



March 14, 2016

To: UDC Community

From: Nailah Williams, Senior Associate Director of Financial Aid

Re: Launch of Earlier FAFSA Submission for the 2017-2018 Academic Year (Prior-Prior Year)

Prior-Prior Year (PPY) refers to the tax year information students and parents may utilize to complete their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). PPY enables students to file their FAFSA earlier by using tax information from two years ago. For example, a high school senior planning to enroll in college in Fall 2016 would be able to file his FAFSA using 2014 taxes.

The new submission timeline will better align the admission and financial aid processes, giving students and families an earlier and more accurate idea of their anticipated financial aid and college costs. It is estimated the streamlined procedure will encourage hundreds of thousands of additional students to apply for aid, and in turn, increase the number of first-generation, low-income students who pursue a college degree.

PPY launches October 2016, for aid applications for the 2017-18 award year. This means that the high school class of 2017 will be the first high school cohort to use the PPY FAFSA, and all returning college students in that same year will also utilize PPY.

**Snap shot of current FAFSA barriers as compared to new benefits.**

Current FAFSA Prior-Year (PY)	New FAFSA Prior-Prior Year (PPY)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Available January 1 of Spring semester</li> <li>• Use taxes from previous year, which are not due to the IRS until April (for most filers)</li> <li>• Requires many filers to estimate taxes early in the process, only to have to correct their data after submitting their final tax information to the IRS</li> <li>• Poorly aligned with the college application calendar</li> <li>• Creates obstacles for meeting priority filing deadlines, which must be met to qualify for some forms of institutional, state, or federal aid</li> <li>• Could potentially not have financial aid eligibility information until near the college decision deadline, resulting in stressful and less informed enrollment choices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Available in October of Fall semester</li> <li>• Use taxes from two years ago, which have already been submitted to the IRS last year</li> <li>• Enables more filers to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool to easily import verified IRS tax returns, reducing the need to later amend the forms</li> <li>• Will substantially sync the college application and financial aid application calendars</li> <li>• Removes barriers created by priority filing deadlines, ensuring students have equal opportunity to be considered for all available funds</li> <li>• Likely will receive financial aid eligibility information in advance of college decision deadline, encouraging more thoughtful and informed enrollment decisions</li> </ul>