

# Class of 2021! The FAFSA for the 2021-22 school year opens October 1!

Find even more details and get it done at [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov)  
(Don't complete the 2020-21 FAFSA)

## THE FAFSA PROCESS

Each year, the federal government provides more than \$150 billion in financial aid (grants, work-study, and loans) for college or career school. To apply for this aid, you must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Also, state governments and many colleges and career schools use your FAFSA information to award you their aid.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Some colleges won't consider you for a merit scholarship (scholarship based on academic achievement or other talents or skills) **until you've submitted a FAFSA**, so complete one even if you think you won't qualify for federal aid.

### RELAX!

The FAFSA is designed to be simple to fill out. Tips throughout the application help you understand the questions. Most people finish filling out the FAFSA in less than 30 minutes!

## 1. PREPARING FOR THE FAFSA

The FAFSA process is quicker and easier when you have a username and password called an FSA ID. If your parent is providing information on your FAFSA (which is the case for almost all of our students), your parent will need their own FSA ID as well. Learn more about the FSA ID and how to create yours at [StudentAid.gov/fsaid](https://StudentAid.gov/fsaid). To find out whether you need to report info about your parent, visit [StudentAid.gov/dependency](https://StudentAid.gov/dependency).

DON'T HAVE ALL YOUR INFO READY YET?  
That's okay; you can start the FAFSA, save it, and come back later to finish it.

### GATHER THIS INFORMATION (ABOUT STUDENT & PARENT(S))

The FAFSA asks questions about you and your finances, so have the information below handy:

- ⇒ Social Security Number/Alien Registration Number (if you are not legally documented in the US, we recommend you work directly with your college(s) rather than complete the FAFSA. See your counselor for details)
- ⇒ Federal tax information or returns (**from 2019**)
- ⇒ Records of untaxed income
- ⇒ Cash, savings, and checking account balances
- ⇒ Investments other than the home in which you live

## 2. FILLING OUT THE FAFSA

Each October, the FAFSA is available for the next school year. It's important to fill it out as soon as possible to meet college financial aid deadlines.

### MEETING FINANCIAL AID DEADLINES

Each college has its own FAFSA deadline. Check a college's deadline on its website or by calling its financial aid office.

### DID YOU KNOW?

You may be able to retrieve and transfer tax information into the form automatically using the Internal Revenue Service Data Retrieval Tool

### SUBMISSION OPTIONS

- \* Electronic Form (fill out at [www.fafsa.gov](https://www.fafsa.gov))
- \* Mail in application: (download PDF at [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov))

## 3. PROCESSING THE FAFSA

After you submit your FAFSA, your information will be sent to the colleges you listed on the form. You will receive an email within a few days, letting you know your FAFSA was processed. Your college might request additional information from you. Make sure you respond by any deadlines.

You will receive an aid offer (often only online at the college's portal) from each college you applied to and listed on your FAFSA, stating the amount of aid you could receive at the college.

Review and compare your offers, and decide which college to attend based on the college's net cost and how well the college suits your

Get free assistance and answers at [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov) or 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-4433-3243)

### RECEIVING FINANCIAL AID

Not sure what your financial aid package means? See your counselor/Ms. Fassnacht. When you are ready, formally accept the college's aid offer and remember, if you are offered student loans, borrow only as much as you really need. Note: your college will handle your aid. Ask the financial aid office when and how your aid will be paid out, what it will cover, and how much (if any) money will come directly to you once tuition and fees are paid.

### RENEW

Repeat the process each year you are in college!