

CHAPIN FINANCIAL AID FAQ DOCUMENT

How do I begin the process of applying for financial aid?

Step 1:

Beginning October 2, 2019, go to <https://www.solutionsbyss.com> and create a family account. Every family applying for financial aid begins by completing the Parents' Financial Statement (PFS).

Current Chapin Families:

Please submit and complete all of the required components by November 15, 2019. For

Applicant Families:

Please submit and complete all of the required components by December 1, 2019. Please note that these are firm deadlines and applications will not be considered after this date. We urge you to submit any additional information you feel is pertinent to your application that may not be fully explained in the other required documentation section. If you need help completing your PFS, or with any part of the financial aid process, please call John Wright, Financial Aid Specialist, in the Chapin School Business Office, (212) 570-4958.

Step 2

How is financial aid determined?

Chapin uses the standardized calculation derived by the School and Student Services (SSS) to guide our determination of the amount a family can contribute toward the costs of a Chapin education. Some of the items considered are gross taxable and non-taxable income, assets, liabilities, family size, etc. After an allowance for basic necessities and required taxes, the remaining funds are considered available for education on a sliding scale.

Are decisions regarding admission and financial aid related?

Chapin's admissions committee initially makes its decisions among all applicants for admission without regard for financial matters. Financial aid decisions are only made after a student has met our admissions criteria.

Who will see the information I provide in application for financial aid?

All information received by Chapin is held in strictest confidence. Financial aid-related information is given only to those who need it and is restricted to only the information that is needed. Financial information is never shared with donors, faculty members, or among parents.

Two of my daughters are current Chapin students, and my third daughter will be entering Chapin this year. Can I expect to receive financial aid for all three girls?

Chapin is committed to creating a strong school community through socio-economic diversity. To help achieve that goal of diversity we limit the amount of financial aid

awarded to any one family, Chapin will only support two students from any family except in situations with highly unusual circumstances.

What is Chapin’s policy regarding divorced or separated parents?

Both custodial and non-custodial parents must complete the PFS. The Chapin School considers the assets of both parents or legal guardians before making any award and cannot be bound by the assertion that one parent has disclaimed responsibility for educational expenses. It is the position of The Chapin School that separated or divorced parents or parents who have never married retain the obligation to contribute to the educational expenses of their children, whether or not there is a legal agreement between them to do otherwise. We request, that both parents file an application to provide a realistic picture of family resources. Non-involvement in a child’s life and, thus, exemption from financial responsibility may require satisfactory documentation by the custodial parent. In the case that yours is a single-parent household, you will have the opportunity to share this information on your application for financial aid via SSS. Our policy is comparable to many other independent schools and colleges.

Our family doesn’t seem to fit any traditional pattern. How do we know who should complete the application?

It is not a given that the custodial parent always completes the PFS. In some cases the non-custodial parent is the primary financial provider. In another situation, where the parents are separated but not divorced, they may complete the PFS together or separately. If you have any questions in this area, please phone John Wright in the Chapin School Business Office, (212) 570-4958.

Only one parent works outside the home. Must both parents be employed to receive financial aid from Chapin?

In keeping with Chapin’s policy that financial responsibility for one’s children, including that related to expenses associated with education, rests first and foremost with the parents, it is presumed that, if applying for financial aid, both parents are gainfully employed, even if that employment is outside their normal profession or line of work. The exception is if there are prevailing medical or other reasons which preclude a parent working outside the home, or if there are young children in the home, otherwise a small, industry-standardized income will be imputed for the stay at home parent. Chapin recognizes that every family has its unique set of circumstances that may impact decisions that are related to employment and financial matters. If there are circumstances that preclude a parent from working outside of the home, such as caring for young children, a small, industry-standardized income will be imputed for the stay-at-home parent when financial aid applications are being reviewed. Other considerations and/or exceptions may be, for example, prevailing medical reasons. If you require further information, please contact John Wright at jwright@chapin.edu or 212-570-4958.

I have decided to quit my job and start my own business or possibly attend graduate school while my child is at Chapin. Will it affect my financial aid?

The School maintains a policy of not subsidizing with financial aid a parent’s voluntary reduction of income, i.e., voluntarily terminating employment or separating from

employment to become self-employed. We assume that a parent who is enrolled in graduate school will continue to earn income and has arranged to fund his or her education without depending heavily on family resources.

Is financial assistance automatically renewed?

Parents requesting assistance must apply each year. However, if a family's financial situation does not change significantly, parents can generally expect the annual financial aid award to remain at or close to the original grant as a percentage of the total cost of attending Chapin.

Is it possible to appeal our Chapin financial aid allocation?

Yes. If you feel that you have omitted, or not appropriately clarified, specific financial information, mentioned in your initial application, you may submit additional details in writing.

What if I decide not to apply for financial aid when my daughter is first admitted?

If a student does not apply for financial aid when first admitted to Chapin, the family is not eligible to apply until the student has attended Chapin for three years. However, if your family experienced a financial hardship, or your financial circumstances have changed since your student's initial enrollment, please contact John Wright at 212-570-4858 or @ jwright@chapin.edu.