

Financial Aid Application – Graduation Requirement

Financial aid applications inform postsecondary institutions' decisions about student eligibility for federal, state, and institutional funds. Financial aid awards can help students pay for their educational expenses after high school.

In accordance with Texas Education Code (TEC), §28.0256, beginning with students enrolled in Grade 12 during the 2021-2022 school year, each student must do **one** of the following in order to graduate:

- complete and submit a **free application for federal student aid (FAFSA)**;
- complete and submit (as eligible) a **Texas application for state financial aid (TASFA)**; or
- submit a **signed opt-out form**

Opting out of FAFSA/TASFA

A student may opt out of the financial aid application graduation requirement if:

- a parent or guardian submits a signed form;
- the student is 18 years of age or older and submits a signed form; or
- a school counselor authorizes the student to decline to complete and submit the application for good cause.

What is FAFSA?

- The [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) is a form completed by prospective and continuing college students.
- The application informs financial aid decisions regarding students' eligibility for federal, state, institutional and other opportunities.
- Federal student aid can be applied toward expenses such as tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, and transportation.
- Aid also can help pay for other related expenses, such as a computers and dependent care.

What is TASFA?

- The [Texas Application for State Financial Aid \(TASFA\)](#) is used to determine eligibility for state (or institutional) financial aid programs administered by IHEs (Institutions of Higher Education) in the state of Texas.
- Students who are classified as Texas Residents who cannot apply for federal financial aid using the FAFSA must complete the TASFA or opt out to meet the new graduation requirement.