YOU WILL RECEIVE ALL COMMUNICATIONS FROM STUDENT FINANCIAL SERVICES ONLY BY EMAIL. Initially to the email address you provided on your admissions application; after you pay your deposit and activate your JSC email account communications will be sent to your JSC email address. It is very important to activate your JSC email account as soon as possible and to check it often for any notifications from Student Financial Services. This is the only way you will receive communication from this office as well as many other JSC departments and you do not want to miss important information or deadlines that could affect your aid eligibility.

I RECEIVED MY AWARD NOTIFICATION; WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?
Your first step is to log into your account on the MyJSC Portal (MyJSC.jsc.edu).
Select Financial Aid Award Notice (not to be confused with “Financial Aid Overview”), then select 2015 (for the 2015-16 academic year), then JSC. From here you can view the aid that has been awarded, indicate whether you accept or decline the aid, and add any comments if desired. You will receive email confirmation upon successfully completing this step and clicking Submit. If additional information is needed to make a final determination, this may be an estimate.

I RECEIVED AN EMAIL THAT I NEED TO SUBMIT DOCUMENTS, HOW DO I KNOW WHAT IS NEEDED?
First select Financial Aid Document Status, then 2015, then JSC. Here you can see what information is needed to complete your file (with links to required documents, if applicable) and confirm that any documents requested have been submitted.

CAN THE AMOUNT OF MY INITIAL AWARD CHANGE?
YES! Even after you accept your award, the amount can change. This can happen due to changes in enrollment status or an estimated award, verification of FAFSA information, a receipt of other funds, or budget cuts at the federal or state level. We will notify you by email of any changes and instruct you to log into the MyJSC Portal and accept or decline any new amounts. If we require additional information, you will be told to log into the portal, select Financial Aid Document Status, and then download the appropriate document(s) to complete. Should you choose to defer your enrollment we cannot guarantee the award will be the same.

I RECEIVED AN EMAIL THAT I NEED TO COMPLETE VERIFICATION; WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?
Verification is the process of comparing the information on your FAFSA to information on specific forms as requested by the U.S. Department of Education. This does not mean you have done anything wrong! It can be required even after you have received the initial award notification. Verification can be needed if your FAFSA contains conflicting or unclear information; it’s also possible to be randomly selected for verification. Verification typically requires submitting federal tax information (parent’s and student’s) which must come to us through the online IRS Data Retrieval System or, alternatively, in the form of an official “tax transcript” from the IRS. (We are prohibited from accepting copies of tax returns from you.)

I WAS AWARDED FEDERAL WORK-STUDY. HOW DO I FIND A JOB?
As long as you have completed all steps required to receive financial aid (i.e., submitted all documents and officially accepted the aid) AND finalized payment for the semester with Student Financial Services, you will receive information at Summer Orientation and via email by August 1. At that time, you are asked to specify your areas of interest for employment and to complete and return a Student Employment Application to by August 15. Work-Study supervisors will review applications and in some cases contact you if they feel you are best suited for jobs in their departments. If you are not contacted by a supervisor review the list of remaining Work-Study positions posted on the MyJSC Portal and reach out to the appropriate supervisor. Jobs are located on campus, typically six to eight hours a week and you are paid every two weeks. Earnings cannot be applied to your bill; they are intended for personal expenses. If you decline your work-study, it cannot be reinstated due to limited funds. If the balance to pay your bill is not finalized by the start of the semester, you cannot begin a work-study job. We do not guarantee employment of students awarded work-study.

CAN I GET A JOB IF I WAS NOT AWARDED WORK-STUDY?
Some departments at JSC have funds to hire students who have not been awarded federal work-study. However these positions are extremely limited. The process is the same for non-Work-Study positions as explained for Federal Work-Study positions.
I’VE BEEN AWARDED A PERKINS LOAN. WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?

Financial aid is determined by the “Cost of Attendance” (COA) If you choose to accept a Perkins Loan, JSC’s Loan Servicer will contact you in late July about your next steps to secure the loan. This process is completed online; your FAFSA PIN is required. The interest rate on this loan is 5% and repayment begins nine months after you graduate, leave school or drop below half-time. Please be aware that if you decline your Perkins Loan, it cannot be reinstated due to limited funds.

WHAT’S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A DIRECT SUBSIDIZED LOAN AND AN UNSUBSIDIZED LOAN?

A federal Direct Subsidized Loan is a guaranteed federal loan, and the federal government pays the interest while you are enrolled at least half-time. A federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan also is a guaranteed federal loan, but the government does not pay the interest, and interest accrues from the time the loan is disbursed. You have the option to pay the interest while you are enrolled, if you desire. The federal government determines the interest rate for each academic year, effective July 1. The rates may vary depending on if the loan is subsidized or unsubsidized. All Direct Loans have a loan-origination fee deducted from the loan amount. Repayment begins six months after you graduate, leave school or drop below half-time. Only unsubsidized loans are available to graduate students.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR A DIRECT LOAN AS A NEW BORROWER?

As a first-time borrower, you must complete both steps explained below before your loan can be disbursed. Start by logging into the web site www.studentloans.gov with your FAFSA PIN (soon to be the FSA ID).

- Complete a Master Promissory Note; for the type of loan to borrow choose ‘Subsidized/Unsubsidized’. You will be informed on the web screen and via email that your promissory note has been submitted; if this does not occur you did not complete the process correctly and must do so again! A Master Promissory Note is valid for 10 years.

- Next, at the same web site select ‘Complete Entrance Counseling’ (not Financial Aid Awareness Counseling). You are required to do this only once to borrow student loans, but if you fail to do both requirements your loan disbursement will be delayed.

WHAT IS A DIRECT PLUS LOAN?

A PLUS Loan is a low-interest loan that a creditworthy parent or step-parent can borrow to cover your educational expenses. The federal government determines the interest rate for each academic year, effective July 1 as well as loan origination fees that are deducted from the total borrowed. The FAFSA must be completed even if a PLUS loan is the only form of aid you want to use. If your parent is denied a PLUS Loan, there are other options: another parent may apply, a parent can apply with a credit-worthy co-signer, or you may be eligible for an additional $4,000 in an unsubsidized student loan.

HOW DOES MY PARENT APPLY FOR A PLUS LOAN?

Complete the following two steps:

- Submit the “JSC Federal PLUS Loan Pre-Application” to the JSC Student Financial Services Office; this initiates a credit check by the Department of Education. This form can be downloaded from the “Forms and Links” page on the JSC website.

- Parents complete a promissory note at www.studentloans.gov using their FAFSA PIN (soon to be the FSA ID). Be sure to choose the menu option “Sign Master Promissory Note” (not Complete PLUS Request Process). Loan Entrance Counseling is not required for parents in most cases.

HOW ELSE CAN I COVER MY EXPENSES?

If federal loans are not enough to meet your educational expenses, private student loans may be available. (A credit-worthy co-signer is always required, and interest rates can vary widely.) In addition, JSC offers an interest-free payment plan beginning on June 1, 2015 for fall semester and December 1, 2015 for spring semester. The earlier you enroll in the plan, the lower your monthly payments will be. Contact the Student Financial Services directly for details at 802-635-1671. Payments may also be made by credit card, check or cash.