College Financial Aid Information Night

November 29, 2023



Prayer

Tonight's Agenda

- Introductions
- Overview of Aid
- FAFSA & WASFA
- The New FAFSA
- Additional Considerations
- Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE)
- Scholarships
- Resources
- Q & A & Feedback

** All words in "red" in the PPT are clickable links **

Introductions

- Ms. Siobhan McVeigh Director of College and Career Counseling; Works with last names A-L
- Ms. Kelsey Mark Associate Director of College and Career Counseling; Works with last names M-Z
- Ms. Laura Breshock SEL Counselor and Career Specialist; Works with A-D for SEL and all students for College & Career

Overview of Aid

The Cost of College

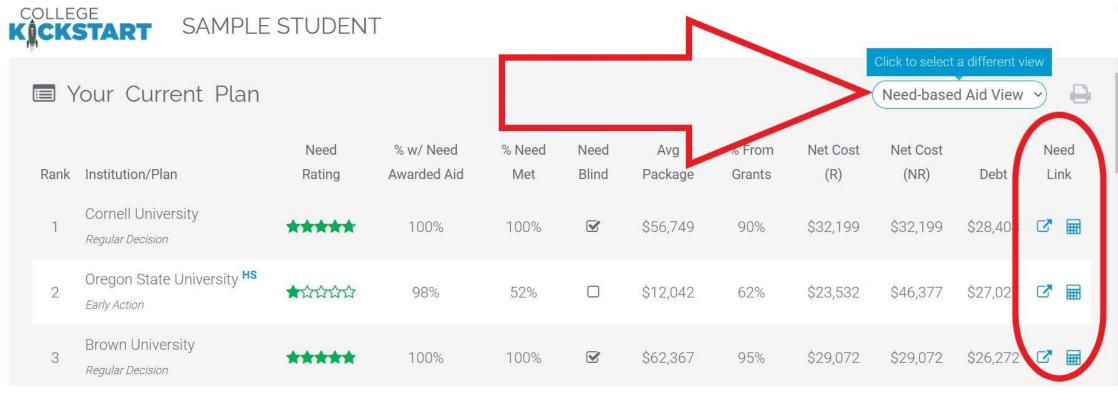
Direct Costs: Tuition and fees Room and board Student Fees + **Indirect Costs:** Books and supplies Transportation Miscellaneous personal expenses Other documented educational expenses = Total Cost of Attendance (COA), AKA Sticker Price

Net Price Calculator

- Helpful tool for you to understand what your total costs might be as you are navigating the college application process
- Net Price (out of pocket costs) equals Cost of Attendance minus predicted financial aid.
- Available on most University financial aid/admissions websites
- Tip: Search Google for [School Name] Net Price Calculator
 - Not all calculators are created equal, but they provide a good starting point

Net Price Calculators

College Kickstart – Net Price Calculator and link to school's scholarship page



Ways to Pay for College

Financial Aid

- Grants
- Scholarships
- Work Study
 - Loans

- Non-Financial Aid
- Personal Savings
- <u>College Savings Plans (529</u> or GET)
 - Family Contributions
 - Payment Plans

Need-Based Grants

Pell Grant

- Federal Entitlement maximum award based on fulltime enrollment
- Qualify by completing the FAFSA
- Award Schedule more information here

Washington College Grant

- State Entitlement
- Qualify with income data on FAFSA/WASFA
- Must be Washington Resident

Washington College Bound Grant

- State Entitlement
- Must sign College Bound Pledge
- Qualify with income data on FAFSA/WASFA
- Amount varies
- Must be Washington Resident

The Washington College Grant (WA Grant)

Apprenticeship Programs and Opportunities

- The Washington College Grant (WA Grant) gives eligible people money for various types of education, including certificate programs, job training, <u>apprenticeships</u>, or <u>college</u>.
- Recent high school graduates and working-age adults from low- and middle-income families can qualify to receive money for college or career training.
- There are two categories of WA Grant: Washington College Grant (WA Grant) and Washington College Grant for Apprenticeship (WCG-A). Both help income-eligible apprentices pay for tuition, fees, and materials.

Washington College Grant: Apprenticeships on a college campus For apprenticeships that are part of an eligible program of study at an eligible institution, such as a community or technical college, apprentices should complete a <u>financial aid application</u>. Learn more on the <u>Washington College Grant</u> page.

Washington College Grant for Apprenticeship: Apprenticeships sponsored by employers Apprentices in non-campus-based programs are encouraged to check with their program sponsor to ensure they participate in WCG-A. Sponsors must apply and have approval to take part in WCG-A to be eligible to offer funds to eligible apprentices. Interested sponsors can learn more on the WCG-A Apprenticeship Program Providers page.

Types of Financial Aid

SCHOLARSHIPS

- Merit or Financial Need-based
- Usually from a university or an external organization

GRANTS

- Generally financial need-based
- Does not need to be repaid
- Federal, state, and institutional sources

WORK STUDY

• Paid as you earn

• Federal, state, and institutional sources

EDUCATIONAL LOANS

- Must be repaid
- Federal or Private
- Parent Plus Loan

FAFSA / WASFA

Applying for Financial Aid

FAFSA: Free Application for Federal Student Aid www.studentaid.gov

- Most people are eligible to apply to the FAFSA.
- Most people qualify for some sort of aid, even if it is a loan.
- May qualify you for state and institutional aid, not just federal.
- Apply for FSA ID for both parent and student at fsaid.ed.gov
 - Used to both sign into the FAFSA and to electronically sign FAFSA.

Washington State Financial Aid (WASFA)

State Financial Aid for Undocumented Students and Other Select Applicants

- The Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA) is for people who don't file a <u>federal FAFSA application</u>. If you have completed the FAFSA, you have already applied for federal and state financial aid and do not need to complete the WASFA unless your college asks you to.
- A person should complete the WASFA if they are undocumented or do not qualify for federal financial aid because of their immigration status. The WASFA can also be used in limited circumstances by <u>other select applicants</u> who cannot or choose not to file a FAFSA.
- People who complete a WASFA are applying only for state aid. If you are <u>eligible</u> for federal aid, you should complete the FAFSA in order to maximize financial aid awards.

Should you complete a FAFSA or a WASFA?

 If you are unsure if you should complete a FAFSA or a WASFA, complete (the <u>WASFA Eligibility Questionnaire</u>.

Completing the FAFSA

- File for correct school year
 - File 2024-2025 FAFSA for students starting in Fall 2024
- Using correct IRS Tax Return filing year
 - Prior-prior year means using 2022 Tax Return on 2024-2025 FAFSA
- Meet priority funding deadlines.
 - Check with each school for priority filing date.
- FAFSA must be electronically signed by all contributors: student and parent(s)
 - All contributors must create an FSA ID student and parent(s)

The New FAFSA

The NEW FAFSA

Overview of the FAFSA and the new changes brought to us by Going Merry. Original presentation found <u>here</u>.

The 2024-2025 FAFSA®

Key changes the families of high school and college students need to know





- Why is the FAFSA® important to file?
- Why is the FAFSA® changing?
- List of some changes to be aware of
- Detailed breakdown
 - What is the Student Aid Index (SAI) and how the SAI is calculated?
 - What does a college or university use the SAI for?
 - Changes to how income and reportable assets is calculated
- How could your family be impacted?
- What do you need to do?



Why is the FAFSA® important to file?

Filing the FAFSA® can provide access to various forms of financial aid, such as federal, state, and institutional grants, need-based scholarships, some meritbased aid, and Federal student loans.

Students should file as early as possible to ensure they make state-specific or college-specific deadlines. Some schools work on a first come first serve basis.

Each student should file the FAFSA® each year they plan to attend college.

The FAFSA® is a strong predictor to postsecondary enrollment.

Some states have separate state aid application or may have FAFSA® graduation requirements. Speak to your counselor if you're unsure what your state requires.



Why is the FAFSA® important to file?

The FAFSA® determines a family's SAI, Student Aid Index (formerly EFC, Expected Family Contribution).

If you do not file the FAFSA®, you do not have an SAI.

Without an SAI determined by the FAFSA®, colleges generally assume that your family is capable of covering the entire cost of attendance out of pocket, and therefore offer you less financial aid. You could unknowingly leave thousands of dollars of financial aid on the table! Each college has their own process for determining how much aid your student will receive. Some work on a "first come, first served" basis, and other colleges have a need-based system where needier students might have priority consideration for some aid.

Note – Most colleges do *not* promise to cover 100% of financial need.



Why is the FAFSA® Changing?

Research has shown that the FAFSA is overly complicated and long, causing it to be a barrier to high education for those who would most benefit from filing it.

In 2021, the FAFSA® Simplification Act amended the Higher Education Act of 1965, and required the FAFSA® form be simplified. Changes began in the 2021-2022 award year, and previously included:

- No longer require Selective Service (military draft) registration to be eligible for financial aid
- No longer ask about prior drug convictions
- Extended Pell Grant eligibility to incarcerated individuals.
- New process for unaccompanied homeless and foster care youth
- Suspended verification (ie need to submit documentation) based on reported financial info

Basic Changes

- The projected open date for the FAFSA® this year is sometime in December. They are required to release the FAFSA® by January 1. This is a one time change.
- The number of questions on the FAFSA® should be reduced to ~45
- The language on the FAFSA® is more closely aligned with the language on income tax returns
- Eligibility for the Pell Grant is generally expanded by linking family size and the federal poverty level. The maximum Pell Grant amount is increased.
- The Pell Grant may not exceed the cost of attendance, and will be modified by the enrollment intensity for the student. Students must in 12+ credit hours to receive their full Pell Grant.
- Parent contributors without a SSN should have an option similar to the FSA ID

Basic Changes

- Dependent students and their parent(s) contributing to the FAFSA® must consent to have their IRS data imported into the FAFSA® via the DDX (Direct Data Exchange). If the student or the parent filing the FAFSA® fails to consent to the data retrieval, this will make the student ineligible for federal financial aid.
- Students who have parents refuse to file the FAFSA® will be eligible for Direct Unsubsidized Student Loans, so they should file the FAFSA®.
- Colleges are required to offer the opportunity for students to appeal their financial aid award and must individually review each appeal to render a Professional Judgement.
- Students will be asked to complete a series of demographic questions, but these have no impact on the financial aid eligibility

Language Changes

- The SAI (Student Aid Index) replaces the EFC (Expected Family Contribution). Note this is not simply a name change.
- **Contributor** is used to describe anyone putting personal information on the FAFSA®. This could include the student, one parent, or both parents.
- Unusual Circumstances are when a student is unable to contact a parent or where contact with the parent poses a risk to the student.
- **Special Circumstances** are when a student or contributor experiences significant changes to their financial situation.
- Enrollment Intensity is the percentage of full-time enrollment at which a student is enrolled. Generally, 12 credit hours is considered 100% enrolled. This is replacing full-time and half-time enrollment.

Language Changes

- Personal circumstances is now used to describe the questions relating to dependency on the FAFSA®
- Federal Tax Information (FTI) is the new term used for discussing tax information
- **Direct Data Exchange (DDX)** replaces IRS Data Retrieval as the new term for importing income from the IRS
- FAFSA® Submission Summary (FSS) replaces Student Aid Report (SAR) for the report that a student receives after completing the FAFSA®
- Other Financial Assistance (OFA) replaces Estimated Financial Assistance (EFA), but continues to mean grants, scholarships, and loans outside of the Pell Grant
- Financial Need is updated to be Cost of Attendance SAI OFA

What is the SAI (Student Aid Index)?

SAI (Student Aid Index) will replace EFC (Expected Family Contribution).

The change to the SAI is because:

- 1. The EFC was frequently misunderstood by families to be an estimate of the out-of-pocket college expenses.
- 2. The formula for calculating the SAI was updated, which increased financial aid eligibility for many families.

There are many changes to the formula to calculate the SAI, and you may be interested how it will differ from your EFC. To get a better idea of how your family will be impacted, you can <u>view</u> <u>example cases</u> of how the SAI may be lower or

higher than the EFC for some families.

How is the SAI used?

The SAI is an eligibility index for student financial aid that colleges and universities use to identify students with financial need and their eligibility for financial aid. Examples of financial aid are the Pell Grant, state or institutional grants, scholarships work-student, or student loans.

It's important to understand that your SAI is **NOT** meant to indicate what your family can afford to pay or is expected to pay out of pocket.

Financial need is calculated by each college. A simple formula for estimating your financial need is: Financial need = Cost of Attendance - Student SAI - Other Financial Assistance (scholarships, grants, loans. etc.)



Changes to income and assets calculations

Income Changes

- Child support will be reported as an asset, not income.
- Workman's comp, Veterans' Education Benefits, and cash support paid on student's behalf will no longer be reported as income.
- Gifts to students will not be reported as untaxed income.
- Qualified 529 distributions from grandparents, etc. will not impact aid eligibility.

Asset Exclusion Changes

- Small businesses (<100 employees) will be asked to report the net worth of the business.
- Net worth of a farm will now include value of the family farm outside of the family's primary residence.
- Education savings account will only be counted as a parent asset if designated for the dependant student. The value of education savings accounts for other children will not be counted.





How could your family be

impacted?

You may see increased eligibility for financial aid if:

You are a single parent

Eligibility of the maximum Federal Pell Grant was updated to be an AGI less than or equal to 225% of the poverty line. Income protection allowances (IPA) will also increase by 60%. This is the largest IPA increase for a group. These changes will increase the Pell Grant eligibility for single parents.

You have multiple education savings plans

Educational savings plans will only be counted as an asset for the student that they are designated to. Previously all educational savings accounts a parent held would be counted for all dependant students.



You only have one child in college at a time

Families with incomes between \$40,000-80,000 will likely see increased eligibility for the Pell Grant. Families with incomes between \$70,000-130,000 for public institutions and \$70,000-230,000 for private institutions will likely see increased eligibility for institutional aid.



How could your family be impacted?

You may see decreased eligibility for financial aid if:

If you own a family farm or small business

Families used to only need to report business assets if their business/farm had over 100 employees. Now, all businesses (regardless of # employees) will need to report their assets, so this will affect more small business owners, and likely result in decreased aid.

You have multiple children in college

The new formula under SAI (Student Aid Index) no longer considers the number of family members in college as a factor in need analysis. This is expected to impact approximately one-third of college students.

by earnest KENNEDY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Your family income is higher than \$60,000

A family with multiple children in college will likely see decreased in Pell Grant eligibility if their income falls between \$60,000-120,000, and decreased eligibility for institutional aid from public if their income is between \$80,000-260,000.

What do you need to do to prepare for these changes?

- The projected open date for the FAFSA® this year is in December, but the day has not been announced. Be sure to pay attention to updates on studentaid.gov and from your counselor.
- Students and their parents should <u>create your FSA ID now</u>. If you are a parent and don't have a SSN, sit tight, as FSA has announced that you will be able to create an alternative FSA ID.
- Review the <u>Student Aid Estimator</u> by on studentaid.gov and <u>Brookings.edu</u> simulator that shows how much your student(s) aid will be impacted by the move to the SAI.
- View FAFSA informational videos about the 2024-25 FAFSA
- Create a Going Merry parent account and student account to find financial aid.
- Sign up for the Going Merry <u>parent newsletter</u> to stay in the loop on everything you need to know about financial aid!



Additional Resources

- Finaid.org Comprehensive resource for families to learn the ins and outs of paying for college, including information on how to prepare for paying for college
 - Top Features: Calculators Check out the <u>Cost Projector Calculator</u> and the <u>Loan Payment Calculator</u>
- <u>Studentaid.gov</u> Comprehensive resource for families to learn the ins and outs of paying for college. Top Features: <u>Undocumented Students FAQ</u>, <u>International Student Info</u>, <u>Homeless Youth FAQ</u>, and resources *en espanol*
- <u>Sec.gov</u> An introduction to 529 plans. For details about reporting them on the FAFSA, click <u>here</u>

Additional Considerations

Special Circumstances

Contact the Financial Aid Office, not the FAFSA processor, about financial circumstances you're not able to explain on the FAFSA such as:

- Inability to obtain parent information
- Changes to income
- Significant Medical/Dental expenses not covered by insurance
- Unusual non-discretionary expenses
- If you're unsure, ask your Financial Aid Counselor!



www.cssprofile.collegeboard.org

- Supplemental online electronic form for financial aid information.
- About 400 colleges and universities require it, usually selective private universities.
 - Washington universities that use CSS Profile are Whitman College and Whitworth University.
- Requires additional tax information and information on various types of assets.
- Also requires the non-custodial parent information.
- Costs a fee to complete. \$25 initial +\$16 additional school.
 - Fee waivers are available for families who make less than \$100,000 AGI.

Make sure to check if it is required with your college or university!!!

Western Undergraduate Exchange

Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE)

Western Undergraduate Exchange

- Western public colleges and universities that participate offer tuition at 1.5 times the in-state cost
- Most majors are available at the WUE rate at most participating universities and colleges, but not always. Schools may exclude highdemand majors
- To determine eligibility and find participating schools, visit the website and:
- Check your eligibility
 - 1. Review programs and schools
 - 2. Meet the requirements
 - 3. Apply directly to the school

Scholarships

Scholarships – Going Merry

Scholarships and grants are helpful ways to fund your college education. They provide you with free money that can go towards tuition or other educational expenses. Kennedy seniors have been invited to sign up for **Going Merry** (<u>https://www.goingmerry.com</u>) -- it's free!

Why I recommend Going Merry above other scholarship sites:

- Scholarship bundles: One application / essay prompt
- Vetted scholarships: Updated and accurate
- Personal matching: Background, academics, interests, etc.
- Clear organization: Create favorites, get deadline reminders, save drafts, updates on scholarships
- **Direct, auto-filled applications:** Apply directly on the site (with forms helpfully pre-filled)

Additional Outside Scholarships

FREE College Scholarship Search Engines:

• Cappex

cappex.com

- The College Board Scholarship Search
- collegeboard.com/paying
- FinAid!

finaid.org

- Student Scholarship Search
- studentscholarshipsearch.org
- Washington Scholarship Coalition

www.thewashboard.org

Kennedy Catholic Resources

Counseling Department – Getting Info



VISION

MISSION

Book Lists

Counseling Social and Emotional

Learning Resources

College and Career

SBIRT - School Social Work

Course Catalog

Departments

Fees International Education

Library

St. Teresa Program









Susan Tiffany



To provide comprehensive, developmental student-centered SEL and College and Caree

As an integral component of the school community, the Counseling Department actively

students. In order to assist students in reaching their fullest potential, in keeping with their

individual gifts and talents, the Kennedy Catholic counselors intentionally support each

student in developing his/her academic, personal/social knowledge and skills; identifying and planning for

career/college preparation and becoming positive, contributing members of society.

supports the school's mission by recognizing the unique needs and self-worth of all

ounseling programs that are committed to pursuing the fullest potential of every student and aligns with best practice standards set forth by the American School Counseling



Counseling page on Kennedy Catholic website

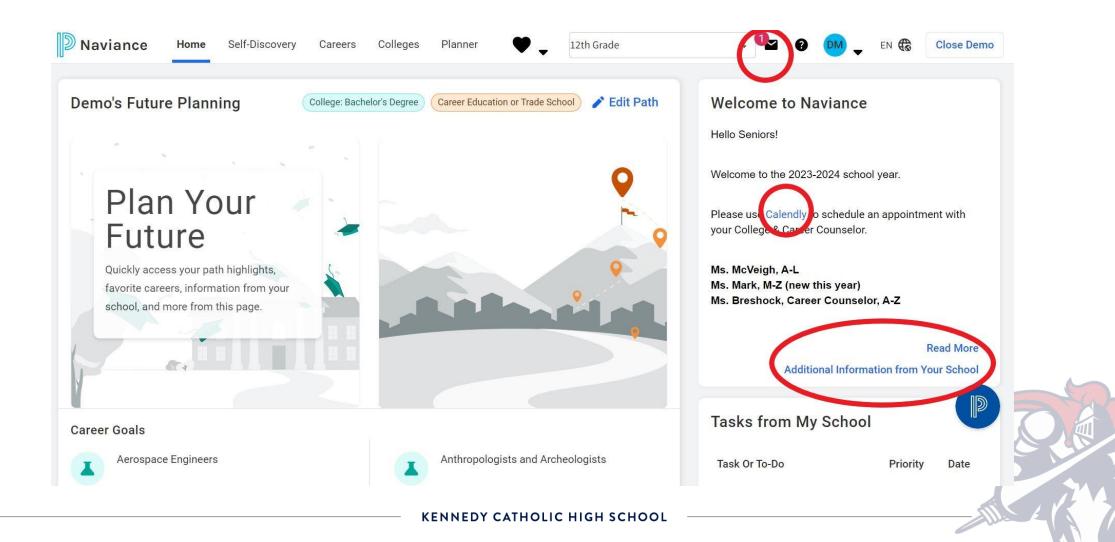
Kennedy Catholic ENews

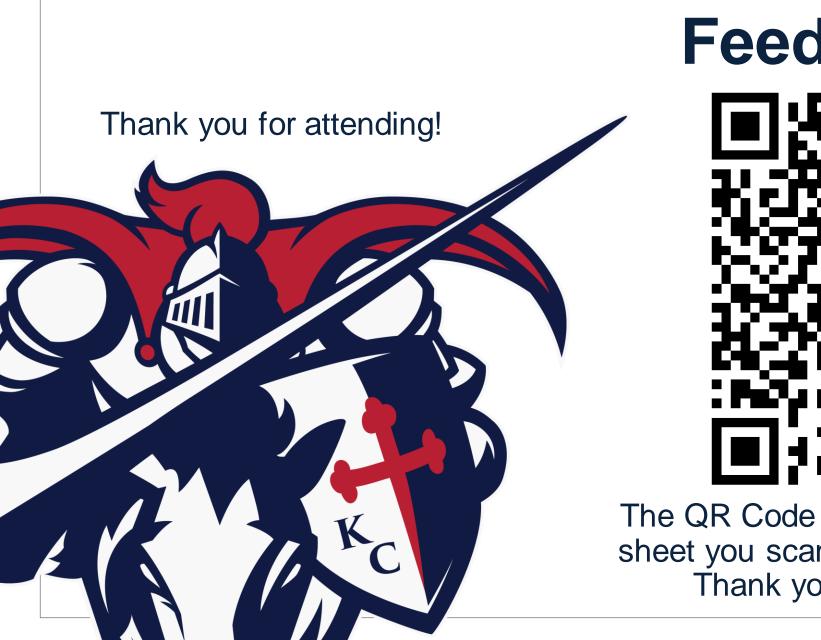
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ABOUT US	ADMISSIONS	ACADEMICS	ARTS	ATHLETICS	CAMPUS MINISTRY	STUDENT LIFE	INTERNATIONAL	GIVING

ENEWS ARCHIVE

	COLLEGE AND CAREER COUNSELING	COLLEGE AND CAREER COUNSELING	
All Academics Activities	Bellevue College's Discovery Day 2023 – Associate Degree Programs for Students with Learning Disabilities Nov 17 2023	Pre-College Courses – Give Your Student a Jump on College Nov 8 2023 READ MORE	
Admissions Advancement Athletics	READ MORE		
BSharp Business Office			
COVID-19 Updates Campus Life	COLLEGE AND CAREER COUNSELING	COLLEGE AND CAREER COUNSELING	
Campus Ministry	Upcoming College Visits to Kennedy	Upcoming Scholarship Webinar:	
College and Career Counseling	Catholic Nov. 13	Finding Free Money for College	
Conege and Career Courisening	Nov 8 2023	Nov 8 2023	
	READ MORE	READ MORE	

Naviance Student / Parent account





Feedback Form!

The QR Code is also on the back of the sheet you scanned to access the slides. Thank you for your feedback!