ngpf

financialalgebra

9.4 Applying for the FAFSA
Student Activity Packet
UNIT: PAYING FOR COLLEGE & STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

Name:

IN THIS LESSON, YOU WILL:

- Summarize categorical data using two-way tables
- Interpret data in relative frequency tables
- Explain the role the FAFSA plays in the financial aid process
- Understand the importance of submitting the FAFSA
- Apply for the FAFSA
- Identify common misconceptions surrounding the FAFSA process
- Read a FAFSA Submission Summary and understand the role of the Student Aid Index (SAI)

INTRO

QUESTION OF THE DAY: What percent of high school seniors have filed their FAFSA to access college aid?

Answer the question on the first slide in the space below. Then, compare your answer to the answer on the second slide. Finally, follow your teacher's directions on how to answer the follow-up questions on the last slide.

1. **What percent of high school seniors have filed their FAFSA to access college aid?**

2. **List reasons that might explain why some students haven't filed yet.**

LEARN IT

VIDEO: Applying for Financial Aid With the FAFSA Form

The FAFSA is the gateway to financial aid. Watch this video to learn more about the FAFSA and the application process. Follow your teacher's directions to answer the questions.

1. **What is the purpose of the FAFSA, or Free Application for Federal Student Aid? (Select 2 answers)**
    a. It provides access to financial aid from the Federal government, such as grants, loans, and work-study
    b. It is a scholarship application that is offered by the Federal government. If you win, you are awarded free tuition to the college you attend.
    c. Colleges and universities use the information you submit on the FAFSA to determine how

much financial aid to offer you

d. It provides access to loan programs from private lenders

2. **Why is it best to file the FAFSA as early as possible?**

3. **How often do you need to file the FAFSA?**

ARTICLE: What is the FAFSA Submission Summary?
ARTICLE: What is the Student Aid Index?
After submitting your FAFSA, you will receive your FAFSA Submission Summary which includes your Student Aid Index (SAI). Read the two articles to learn what these are and how they affect your family's financial contribution to your education. Then, answer the questions.

1. **What information does the FAFSA Submission Summary include?**

2. **When do you receive your FAFSA Submission Summary?**

3. **Your friend Ally makes the following statement after receiving her FAFSA Submission Summary: "My SAI is so high and I don't think my family can afford to pay that much out of pocket!" What can you tell her about the difference between her SAI and the amount she will likely pay for college?**

ACTIVITY: ANALYZE: A FAFSA Submission Summary
Now that you know what the FAFSA Submission Summary is, let's familiarize ourselves with one so that when you receive yours, you'll know exactly where to look for the most important information.

ARTICLE: 14 Costly FAFSA Mistakes To Avoid

There is a lot of information surrounding the financial aid process and it can be a challenge to keep it all straight. Now that you've seen the basics of FAFSA, let's run down a list of common mistakes to test your knowledge. Then, verify your answers by skimming the article.

1. **For each statement, select True or False. If you select False, correct the claim**
   a. Always use a costly financial aid prep company to fill out the FAFSA True False

   b. You shouldn't fill out the FAFSA if your family income is too high True False

   c. The FAFSA form is only used for federal student loans True False

   d. You can begin filling out your FAFSA on October 1st True False

   e. You only need to submit your FAFSA form once True False



MATH CONNECTION - FAFSA COMPLETION AT YOUR SCHOOL

FAFSA Completion

The US Department of Education releases data about the number of students who SUBMIT FAFSA forms but maybe don't finish the process (maybe due to an error, missing signature, or being flagged for verification) and those that COMPLETE the entire FAFSA process for every high school in the country. Let's help your guidance office by making and analyzing two way tables including data from the past few years so that they can track their FAFSA progress!

1. **Record the number of students in your school's graduating class for each year:**

Year	# of Students in Graduating Class
2026	
2025	
2024	

2. **Create a two way table that includes the data for your school. The categories for your table will be YEARS and FAFSA SUBMISSION STATUS (Submitted, Completed, Not Submitted). To do this, you will need to:**
    a. Open this spreadsheet. Each tab has data for a different year: 2026, 2025, and 2024.

    b. For each year, use the spreadsheet FIND feature (or Ctrl-F) then type in your school's name. (Note: It may take a moment to find your data because there are so many schools)

    c. Complete the table below. Enter the data for "submitted" and "completed". Then, use your graduating class size to calculate the number of students who did NOT submit the FAFSA.

	Submitted	Completed	Not Submitted
May 2026			
May 2025			
May 2024			

3. **Create a relative frequency table for your school's data.**

	Submitted	Completed	Not Submitted
May 2026			
May 2025			
May 2024			

4. **Write a statement that summarizes the trends in submitted, completed, and not submitted FAFSA forms that you can share with your school's guidance department.**

EXIT TICKET

Follow your teacher's instructions to complete the Exit Ticket.