Don’t let financial aid deadlines pass you by!

Hi All,

I wanted to share a bit more detail about financial aid opportunities for the 20-21 academic year. Our financial aid is awarded based on two different, sometimes overlapping, criteria: financial need, and academic merit.

**Need-based awards:** *You are only considered for need-based awards if you fill out your FAFSA*. And, many need-based awards are only given to students who complete the FAFSA by the filing deadline of SATURDAY February 1 (also the day of the Geoduck Gallop!).

If you complete an on-time FAFSA and have high financial need, you may qualify for:

* The Evergreen Need Grant (for WA residents only): a tuition reduction of up to $1900
* Need Based-Tuition Waivers: tuition reduction of up to $1500 for in-state students, and up to $6000 for out of state students.
* Other merit awards that also require a FAFSA
* Student Loans (you can complete the FAFSA at any time to get student loans)

**Merit-based awards**: these are awarded based on academic merit, and for some awards, a combination of merit and financial need. The awards you should have your eye on as a continuing MES student are:

* [The Brooks Fellowship](https://www.evergreen.edu/scholarships/brooks-mes-fellowship)
* [The Emory Pyle Scholarship](https://www.evergreen.edu/scholarships/%EF%BB%BF%EF%BB%BFemory-pyle-scholarship)
* [Graduate Fellowship Trust](https://www.evergreen.edu/scholarships/evergreen-graduate-fellowship-trust)
* AmeriCorps Service Award - tuition reduction of up to $1800 (only available to AmeriCorps alumni)

To be considered for any of these, as well as any other funds that roll over from previous years (it happens frequently!), you must complete the [MES Financial Assistance Application](https://www.evergreen.edu/mes/mes-financial-assistance-application-2020-21) by midnight on February 17. Be sure to include your 250 word Merit Essay.

I was also just sent these outside scholarship announcements:

Sallie Mae [Bridging the Dream Scholarship](https://www.salliemae.com/landing/bridging-the-dream-for-graduates/) - Apply by February 14.

Mattress Advisor’s [Sleep Science Scholarship](https://www.mattressadvisor.com/sleep-scholarships/) – apply by March 20