

IT'S TIME TO FILL OUT THE FAFSA

How do I apply for financial aid?

In order to receive financial aid, you must apply for it. By submitting one application form, you can determine your eligibility for a range of financial assistance at many college, universities and career schools.

FAFSA – the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

Applying for federal aid is easy. There is one application, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). It allows you to be considered for federal, state, and school aid. Schools will NOT give out their financial aid package without you filling out the FAFSA first!

The FAFSA collects your family's financial information. This information is used to calculate your Expected Family Contribution (EFC), which will be sent to schools in your Student Aid Report (SAR). Schools will use your SAR to decide how much aid to offer you.

When do I Apply for Financial Aid?

Deadlines vary among financial aid programs. The earliest you can submit your FAFSA application for state and federal need-based aid is January 1st for the following academic year. You must reapply each year using a shortened renewal application form.

Application Procedure

You apply online at www.fafsa.gov. The paper FAFSA may also be obtained from this website or you may request a copy by calling the Federal Student Aid Information Center at (800) 433-3243.

To complete the FAFSA, you will need the following financial records:

- Your tax return (if filed)
- Your parents' return if you apply as a dependent student

It helps to have other records on hand such as W-2 forms, current bank statements, social security numbers, records of untaxed income and business and farm records.

Tips on Completing the FAFSA

To learn more about how to complete the FAFSA correctly, visit:

www.studentaid.ed.gov/completefafsa

Check the status of your FAFSA at www.fafsa.gov by clicking on the FAFSA follow-up. There is also an online chat function to answer any questions students or parents might have.

If you have questions, live help is available on the FAFSA website or call (800) 433-3243.