

**National Association of Student  
Financial Aid Administrators Presents ...**

# **What You Need to Know About Financial Aid**

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# Topics We Will Discuss Tonight

- What is financial aid?
- Cost of attendance (COA)
- Expected family contribution (EFC)
- Financial need
- Categories, types, and sources of financial aid
- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA<sup>®</sup>)
- Special circumstances

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# What is Financial Aid?

Financial aid consists of funds provided to students and families to help pay for postsecondary educational expenses



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# What is Cost of Attendance (COA)?

- Direct costs
- Indirect costs
- Direct and indirect costs combined into cost of attendance
- Varies widely from college to college

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# What is Expected Family Contribution (EFC)?

- Amount family can reasonably be expected to contribute
- Stays the same regardless of college
- Two components
  - Parent contribution
  - Student contribution
- Calculated using data from a federal application form and a federal formula

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# What is Financial Need?

Cost of Attendance

– Expected Family Contribution

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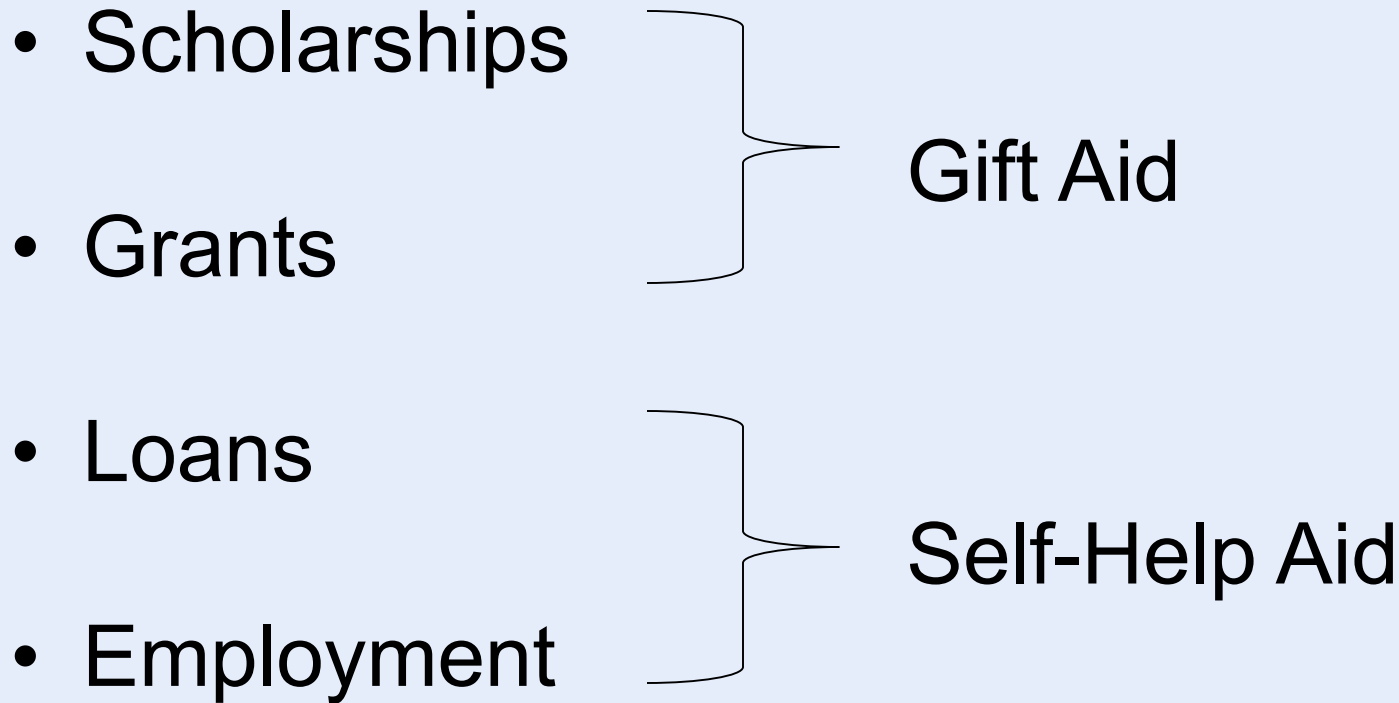
= Financial Need

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# Categories of Financial Aid

- Need-based aid
- Non-need-based aid

# Types of Financial Aid





# Gift Aid: Scholarships

- Money that does not have to be paid back
- Awarded on the basis of merit, skill, or unique characteristic

# Gift Aid: Grants

- Money that does not have to be paid back
- Usually awarded on the basis of financial need

# Self-Help Aid: Loans

- Money students and parents borrow to help pay college expenses
- Repayment usually begins after education is finished
- Only borrow what is really needed
- Look at loans as an investment in the future

# Self-Help Aid: Work-Study Employment

- Allows student to earn money to help pay educational costs
  - A paycheck; or
  - Nonmonetary compensation, such as room and board
- Student may opt whether or not to work or number of hours to work

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# Federal Student Aid Programs

- Federal Pell Grant
- Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant (IASG)
- Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant
- Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)
- Federal Work-Study (FWS)
- Federal Direct Student Loans (Direct Loans)
  - Subsidized
  - Unsubsidized
- Federal PLUS Loans

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# States

- Residency requirements usually apply
- Award aid on the basis of both merit and need
- Use information from the FAFSA and/or state aid applications
- Deadlines vary by state
  - Check PDF FAFSA or FAFSA on the Web website

# Colleges and Universities

- Award aid on the basis of both merit and need
- Aid may be gift aid or self-help aid
- Use information from the FAFSA and/or institutional applications
- Deadlines and application requirements vary by institution
  - Check with each college or university

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# Private Sources

- Foundations, businesses, charitable organizations
- Deadlines and application procedures vary widely
- Begin researching private aid sources early



# Employers

- Companies may have scholarships available to the children of employees
- Companies may have educational benefits for their employees

# Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®)

- A standard form that collects demographic and financial information about the student and family
- May be filed electronically or using paper form
  - Available in English and Spanish

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# FAFSA

- Information used to calculate the expected family contribution (EFC)
  - Amount of money a student and his or her family may reasonably be expected to contribute towards the cost of the student's education for an academic year
- Colleges use EFC to award financial aid

# FAFSA

- May be filed at any time during an academic year, but no earlier than October 1<sup>st</sup> prior to the academic year for which the student requests aid
- For the 2019–20 academic year, the FAFSA could have been filed beginning October 1, 2018
- Most colleges set FAFSA filing deadlines

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# FAFSA on the Web (FOTW)

Federal Student Aid  
An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

PROUD SPONSOR of  
the AMERICAN MIND®

FAFSA®  
Free Application for Federal Student Aid



Home



About Us



FSA ID



StudentAid.gov



Help

SEARCH

English | Español

## Get help paying for college

Submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)



New to the FAFSA?

Start A New  
FAFSA

Returning User?

- Make a correction
- Add a school
- View your Student Aid Report (SAR), and more...

Login

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# Reasons to Use FAFSA on the Web

- Built-in edits to prevent costly errors
- Skip-logic allows student and/or parent to skip unnecessary questions
- Option to use Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Data Retrieval Tool to import tax data

# Reasons to Use FAFSA on the Web

- More timely submission of original application and any necessary corrections
- More detailed instructions and “help” for common questions
- Ability to check application status online
- Simplified application process in the future

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# IRS Data Retrieval Tool

- While completing FOTW, applicant may submit real-time request to IRS for tax data
- IRS will authenticate taxpayer's identity
- If match found, IRS sends real-time results to applicant in new browser window
- Applicant chooses whether or not to transfer data to FOTW



# IRS Data Retrieval Tool

- Became available October 2018 for 2019–20 processing cycle
- Participation is voluntary
- Reduces documents requested by financial aid office

# IRS Data Retrieval Tool

- Some will be unable to use the IRS DRT
- Examples include:
  - No Social Security Number (SSN) was entered
  - Student or parent married, but filed separately

# FSA ID

- Sign FAFSA electronically
- Not required, but speeds up processing
- May be used by students and parents throughout aid process, including subsequent school year
- Only the owner should create a FSA ID

## Create a New FSA ID

New to FSA? **Create an FSA ID** account below. An FSA ID gives you access to Federal Student Aid's online systems and can serve as your legal signature.

Only create an FSA ID using your own personal information and for your own exclusive use. You are not authorized to create an FSA ID on behalf of someone else, including a family member.

You are not allowed to have an employee or agent of a commercial entity, or other third party, create an FSA ID for you for any purposes including but not limited to: payment reductions, debt consolidation or applying for aid. Misrepresentation of your identity to the federal government could result in criminal or civil penalties.

*Important: When you are done click the CANCEL button to clear your data, even if you did not finish creating your FSA ID. Just closing your browser window or going to another website may not be enough to prevent other people using this computer from seeing your information until the session expires.*

Log in to StudentAid.gov

Create an FSA ID

Manage My FSA ID

Please enter your:

E-mail

Confirm E-mail

Username

Password

Numbers  Uppercase Letters  Lowercase Letters  Special Characters  8-30 Characters  Show Text

Confirm Password

CONTINUE >

<https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm>

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# FAFSA on the Web Worksheet

FAFSA on the Web Worksheet contains:

- Instructions
- Questions that gather basic information on student and parent, if applicable

# General Student Information

- Social Security Number
- Citizenship status
- Marital status
- Drug convictions
- Selective Service registration
- Level of parents' school completion

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# Student Dependency Status

FAFSA asks questions to determine dependency status for federal student aid (not IRS) purposes:

- If all “No” responses, student is dependent
- If “Yes” to any question, student is independent

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# Information About Parents of Dependent Students

- Tax, income, and other financial information
- Dislocated worker status
- Receipt of means-tested federal benefits
- Assets
- Untaxed income

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# Information About Student (and Spouse)

- Tax, income, and other financial information
- Dislocated worker status
- Receipt of means-tested federal benefits
- Assets
- Untaxed income

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# Additional Information

- College and housing information
- FAFSA preparer information
- Certification of Statement of Educational Purpose

# Signatures

- Required
  - Student
  - One parent (dependent students)
- Format for submitting signatures
  - Electronic using FSA ID
  - Signature page
  - Paper FAFSA

# Frequent FAFSA Errors

- Social Security Numbers
- Divorced/widowed/remarried parental information
- Income earned by parents/stepparents
- Untaxed income
- U.S. income taxes paid
- Household size
- Number of household members in college
- Real estate and investment net worth

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# FAFSA Processing Results

Central Processing System (CPS) notifies student of FAFSA processing results by:

- Paper Student Aid Report (SAR) if paper FAFSA filed and student's email address is blank
- SAR Acknowledgement if filed FAFSA on the Web and student's email address is blank

# FAFSA Processing Results

- CPS notifies student of FAFSA processing results by:
  - Email notification containing a direct link to student's online SAR, if student's email was provided on paper or electronic FAFSA
- Student with FSA ID may view SAR online at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov)

# FAFSA Processing Results

- Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR) sent to colleges listed on FAFSA approximately 10 to 14 days after FAFSA is submitted
- College reviews ISIR
  - May request additional documentation

# Student Aid Report or Student Aid Report Acknowledgement

- Review data for accuracy and correct any errors
- Update estimated tax information when actual figures become available

# Making Corrections

If necessary, corrections to FAFSA data may be made by:

- Using FAFSA on the Web ([www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov)) if student has a FSA ID;
- Updating paper SAR (SAR Information Acknowledgement cannot be used to make corrections); or
- Submitting documentation to college's financial aid office



# Special Circumstances

- Cannot be documented using FAFSA
- Send written explanation and documentation to financial aid office at each college
- College will review and request additional information if necessary
- Decisions are final and cannot be appealed to U.S. Department of Education

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# Special Circumstances

- Change in income
- Change in employment status
- Unusual medical expenses not covered by insurance
- Change in parent marital status
- Unusual dependent care expenses
- Student cannot obtain parental information

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**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT FINANCIAL AID ADMINISTRATORS**