

Updating Financial Aid Status & Award Letters

Objectives:

- **SWBAT update their FAFSA and CSS Profile status on Overgrad**
- **SWBAT read and interpret multiple types of award letters and enter them into Overgrad's financial aid analysis tool**

Grade Level	Materials	ASCA Standards	Lesson Time
12	Slides Student handout /computer Reading: Financial Aid Shopping Sheet Sample financial aid award letters	AA3.5 AB1.2	40 minutes

Assessment of Outcomes (i.e. Exemplar, rubric, measurement scale)

<u>Advanced</u>	<u>Meets Expectations</u>	<u>Needs Development</u>
Student updates financial aid application status and award letter status for all schools to which they have been admitted	Student updates financial aid application status and award letter status for all schools to which they have been admitted	Student has not updated financial aid application status and only updates financial aid award letter status for some award letters. Also needs to completely update admission status for all schools
Student finds or has taken action to find all financial aid award letters	Student finds or makes a clear plan to find all financial aid award letters	Student does not have a plan to find missing financial aid award letters (seniors only)
Student has accurately entered all available financial aid award letters into Overgrad	Student has accurately entered at least one financial aid award letter into Overgrad	Student has accurately entered at least one financial aid award letter into Overgrad

Related Content and Lessons

Related Lessons	Overgrad tools & resources
ROI Paying for College Comparing financial aid award letters	Entering financial aid award letters

Recommended Instruction		
Topic & Time	Teacher	Students
Hook & Warm Up 5 minutes	Circulate as students read the article and respond to the warm up questions	Read the article and respond to the questions independently
Make it yours: Students can share out answers to their warm up, or read and discuss in small groups rather than responding to the questions independently Extend the Lesson: Consider adding additional information about any legislation in your state designed around financial aid or FAFSA completion.		
Model 5 Minutes	Using the slide deck, walk students through how to navigate the Award Letters section of the student portal and explain what the three sections at the top of their page will require them to do.	Students can watch you or follow along on their own computer.
Independent Practice 5 minutes	So as to break up your talking and give students the chance to begin filling out the top sections of their Award Letters page, allow them 5 minutes to begin filling out those sections.	They may have trouble accessing their Student Submission Summary or getting the most up to date admission status for particular schools.
Model 6 minutes	Using the financial aid award letters displayed here (or, show students how you will enter financial aid award information. The slides use the example for UW-Madison with screenshots explaining each component of the award letter. Typically all of your direct and indirect costs will be listed together. If a college requires you to live on campus and/or purchase a meal plan, these are DIRECT COSTS for which you will receive a bill. If you're living off campus and not purchasing a meal plan, these are indirect costs that you'll need to pay, but won't be paying the college for these things. CLICK Federal grants will always have the term "federal" in front of them CLICK Grants from the university will have the university name or abbreviation CLICK	Students follow along and watch through one financial aid award letter

	This award doesn't include other grants from the state, but those will include the name of your state in the title Use the "other scholarships" for any outside scholarships that you've received that you can apply to any college CLICK Subsidized and unsubsidized loans will be called exactly that on your award letters CLICK Some award letters will include additional loans or payment plans. This is NOT financial aid, but is another way to help you and your family cover out of pocket costs	
Make it yours: Use sample award letters from colleges to which your students commonly apply		
Exploration 16 minutes	Demonstrate how students will navigate to their financial aid award letters First you're going to navigate to your financial aid award letters CLICK Next scroll down to your list of colleges. If you've received an aid award letter from a college but it isn't on this list, check to make sure that you've updated your admissions status. CLICK If you see a college with a red exclamation mark, click on the college name to update the aid award letter status CLICK Make sure the status is listed as "received" in order to enter information Circulate and students track progress in finding and entering financial aid	Students navigate their email, student portals, and Overgrad to find and enter financial aid award letters
Best Practice: Create a spreadsheet or document with the room and board and tuition for colleges to which your students commonly apply, especially if you know they aren't listed on the award letters.		
Closing & Reflection 3 minutes	Close the lesson by directing students to create a task list with deadlines	Students create next steps based on outstanding items
Best Practice Have students submit answers in a google form as an exit ticket, or in a reflection journal that they keep and update throughout the year (or their entire 9-12 experience) and store in their document locker.		

Make it yours / Extend the Lesson

Add questions to this reflection to quickly assess students' mastery