**Program Description**

The Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) Program was instituted by the New Jersey State Legislature in 1968 for the purpose of helping economically and educationally disadvantaged students obtain a college education. Students who are accepted into the program are provided with a grant and comprehensive support services designed to enhance their college experience and to insure the success of each participant.

**What Is the EOF Program?**

- The EOF Program is not an entitlement program. Initial EOF Eligibility is determined on the basis of both economic and educational criteria, and since grant funding to institutions is limited, first priority is given to first-time, full-time freshmen and to EOF transfer students in good standing from another EOF Program.

- The EOF program provides information related to the financial aid process at Bergen Community College (BCC) and academic advisement to eligible, highly motivated students from educationally and economically disadvantaged backgrounds who attend institutions of higher education in the State of New Jersey.

- Students who are accepted into the program are provided with an EOF grant and comprehensive academic support services designed to enhance their college experience and to insure the success of each participant.

**What services are provided?**

- Students are assigned to an EOF counselor who will provide transitional support, academic advisement, and ongoing support throughout their academic career at Bergen Community College.

- The privilege of priority registration allows EOF students to be among the first to register for each upcoming semester.

- The opportunity to register for permanent one-on-one tutoring sessions, assuring a secured appointment time with a preferred tutor.

- Workshops customized for EOF students designed to address a variety of educational and social issues affecting college students.

- Access to the Summer EOF Grant for eligible students to help with the cost of attending summer classes.

- Incoming first time college students entering EOF in the fall semester may be eligible to attend a free EOF Pre-Freshman Summer Program that helps students adjust to the college environment and provides academic preparation for the fall semester.

*You must qualify for this program – see guidelines*
To APPLY for the EOF program, a student must:

**STEP 1:** Apply to Bergen Community College (BCC)
Take the placement test at the Office of Testing Services (located in Room S-127)

**STEP 2:** Complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at: [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)
List BCC as the first choice (school code: 004736)
At the end click on: “Optional Feature” to apply for NJ Tuition Aid Grant (TAG)
or go to [www.hesaa.org](http://www.hesaa.org)

**STEP 3:** Meet the EOF grant eligibility requirements:
- Be a NJ Resident for at least one (1) year,
- Be a Citizen or Permanent Resident,
- Be a recipient of a High School Diploma or GED,
- Intend to have Full-Time enrollment, in the first semester,
- Have only completed 32 College-level credits or less,
- Be eligible for the TAG (as determined by completing the FAFSA), and
- Meet the Income Eligibility Guidelines listed below:

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<th>Household Size of:</th>
<th>Gross Income Not to Exceed:</th>
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<td>For each additional member add $8,040.</td>
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*Based upon state approval.

**STEP 4:** Complete an EOF Application

**STEP 5:** Upon review of your application and financial aid status, you will be contacted by our office to make an appointment for an interview to review your eligibility.

**STEP 6:** Please bring COPIES of the following documents to your Interview:

- Copy of: Welfare Letter (if applicable)
- Copy of: High School Diploma or Final Transcripts
- Copy of: GED Certificate or Scores (if applicable)
- Copy of: Permanent Resident Card (if you are not a citizen)
- Copy of: EOF Transfer Form (if transferring from another EOF program)
- Copy of: Letter from DYFS (if ward of the state)
- Copy of: Court Documents pertaining to custody or guardianship (if applicable)

**EOF APPLICATION DEADLINES**

| NOVEMBER 1st for the FALL Semester | MARCH 1st for the SPRING Semester |
BERGEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FUND (EOF) PROGRAM
APPLICATION

Please print or type:

Full Name: ___________________________ Date of Application: ___________________________
Student ID#: __________________________ Date of Birth: __________________________ Sex: □ Male □ Female
Address: ____________________________________________________________
City, State, and Zip: ________________________________________________
Cell Phone: __________________________ Home Phone: _______________________
E-Mail: ________________________________

When would you like to start the EOF program?:
☐ Summer (Optional Pre-Freshman Program)
☐ Fall Year (September)
☐ Spring Year (January)

Please select your Admission Status:
☐ New (no previous college)
☐ Transfer: College-level credits completed _________
☐ Currently Attending Bergen:
College-level credits attempted _________
College-level credits completed _________

CITIZENSHIP:
☐ U.S. Citizen
☐ Permanent Resident
Alien Registration No.: A-________________________

RESIDENCY:
Length of time living in NJ: ___ Years ___ Months
Primary Language: ________________________________

FINANCIAL SITUATION

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<th>Household Size of:</th>
<th>Gross Income Not to Exceed:</th>
<th>2013 Student Income (Actual Amount)</th>
<th>2013 Parent Income (Actual Amount)</th>
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*Based upon state approval.

STUDENTS: Please indicate your source of income:
☐ Employment  ☐ Child Support  ☐ Social Security benefits
☐ Welfare Aid (TANF)  ☐ Veterans Benefits  ☐ Other: __________________________

PARENTS: Please indicate your parent’s source of income (if you are a dependent):
☐ Employment  ☐ Child Support  ☐ Social Security benefits
☐ Welfare Aid (TANF)  ☐ Veterans Benefits  ☐ Other: __________________________

Do you or your parents (if you are dependent) have any of the following assets:
☐ Cash, savings and checking accounts: $ ______________
☐ Home value today: $ __________________Balance due on it $ ______________
☐ Business and farm $ __________________Balance due on it $ ______________
FINANCIAL SITUATION (Continued)

□ I am a dependent student living with my parents, OR
□ I am an independent student since I meet one of the following:
  □ I was born before January 1, 1990.
  □ I am a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces.
  □ I have a legal dependent other than a spouse.
  □ I am married.
  □ I am an orphan or ward of the court (attach proof of your status).

Please attach any comments of unusual circumstances to this form.

EDUCATION

Are you a high school graduate? □ Yes □ No
If yes, please provide the following:
  Name of high school: ___________________________ Year of graduation: ____________
  High School Class Rank: ___________ SAT: Math __________ Verbal __________

If you are not a high school graduate, do you have a G.E.D.? □ Yes □ No

Have you attended another college/university? □ No □ Yes
If yes, please provide the following:
  Name of the other college/university: ___________________________
  Dates you have attended: ________________________________________

Did you receive Financial Aid at the other institution?: □ Yes □ No

Did you receive EOF at the other institution?: □ Yes □ No
If yes, how many semesters: ________________________________________

Do you have a brother or sister in the EOF Program? □ No □ Yes

Federal and State governments require the college to submit summary information in the following areas:
(Although your response is optional, your cooperation in completing this information will be appreciated).

United States Citizens and Permanent Residents only. Choose one:
□ Black/Non-Hispanic □ American Indian/Alaskan Native □ Asian/Pacific Islander
□ Puerto Rican □ Central or South American □ Mexican
□ Cuban □ Hispanic □ White, non-Hispanic
□ Other: ___________________________

Marital Status: □ Single □ Married □ Divorced □ Separated □ Widowed

I certify that the above information is correct and that I will supply proof of residency, income or education as required.

Applicant’s Signature (Required) ___________________________ Date ____________

Please submit applications to: Educational Opportunity Fund Program
Bergen Community College
400 Paramus Road, Room C-100
Paramus, New Jersey 07652-1595

For office use: □ 10% □ District: A or B □ First Generation □ Transfer □ NJ Gear Up
□ Waiting List □ High Distress/ P.P. □ EOF Sibling □ Re-Admit