLASSES—March 4, 2016

FREE TAX PREPARATION

Free income-tax preparation is available at Dixie State University starting Tuesday, February 2, 2016, and continuing through April 12, 2106. Tax preparation services will be provided by fully Internal-Revenue-Service (IRS) certified DSU Accounting students and will be fully supervised by DSU Accounting faculty who are CPAs and also fully IRS certified. Tax preparation services are sponsored by the IRS’ Volunteer-Income-Tax-Assistance (VITA) program and the Five-County Association of Governments and designed to assist low and moderately middle-income individuals of all ages on a wide range of tax-return scenarios.

During the 2015 VITA tax season (filing 2014 tax returns), DSU Accounting-student volunteers donated 4,389 hours of community service helping clients file 1,932 federal and 1,930 state returns, thus facilitating the return of $3,798,059 in tax-related funds back into the Dixie community. Dixie State University’s VITA program also has the distinction of completing the 2015 tax season as the top return-processing site in the state of Utah.

The first five weeks of the ten-week 2016 VITA (filing 2015 tax returns) tax-preparation season will begin on February 2, 2016 and run until March 3, 2016. Preparation services will be offered on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM. No tax return services will be offered during the week of Spring Break, which runs from March 6, 2016 through March 12, 2016. During the last five weeks of the 2016 VITA season, from March 15, 2016 through April 12, 2016, tax-preparation services will only be offered on Tuesdays from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM. All tax-preparation services will take place in the Udvar-Hazy building located at 300 South on 1000 East. Please come early in the tax-preparation season so that your tax-return-filing needs can be accommodated.

Participating taxpayers should bring social security cards for each individual appearing on their tax returns; photo id; wage and earning statements (Form W-2) from all employers; Affordable-Care-Act documents (e.g., 1095-A, 1095-B, 1095-C); SSA-1099, showing Social Security Benefits; all types of 1099 forms; Forms 1099-B forms should be accompanied by supporting documentation showing original asset purchase prices and sales proceeds. They should also bring Form 1098 documenting their mortgage interest, mortgage insurance payments, and property tax payments; documentation to verify medical expenses, charitable contributions, and child care payments; any other relevant documentation related to their income and deductions; and a copy of their 2014 tax return. Taxpayers desiring an automatic deposit of their federal and state tax refunds should also bring their bank account and bank routing numbers, both of which can be found on a check from their checkbooks. Taxpayers’ completed federal and state returns will be e-filed, free-of-charge, to the IRS and the applicable states (we can accommodate clients with multi-state filing needs). For additional information, go to www.dixie.edu/taxes.