

RISE Act

2021 - 2022 Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid

Updated as of 6/11/2021

Please note that the Department of Education has waived the requirement that male students register with Selective Service before the age of 26 to be eligible for federal financial aid under Title IV of the HEA. ISAC has implemented guidance consistent with ED regarding the Selective Service registration requirement. This change means that the selective service requirements noted below are no longer in effect to be eligible to receive MAP grant funds via the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid.

Transgender students who previously completed a 2021 – 2022 Alternative Application (due to Selective Service issues) may now want to file a FAFSA to be considered for federal student aid.

Background:

The RISE Act provides that “a student who is an Illinois resident and who is not otherwise eligible for federal financial aid, including, but not limited to, a transgender student who is disqualified for failure to register for selective service or a noncitizen student who has not obtained lawful permanent residence, shall be eligible for state financial aid and benefits.”

Opportunity:

The state of Illinois passed the RISE Act, which provides students ineligible to complete the FAFSA an opportunity to apply for state grant funding. The application opened on October 1, 2020 on the ISAC website. Students who are ineligible to complete the FAFSA should **not** do so.

ISAC, the organization that administers state grant programs, has provided guidance for schools on the application process for students. Below are details on that process. We encourage all students who may be eligible for this funding to complete the application. Please note that the state does not have separate funding for students who receive MAP grant funding under the RISE Act. Students who submit an application after the MAP filing deadline is set will not receive funding next year. The MAP grant filing deadline is not yet known to schools so students should complete the application now for consideration for the grant.

Please note that all Dominican University procedures regarding the privacy and protection of student information remain in place.

Details:

Completing the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid:

1. Application available on ISAC’s website: <https://www.isac.org/>.
 - a. Can only be completed online, no paper forms available

2. Select first-time or renewal applicant option
 - a. If you begin an application, save it, and return at a later date you will select the returning applicant option
3. Pre-Screening Questions
 - a. Students will be presented with a series of pre-screening questions that will determine if the student should complete the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid.
 - b. Pre-screening question information will not be sent to schools
4. Create a student profile
 - a. If a student moves forward with completing the application after the pre-screening questions they will create a student profile in the application
 - b. Profile must include an email, should not be a high school email address
 - c. Please note if student already has created an account on the ISAC student portal, they will need to use a different email address than the one used for that account
5. ISAC identification number
 - a. Once the profile is created, a unique ISAC identification number will be assigned to the applicant
 - b. This ID number is what Dominican will use to identify students who are eligible for funding
 - c. Please keep note of this number
6. Application Information – Income
 - a. The application requests similar information to the FAFSA
 - b. Information for both students and parents must be provided
 - c. Gather the following information before beginning the application
 - i. 2019 federal tax returns
 - ii. 2019 W-2's
 - iii. Bank statements
 - iv. Records of investments if applicable
7. Application Information – Schools to Receive Information
 - a. Students must list the schools for which they would like their information to be accessible
 - b. Current students should note Dominican University in this section
8. PIN Numbers
 - a. Students and parents will use PIN numbers to sign the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid
 - b. The PIN number will be sent to both parent and student via email
 - c. Parent and student must enter unique email addresses so they can receive the PIN numbers
9. Parent Information
 - a. If a student is considered dependent, meaning they are under the age of 24, not married or have children they support, parent information must be included on the application
 - b. Students will be unable to submit the application without parent information
 - c. Parents should not enter ITINs, they should enter all 0s if they do not have a social security number per ISAC requirements. This practice mirrors the FAFSA.
10. Signing & Certifying the Application
 - a. PIN numbers are used to sign the application

- b. Students will be presented with a certification/affidavit that indicates they are not a U.S. citizen or federal eligible non-citizen and that they swear they will file an application to become a permanent resident of the United States at their earliest opportunity they are eligible to do so
- c. Parents and students can sign at the same time with their PIN numbers or the parent can log in at a later time to sign
 - i. If the parent is signing at a later time, will need the student's application ID and the parent PIN

11. Submitted Applications

- a. Students can submit corrections if they made an error on the application
- b. Students will receive an email once the application is submitted
- c. An expected family contribution, EFC, will be calculated based on the information provided on the application
 - i. The EFC is used to determine if the applicant demonstrates the level of financial need required to receive MAP grant funding
 - ii. Students must have an EFC less than \$9,000 to be MAP eligible
- d. ISAC will share the application information (excluding the pre-screening questions) with the schools the student lists on their application.

12. Selective Service Requirement

- a. Please note that all males under the age of 26 are required to file for selective service, regardless of citizenship status
- b. Filing for selective service can be done at www.sss.gov and details on the requirements are available here: <https://www.sss.gov/register/immigrants/>.

Dominican University Policies

1. Students who complete the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid will be asked to complete our internal form notifying us they have submitted the application
2. The form will be available on our website and in the Office of Financial Aid
3. When we begin awarding returning students in late spring, we will review students who submitted the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid and determine if the state of Illinois has noted they are eligible for funding
4. If eligible, those funds will be included in their award letters
5. Proof of selective service registration must be submitted to Dominican prior to the grant being disbursed to a student's account.

Contact:

Please contact the Office of Financial Aid at 708-524-6809 or finaid@dom.edu if you have any questions.