



Better FAFSA/WASFA 2024-25

Learn more and apply for financial aid at
wsac.wa.gov/apply



What is *Better FAFSA*?

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) determines eligibility for student financial aid. Financial aid can be used for education beyond high school, such as college, technical school, trade school, or apprenticeship.

Big changes are coming to FAFSA this year. Here's what to expect:

More eligibility

- Larger average Pell awards.
- More students eligible for Pell.
- Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is now Student Aid Index (SAI), which more accurately reflects students' costs and financial need.

Simpler application

- Fewer questions on form.
- People only see and respond to questions for their specific role (e.g., student, parent).
- With direct connection to IRS, families don't need to enter income info manually. (Note, tax filing not required to submit a FAFSA application.)

Adjusted timeline

- 2024-25 application opening delayed until December 2023.
- Check with your college to see if other deadlines are impacted (admissions applications, scholarships).

What about WASFA?

- The Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA) will open at the same time as the FAFSA.
- The WASFA is also improving, with fewer questions and a simpler form.
- Complete only one application: FAFSA or WASFA. Most people should file a FAFSA to maximize financial aid.
- The WASFA is for people who are undocumented or who do not qualify for federal financial aid, and may be used by others in limited circumstances.