

## **FAFSA and Financial Aid 101**

**FAFSA**- Free Application for Federal Student Aid. This is the application you will use to apply for all federal, state, and local financial aid. Only available at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov).

### **Who is eligible?**

To be eligible for Federal Student Aid, you must:

- Be a U.S. citizen, national, or permanent resident
- Have a valid social security number (exceptions for resident of the Marshall Islands)
- Be registered for selective service, if you're male and between the ages of 18-25
- Be enrolled or accepted to an eligible degree or certificate program
- Have a high school diploma or GED
- Maintain a satisfactory academic progress at your school or program of choice

If you are **not** an eligible noncitizen, you may still be eligible for state financial aid. Complete the Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA) instead.

### **When you complete your FAFSA, you are applying for:**

- The Pell Grant (federal aid- Full Pell Grant: \$7,395)
- State grants
- Local grants/institutional aid
- Work study
- Student Loans

### **College Grants FAQ:**

- Awarded based on FAFSA information
- Typically need-based
- Do not have to be paid back

**FAFSA Dates for School Year 2024-25:** TBD December 2023- June 30,2025

**All seniors must complete an application or opt out for high school graduation.**

# FAFSA Step by Step

## **Step 1: Create your FSA ID.**

You will need your accurate social security number and access to your phone and/or personal email. Be sure your name matches exactly what is on your social security card. Save your FSA ID backup code.

## **Step 2: Create a FSA ID for any other contributor.**

If you are a dependent student, repeat the above step for your parent. Now you will be able to create a FSA ID even if your parent does not have a social security number. Your parent's citizenship status will NOT affect your ability to receive financial aid. If you are married, your spouse will need to have an FSA ID as well.

## **Step 3: Transfer your 2022 tax and income information.**

You will have to give your consent for the FAFSA to transfer your tax information from the IRS to your college's financial aid office. Consent must be granted even if you did not file taxes for that year.

## **Step 4: Choose your colleges and universities.**

You may send your FAFSA to up to 20 schools. You may log back in and change your selections or add more schools at any time.

## **Step 5: Submit your FAFSA.**

Electronically sign and submit your FAFSA on [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov). It will be submitted to the financial aid office at any schools that you included. Right away you may see your eligibility for any federal student aid.

## **Step 6: Review your FAFSA Submission Summary (FSS) and provide any additional documents.**

Verify your information to make sure that no corrections need to be made. You may be selected for verification, and would then have to submit additional documents. Check your email to see if the school needs any further information.

## **Step 7: Accept your award!**

Your grant money will be automatically accepted. You will have to accept the amount of student loans you would like to take if needed to cover any additional expenses.

**Your FAFSA must be submitted or renewed every year to keep getting aid!**