

Free Application for Federal Student Aid

(FAFSA)

www.fafsa.gov

Opens October 1st of every year!



- EVERY STUDENT and his/her family should fill out the FAFSA, regardless of income.
- The FAFSA is the most important form to complete to receive financial assistance for your education.
- The FAFSA should be completed as soon after October 1 as possible. If you need to, use estimates to complete the form.

Filling out the FAFSA is a lot like completing your income tax form. It asks both students and parents for information about income, debts, assets, etc. from the previous year.

FAFSA Steps:

1. Get your PIN. Both your parent/guardian and student will get a PIN in order to sign your FAFSA online. Go to: www.pin.ed.gov
2. Once you are assigned a PIN number, you can then fill out the FAFSA at www.fafsa.gov. Be prepared to know which schools you would like information sent to. Even if you are only considering one school, include that school so that they can receive your information.
3. You will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) via email link in about one week. Be sure to review the information and correct any errors. You can access your account and make changes as needed.
4. The SAR will tell you what your Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) is. The amount schools will expect the family to contribute toward expenses the following year. *The school will then try and make up the difference between the EFC and the cost of attendance through financial aid.*
5. Each school on your FAFSA will receive your information. With that information, the individual schools will complete your Financial Aid Package.
6. The schools may have their own financial aid/scholarship forms that they want you to complete. Make sure you do exactly as they specify and be sure to pay close attention to deadlines!
7. Each school will contact you if they need further information to determine your financial aid offer. You can use this information when determining your school of choice.

You can find most of your answers to the most common questions here:

<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/filling-out/parent-info>