

Financial Aid 101



Determine which financial aid application is right for you, the FAFSA or the TASFA.

Eligibility requirements refer to the student's residency status, not the parent's status.

FAFSA

To be eligible for federal aid and complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), a student must be one of the following:

- US Citizen/National
- US Permanent Resident
- Other eligible noncitizen (can usually apply for permanent residence in the US after a specific period of time)
 - ◆ Asylum
 - ◆ Persons paroled into the US for at least 1 year
 - ◆ Refugees
 - ◆ Cuban Haitian entrants
 - ◆ Victims of human trafficking (T-Visa holders)
 - ◆ Battered immigrants & their children

Step 1: Gather required information for student and parents.

- See [FAFSA Student Checklist](#).

Step 2: Create an FSA ID at fsaid.ed.gov.

- If the student is determined to be Dependent, which is most often the case, one parent will also need to create an FSA ID.
- If the parent is not a U.S. citizen/National or Permanent Resident, s/he will not create an FSA ID but will need to print, sign, and mail a *Signature Page* when completing the FAFSA.

Step 3: Complete 2021-2022 FAFSA at fafsa.gov.

- If student plans to enroll in summer school at college, then the 2020-2021 FAFSA is also required.
- Add all colleges applying to and list a Texas college first.
- Use IRS Data Retrieval Tool to import income information.

TASFA

Students who are ineligible for federal aid may still be eligible for state and institutional aid and are encouraged to complete the Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA). To complete the TASFA, students must be classified as Texas Residents by meeting the following criteria:

- Graduating from a Texas HS or received a GED in Texas
- Resided in Texas 36 months leading up to high school graduation or receipt of GED
- Resided in Texas 12 months prior to college enrollment
- Student provides a notarized affidavit stating s/he will apply to become a permanent resident at the earliest opportunity s/he is eligible to do so

Step 1: Gather 2018 income information for student and parents.

Step 2: Download the 2021-2022 TASFA application at collegeforalltexas.com (available Oct. 1 2020).

Step 3: Complete and submit a copy of the TASFA to each Texas college you are applying to.

- You also need to submit copies of 2019 income documentation, usually copies of tax transcripts.
- Check with each college's Financial Aid office to find out which documents you need to submit with your TASFA, and the preferred method for submitting those documents.

Students are encouraged to submit the FAFSA or TASFA to each college s/he has applied to or plans on applying to. Students must be accepted for admission before the college will offer a financial aid award. Colleges send admitted students financial aid award letters, including instructions for accepting all or some of the awards, using different methods (email, online applicant portal, etc.) and at varying times, so students should follow up with each institution. Additional financial aid resources are available at duncanvilleisd.org/PayforCollege.