



Clarity Financial Aid Application FAQs for 2023-2024

Why did Shady Side choose Clarity?

We have chosen Clarity as our financial aid application to better serve our current and prospective families. We are confident this change will make the financial aid application process easier for families.

How does Clarity make it easier for me to apply for financial aid?

Clarity offers a streamlined, efficient, mobile-friendly application. Additionally, Clarity removes the need to upload your W2 and 1040 by transferring them directly from the IRS. This reduces the amount of information you need to enter manually, so that you can complete the application more quickly.

Is my information secure with Clarity?

Shady Side Academy takes the privacy and security of your personal information very seriously. Clarity is certified for both GDPR and SOC2 and uses enterprise-level security standards including end-to-end encryption of all personally identifiable information. For more information, see [Clarity's Privacy Policy](#).

How will this impact my award?

Financial aid allocations are based on demonstrated need. Just as with our prior platform, Clarity collects your financial information in order to determine your discretionary income and recommends a portion of your discretionary income to be designated for tuition. Provided that your financial picture has remained consistent, the proportion of tuition covered by financial aid will remain consistent.

Will I still need to apply every year?

Yes, you will need to submit a Clarity application each year in order to qualify for financial aid; however, Clarity retains your information from previous applications, so it will be easier to reapply in future years.

Can I complete my Clarity application on my phone or tablet?

Yes! Clarity's application is fully mobile-friendly so you have access wherever you are.

When do I need to apply?

You must submit your completed application and supporting documents by **January 1, 2023**. The automated tax pull deadline is **December 10, 2022** (see below).

What is the Automated Tax Pull Deadline?

In order for your 1040 and W-2 to be pulled from the IRS and uploaded to your application, you must complete a 4506-C form. This form gives Clarity permission to request your tax information. There is a 10-14 day turnaround from when the request is submitted to when the information will populate in your application. In order for your information to populate prior to the January 1, 2023, application deadline, you must submit your tax pull request by **December 10, 2022**. After this date, you may still apply for financial aid, but your tax information and forms will likely need to be manually entered and uploaded to meet the January 1, 2023, deadline for complete applications and supporting documents.

Is there a fee to apply?

Yes, the fee to apply for financial aid through Clarity is \$55.