**FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)**

\*\*\*The FAFSA is **FREE**. If a website asks you to pay to fill it out, you’re not dealing with the official FAFSA website

\*\*\*Remember to check the *financial aid office* websites at your colleges for any specific deadlines or information they may require in addition to the FAFSA

\*\*\*Filling out the FAFSA does **not** force you into receiving aid. You will have the ability to accept or deny any aid offered to you.  
  
\*\*\* **Apply EARLY!**

**Resources:**

* Start/Renew Application: <https://fafsa.ed.gov/>
* General Information: <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa>
* FSA ID: <https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm>
* Next Steps (after applying): <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/next-steps>

**Types of Federal Student Aid:**

All federal aid requires submission of a FAFSA. Federal Student Aid can include loans, grants, and federal work study. For more information on what each type of aid entails visit the general information website.

**FSA ID:**

The **FSA ID** replaced the Federal Student Aid Pin. Students, parents, and borrowers are required to use an **FSA ID***,* made up of a username and password, to access certain U.S. Department of Education websites. Your **FSA ID** is used to confirm your identity when accessing your financial aid information and electronically signing your federal student aid documents. Keep this information in your records for future use.

If you are a dependent student, your parent will also need to create a unique **FSA ID** in order to electronically sign your FAFSA.

Be aware, if you are creating an **FSA ID** for the first time, you may use your **FSA ID** to sign an original FAFSA, but nothing else. To make corrections to an existing FAFSA (including adding a school or accessing the IRS Data Retrieval Tool), your information will need to be confirmed with the Social Security Administration (SSA) and may take 1-3 days from the date you apply.

## Gathering the Documents Needed to Apply:

The FAFSA asks for information about you (your name, date of birth, address, etc.) and about your financial situation. Depending on your circumstances you might need the following information or documents as you fill out the FAFSA:

* Your Social Security number (it’s important that you enter it correctly on the FAFSA!)
* Your parents’ Social Security numbers if you are a dependent student
* Your driver’s license number if you have one
* Your Alien Registration number if you are not a U.S. citizen
* Federal tax information or tax returns, including IRS W-2 information, for you and for your parents if you are a dependent student:
  + IRS 1040, 1040A, 1040EZ
  + Foreign tax return and/or
  + Tax return for Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, or Palau
* Records of your untaxed income, such as child support received, interest income, and veterans noneducation benefits, for you, and for your parents if you are a dependent student
* Information on cash; savings and checking account balances; investments, including stocks and bonds and real estate but not including the home in which you live; and business and farm assets for you, and for your parents if you are a dependent student

For more information about what you may need when filling out your FAFSA visit:

* Filling out the FAFSA: <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/filling-out>

## Who Will I Hear From, and When:

When completing the FAFSA, you must list **at least one** college to receive your information. The schools you list will use your FAFSA information to determine the types and amounts of aid you may receive. You can always add more schools to your FAFSA later.

The office of the Federal Student Aid, at the U.S. Department of Education, will send you a Student Aid Report (SAR), which is a summary of the FAFSA data you submitted. You’ll get your SAR within three days to three weeks after you submit your FAFSA. **PLEASE REVIEW *SAR* CAREFULLY FOR ANY MISTAKES OR POTENTIAL PROBLEMS.**

The SAR won’t tell you how much financial aid you’ll get. Instead, if you applied for admission to a college or career school and have been accepted, and you listed that school on your FAFSA, the school will calculate your aid and will send you an electronic or paper aid offer, sometimes called an award letter, telling you how much aid you’re eligible for at the school. The timing of the aid offer varies from school to school.