Quick facts about APPLYING FOR FINANCIAL AID

More info online at **www.finaid.msu.edu/apply.asp**

When to apply:

As soon as possible after January 1 for the aid year beginning in the fall. MSU has no aid application deadline, but we award on a first-come, first-served basis, and some types of aid may not be available to later applicants.

Gather your information. You'll need the following:

Your Federal tax return for the PREVIOUS YEAR (example 2012 return for the 2013-2014 FAFSA). (However, if you haven't filed your taxes yet, you can estimate and correct your FAFSA later.)

All W-2s and other statements of earnings and records of certain expenses.

Asset information, including cash on hand, savings, and net investment assets if you have any.

For dependent students, you will need the same information for your parents.

The MSU School Code: 002290

Where to apply: fafsa.gov

On this U.S. Dept. of Ed. site you will find the application and instructions, as well as a worksheet you can print and fill out to make sure you have gathered all the necessary information.

Are you dependent or independent?

This is important to know as it affects how you complete the FAFSA, and in some cases the amount of aid for which you are eligible. If you can answer YES to ANY of the questions in Step Three of the FAFSA, you are INDEPENDENT for the 2013-2014 aid year. Otherwise you are dependent.

A student can qualify as independent if he or she is one of the following:

- over 24 years of age
- married
- supporting one or more dependents
- a veteran or active duty service member
- an orphan or ward of the court
- in foster care or were in foster care any time after the age of 13
- certified as being in a legal guardianship by a court in the state where you live
- classified as an unaccompanied youth who is homeless.

What happens after you apply?

- If there are errors on your FAFSA you must correct them.
- You and MSU will receive the results of your FAFSA from the Department of Education.
- We begin sending out award letters beginning in mid-March to students who are admitted to MSU and whose FAFSAs pass the Dept. of Ed's error checks.

We may need additional information from you!

Watch your mail and especially your MSU email. You must provide any requested documentation or your aid may be cancelled.

We will notify you via your MSU email account if your aid changes. You may also check online at stuinfo.msu.edu for updates.