Financial Aid Award Letter Best Practices

Ben Burton, Chief Student Financial Resources Officer Michele Neff-Maskell, Director of Financial Aid Systems



Electronic Communications Time for a Change

Students see video content in more places for more brands than every before.

- Attention spans are shorter.
- Expectations are greater.

Ivy Tech wanted to create a holistic student journey incorporating information in a video format.





Electronic Communications Time for a Change

Today's young students:

- Take technology for granted and want to be connected.
- Believe doing is more important than knowing.
- Learn through trial and error. No more rule-based approaches.
- Possess the skills necessary to use new communication avenues.





Electronic Communications Video: How We Process

- About 90 percent of the information our brain picks up is visual.
- We process visuals 60,000 times faster than we can process text.
- Video eliminates visual complexities from communication.
- Video enables us to explain complex ideas to any number of people, anywhere in the world.
- Viewers retain 95 percent of a message when they watch it in a video compared to 10 percent when reading it in text. (insivia, 2017)





Video: F2F Factor

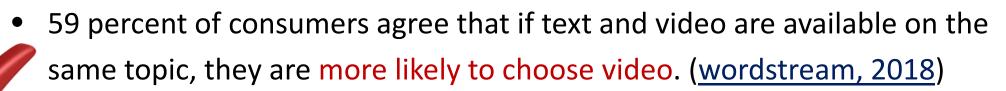
 When someone tells you something, face-to-face, the message has a greater impact than if you read it.

 Through video, financial aid offices can replicate that essential, nearly in-person human connection with thousands of people at once.

 Video gives us the ability to communicate and connect face-to-face on a bigger, asynchronous scale.



Video: Best Practices



- Videos up to 2 minutes long get the most engagement. (wistia, 2016)
- A single minute of video is worth 1.8 million words. (Forrester Research)
- You have just 10 seconds to engage audience before they scroll down or click away—engagement drops significantly beyond that.
- Fully engage your audience in the first 30 seconds or you'll lose 33 percent of your viewers. After 1 minute, 45 percent of viewers will stop watching.



Electronic Communications Video: Student Usage

- The 25-34 (millennial) age group watches the most online videos. (wordstream, 2018)
- Accessible video content can reduce abandoned financial aid phone calls by 40 percent. (<u>FATV</u>)
- More than 50 percent of videos are watched on mobile devices. (Ooyala, 2016)
- Video content drives engagement. (Simply Measured)

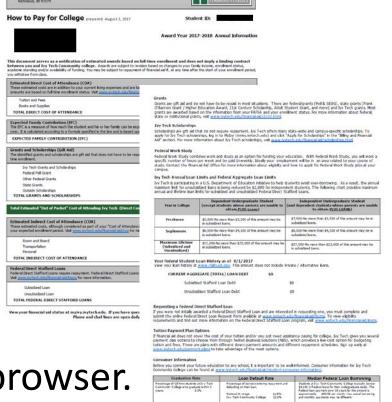




Electronic Communications Ivy Tech: Annual Paper

- 20,000 new student paper award letters
- 45,000 paper SAP letters
- 75,000 paper missing information letters

Printed award letters were text-heavy and information links had to be retyped into a browser.





Electronic Communications Ivy Tech: Plain Text Email

- Returning student award notification
- Missing information reminder

Emails include basic navigation language with no content. Links direct the student into the myivy portal. Students must navigate through myivy to award and requirements sections.





Click, Click, Click, Click...

Electronic Communications Ivy Tech Goals: Incorporate Video, Limit Text not Content

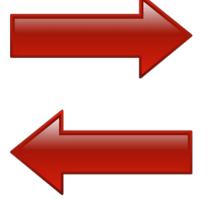


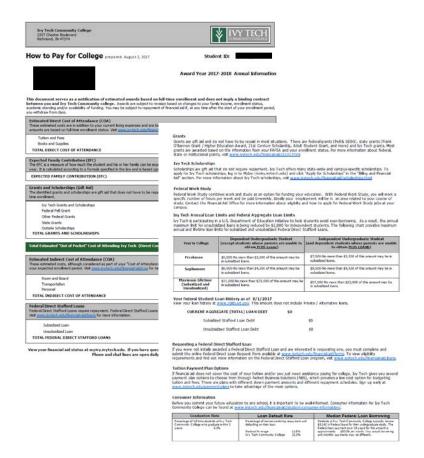


We understand the importance of estimating how much aid you may qualify to receive. There are several online services that provide calculators including FinAid.org and FastWeb.











Electronic Communications Ivy Tech Goals: Device Friendly

Hover Copy & Video Close Up

This financial aid award package provides you with estimated annual awards based on full-time enrollment in Fall/Spring of the 2017-2018 financial aid award year.

Estimated Direct Cost of Attendance 6

\$3,704 Tuition and Fees \$1,390 Books and Supplies **Total Direct Cost of Attendance** \$5,094

Expected Family Contribution (EFC) 6

\$3,651

Grants and Scholarships 6

Federal Pell Grant

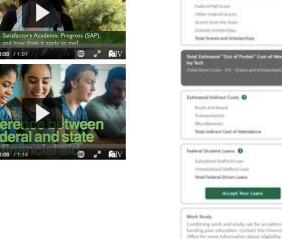
1 Ivy Tech Grants and Scholarships **Total Grants and Scholarships**

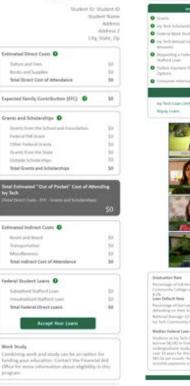
The EFC is a measure of how much you and/or your family can be expected to contribute to the cost of your education for the year. It is calculated according to a formula specified in the law and is based upon the information provided during the FAFSA filing process.

Total Estimated "Out of Pocket" Cost of Attending by Tech (Total Direct Costs - Grants and Scholarships)

\$435







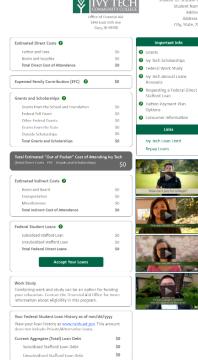
Mobile Device View

以 IVY TECH

Desktop View



Student Name



Graduation Rate

Percentage of full-time student at Ivy Tech Community

Federal loan payment over 10 years for this amount is approximately \$83.56 per month. Your actual borrowing and monthly payments may be different.

College who graduate within 3 years: 8.3%

National Average: 11.8% Ivy Tech Community College: 22.5%

Median Federal Loan Borrowing





Electronic Communications Ivy Tech Goals: Desired Results

- Increased Efficiency
- Improved Student Engagement
- Heightened Personalization
- Reduction in Student Inquiries
- Enhanced Brand Perception





Electronic Communications Ivy Tech Goals: NASFAA Code of Conduct Compliant

Institutional award notifications and/or other institutionally provided materials shall include the following:

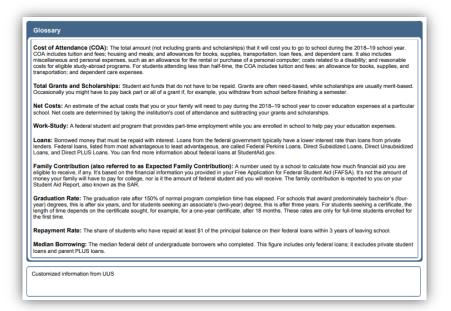
- A breakdown of individual components of the institution's Cost of Attendance, designating all potential billable charges.
- Clear identification of each award, indicating type of aid, i.e. gift aid (grant, scholarship), work, or loan.
- Standard terminology and definitions, using NASFAA's glossary of award letter terms.
- Renewal requirements for each award.

All required consumer information is displayed in a prominent location on the institutional web site(s) and in any printed materials, easily identified and found, and labeled as "Consumer Information."

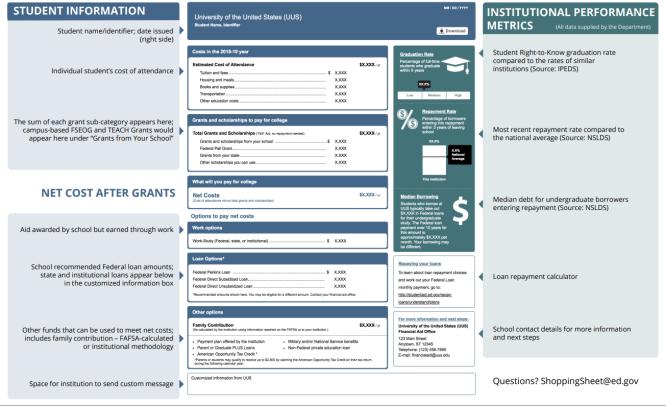


Electronic Communications Ivy Tech Goals: College Financing Plan Comparable

(formerly Federal Shopping Sheet)



College Financing Plan





Electronic Communications IT Setup

- Minimal IT support
- Ellucian Banner variables and letter generation process
- Custom content triggers identified
- FATV embedded videos selected
- Embedded links and buttons to additional content





Electronic Communications Campus Logic: Electronic Award Letter



Sun 1/20/2019 9:25 PM

Ivy Tech Financial Aid Office <noreply-financialaid@ivytech.edu>
Ivy Tech 2018-2019 Award Letter

Your 2018-2019 financial aid award package is ready for your review here. This will inform you of your estimated annual awards based on full-time enrollment, and is reliant on your eligibility. The financial aid eligibility is determined using the information you provided on your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and all awards are subject to change based on changes to your family income, enrollment states, academic standing and/or availability of funds.

View Your Award Letter

View your financial aid status at <u>myivy.ivytech.edu</u> and monitor your Ivy Iv. h email account for any additional financial aid requests. If you have questions, call 888-IVY-LINE or chat online at ivytech.edu/chat. Phone and chat lines are open daily 7 a.m. Eastern.

Ivy Tech Financial Aid Office



We offer two links to the Award Letter.



Electronic Communications Campus Logic: Electronic Award Letter



- Ivy Tech branded
- Mobile friendly
- FATV videos
- Clear awards not buried in text
- Current SAP status
- Important information links
 - Enrollment
 - Tuition
 - Student loan request and annual limits
 - Consumer Information
 - Required shopping sheet metrics data

Electronic Communications Campus Logic: Electronic State Mandated Loan Debt Disclosure (loan letter)

Requires a postsecondary educational institution that enrolls students who receive state financial aid to annually provide each student with certain information concerning the student's education loans.





Office of Financial A

\$273,676

Dear TEST Maskell.

Before to a summary of your estimated" student loan liability (Brough the 2017-2018 academic year) as of 08/15/2016. For many students, this information to helpful in developing a financial plan and deciding how much to borrow in student loans.

Remember: You will be responsible for paying back your student loans and related college debt. Understanding the short- and long-term implications of your borrowing decisions is critical.



4.45%



1

See more video







Learn More about the current and historical rates. Externated Monthly Payments - Pedenyl Student Loans

Federal Stodent Loans: Standard Repayment Terms: Assumed Infernal Rete: Morthly Payment: Total Payoff Amount: Protected Internal Part:

loan type. Calculations in this letter are estimated at 4.45%.

Estimated Borrowing Limit - Federal Direct Loans

You have reached

100% of your federal borrowing limit for federal shoteent loans*. If you reach 100% of your undergraduate borrowing limit, your monthly payment might be as high as \$652*.

Other Educational Loans

Based on hy Tech's records about your borrowing history, you responsible for repaying the following educational loans:

recensi Persina Coena:

Tips and Advice to Save Money

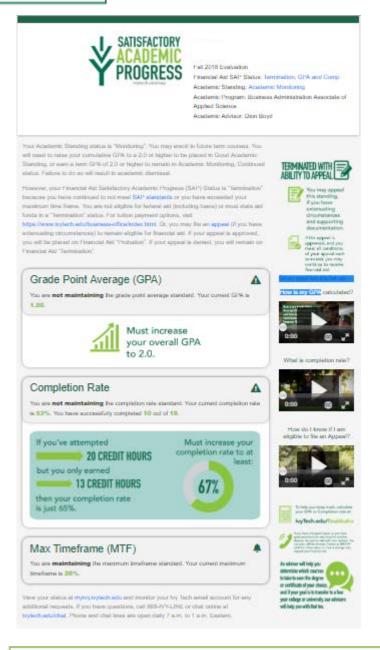
- Time is money: Stay on-track to graduate on time by earning 15 or m credits each semester.
- You can reduce borrowing by applying personal savings lowerd fullion
 Textbooks are expensive. Does your course offer a less expensive e-
- Paying accrued interest on your loans while you are in achool will low your payments after craduation.

"Principal, inferest, payoff amount, monthly payment, repayment terms, federal borrowing limit percentage, and maximum payment are softmated based on the information swatable to bry stand Community Cottage. To view your complete federal loan thistory, log on to the Nettonal Stotland Loan Data System (NSLDS) at midst and gov using your FSA ID. To review your repayment options, log on to winderforces.

Electronic Communications Campus Logic: Electronic SAP Letters

- SAP and Academic Standing statuses triggers specific opening paragraphs
- Student's advisor name and link to advisor appointment scheduling
- FATV SAP status specific messages
- Student specific calculation details
- Appeal form link if appropriate





LIVE DEMO





Dear IEST Maskell,

Below is a summary of your estimated* student loan liability (through the 2017-2018 academic year) as of 08/15/2018. For many students, this formation is helpful in developing a financial plan and deciding how muct

emember: You will be responsible for paying back your student loans and related college debt. Understanding the short- and long-terr implications of your borrowing decisions is



Short Video Answers

to Common Dusybons

Student Loans.gov

AND SALARIES



\$273,878

loan type. Calculations in this letter are estimated at 4.45%. Learn More about the current and historical rates.

Extrasted Monthly Payments - Federal Student Loans

Federal Student Loans: Standard Repayment Terms Assumed Interest Rate: Total Payof Amount

Extensive Borrowing Limit - Padaryl Direct Lowny

You have reached 100% of your federal borrowing limit for federal student loans If you reach 100% of your undergraduate borrowing limit, your be as high as \$892"



Other Educational Loans

Based on by Tech's records about your borrowing history, you are responsible for repaying the following educational loans: Federal Perkins Loans

lips and Advice to Save Money

- Time is money: Stay on-track to graduate on time by earning 15 or mon credits each semester
- You can reduce borrowing by applying personal savings loward tutton. Textbooks are expensive. Does your course offer a less expensive e-
- reader edition? Paying accrued interest on your loans while you are in school will lower
- your payments after graduation.

"Principal Interest never amount morthly neverant renorment terms factoral borrowing limit percentage, and maximum payment are extimated based on the information available to by Tech Community College. To view your complete federal loan history, log on to the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) at nalds.ed.gov using your FSA ID. To review your repayment options, log on to studenticens.gov.



C04181989

Full 2018 Fundament

Parential Aid SAP Status: Terremation, GPA and Comp.

Academic Standing: Academic Monitornic

Academic Program, Business Administration Associate of

Academic Advisor: Dion Boyd

Your Academic Standing status is "Wondoring". You may expol to future term courses. You will need to refer your comunitive GPA to a 2,0 or higher to be priced in Good Academic Standing, or earn a term GPA of 2.0 or higher to remain in Academic Monitoring, Continued status. Failure to do so will result to academic dismanal.

However, your Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Status is "Termination" Decease you have continued to not meet SAP standards or you have exceeded your massirum litre frame. You are not eligible for federal aid (including trans) or most state aid funds in a "Termination" status. For tutton payment options, visit

https://www.hylach.edu/bosineco-office/index.html. Dr. you may like an appeal (if you have entenuating circumstances) to remain eligible for financial set. If your appeal is approved, you will be placed on Financial Aid "Probation". If your appeal is deried, you will remain on Parancial Aid "Termination".

Grade Point Average (GPA)

You are not maintaining the grade point average standard. Your current GPA is



Must increase your overall GPA

Completion Rate

You are not maintaining the completion rate standard. Your current completion rate is \$3%. You have accessfully completed \$0 oct of \$8.

If you've attempted

20 CREDIT HOURS

but you only earned 13 CREDIT HOURS

then your completion rate is just 65%:

Must increase your completion rate to at

Max Timeframe (MTF)

You are maintaining the madmum limeframe standard. Your current maximum Smeltame is 28%.

View your shallowal myrey by leach add and morallor your by Tech arrest account for any additional recounts. If you have countings, call MOLIVICA NOt or chut ceitre al. hybich equiched. Phone and chall lines are open daily 7 s.m. to 1 s.m. bastern











wildbie to the an Appeal?









Electronic Communications Student Response: Initial Results



DEFINITION OF OPEN

- Opened email
- Clicked emailed link
- Opened letter



Letters Unopened, 79%



Student Response



Letters Opened, 24%

Letters Unopened, 76%



Student Response

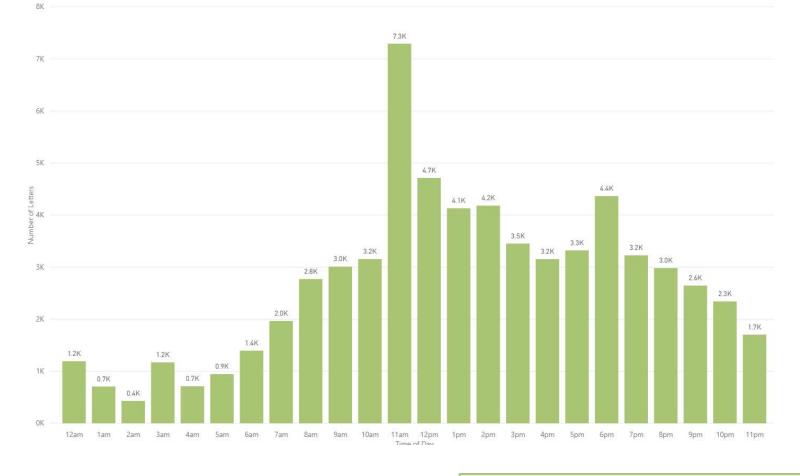
Viewing Time of Day in the Last 3 Months

11:00 am

Schedule to Get Attention

6:00 pm

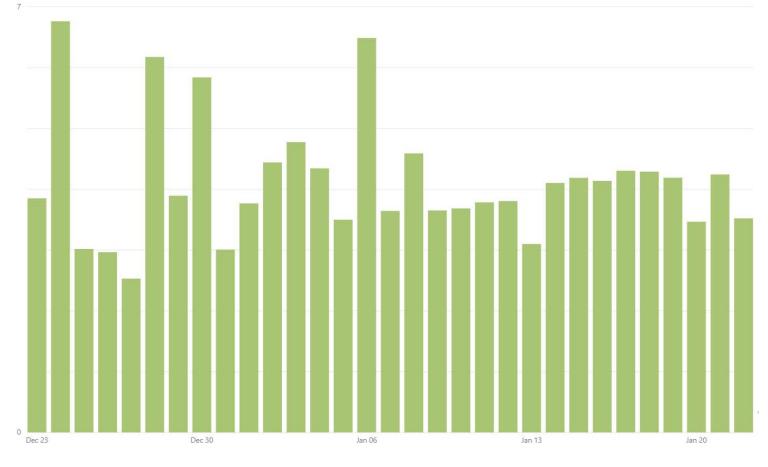




Student Response

Average Viewing Minutes







Electronic Communications Award Letter Improvements

Award specific videos

Information bubbles for all

major funding programs

 Revised awards notification





Questions?

