



HOW TO APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID for ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-2027

Click on the links provided to be taken to the website or to view a brief how-to video

❑ **COMPLETE THE 26-27 FAFSA:REQUIRED BY ALL US COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES**

- Research priority deadline for each school on the college's admissions/financial aid page of their website; apply EARLY to BEAT the college's priority deadline
- Create FSA ID -student and parent(contributor) prior to completing FAFSA:
<https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch>
- This link explains who needs an FSA ID [FSA ID Graphic](#)
- Complete the 26-27 FAFSA form when it becomes available:
<https://studentaid.gov/announcements-events/afsa-support>
- Add each college you are applying to and the FAFSA info will be sent to each school's financial aid office

❑ **CSS PROFILE: Required by SOME US Colleges**

- Research which schools require the CSS Profile:
<https://profile.collegeboard.org/PPI/participatingInstitutions.aspx>
- Research priority filing deadline for each college on school's admissions/financial aid website
- Complete CSS Profile if required by your schools here: <https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/getting-started>
- Add each college requiring the CSS Profile to the form and the information will be sent to each school's financial aid office

❑ **OUTSIDE PRIVATE SCHOLARSHIPS**

- Visit [Naviance Scholarships & Money tab to view scholarships](#) and begin researching scholarships
- Use search engines to identify outside scholarships you may apply for: [Fastweb](#) , [Scholly](#) , [Bold.org](#)
- Check your email for announcements regarding the Arlington Community Scholarship Application and other local scholarships which will be available in the winter
- [The Dream.US Scholarship](#): Undocumented MA students are eligible for the "National Scholarship"
- [MALDEF's Scholarship Resource](#): An inclusive list of scholarships that do not require citizenship status to apply
- [Immigrants Rising scholarship resource guide](#)

❑ **HELPFUL RESOURCES**

- Attend [MEFA webinars](#) which educate students and families on the entire college financial aid process
- Visit the [FAFSA DAY](#) website to sign up for help completing the FAFSA. Workshops will be offered on specific dates, and assistance will be offered on Mondays to answer questions.
- Check out the [MassEdCo](#) website for information about gaining assistance with college admissions and financial aid. MassEdCo is located in the Boston Public Library at 700 Boylston Street.
- [AHS School Counseling Scholarships and Financial Aid website](#)
- [Free Community College for all!](#)
- [MA Tuition Equity Law](#)
- [UMass campuses pledge to fully cover tuition and fees for high-need students](#)