



College Now
Greater Cleveland

Welcome to College Affordability Night!

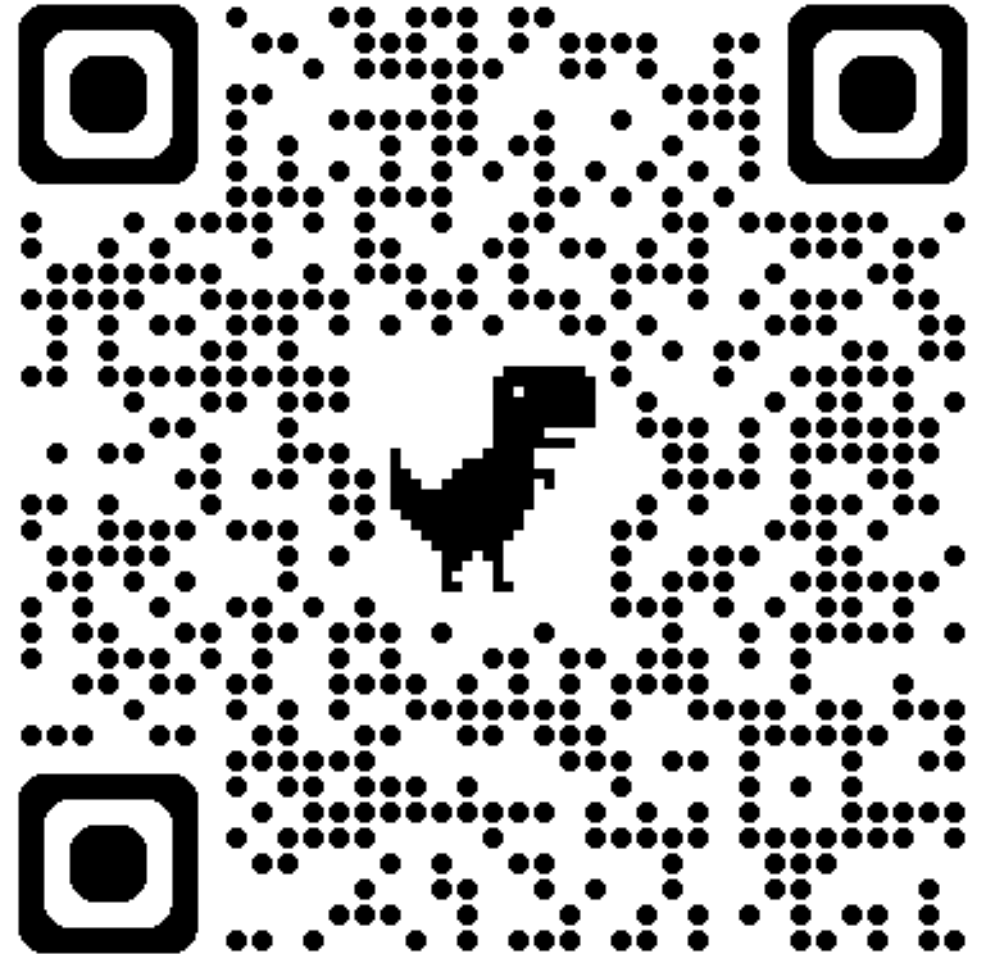
Please use the QR Code to register your
attendance at this evening's session.

Pam Sandoval

psandoval@collegenowgc.org

Dr. Anne Gates

agates@collegenowgc.org



College Affordability 2024-2025

The Ins And Outs Of Paying For College



College Now
Greater Cleveland

DEVELOPING TOMORROW'S TALENT TODAY

WWW.COLLEGENOWGC.ORG

Presentation Objectives



Understand the financial aid process and timeline



Know the different types of financial aid and how to access each of them



Understand the FAFSA & what documents you'll need to complete it



Be familiar with the CSS Profile and how it is used



Understand what happens after you complete the FAFSA

UNDERSTANDING STICKER PRICE VS. NET PRICE VS. VALUE



STICKER PRICE

A college's published price (tuition and fees, room and board, etc.)



SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

Merit or need-based aid money that you don't have to pay back



NET PRICE

What you actually pay (typically with loans, savings and income)



VALUE =

Educational and lifetime advantages each college offers you as compared to the net price you pay

Understanding
the Value of
Postsecondary
Education

What Costs are Associated with College?

Understanding Costs

The “sticker” price of a college is not the actual price for a student.

Colleges are required to have a net price calculator available to help families understand actual cost for that student.

Direct costs are costs required to attend – tuition and fees (fixed) room and board (variable)

Indirect costs are important but can be determined by student choice – transportation, books, supplies, personal expenses

Financial Aid assists students in paying for:

- ▶ Tuition and Fees (Direct Costs)
- ▶ Room and Board (Direct Costs)
- ▶ Books and Supplies (Indirect Costs)
- ▶ Personal Expenses (Indirect Costs)
- ▶ Transportation (Indirect Costs)

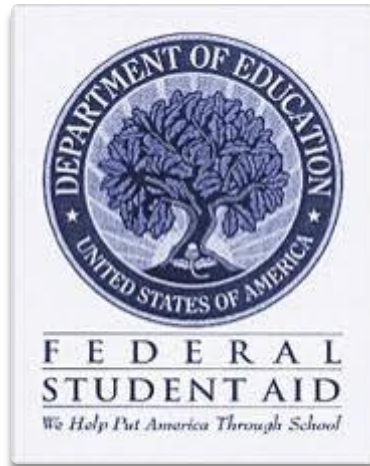
**All of these items make up a school's
COST OF ATTENDANCE (COA)**

What is FINANCIAL AID?

- ▶ FINANCIAL AID is money to help students pay for their COLLEGE EDUCATION.
- ▶ Some Financial Aid is free
- ▶ Some Financial Aid is NOT free
- ▶ ALL Financial Aid helps to pay for programs at trade school/career center, community college, or 4-year institution



Types of FINANCIAL AID



GIFT MONEY

Grants and Scholarships



EARNED MONEY

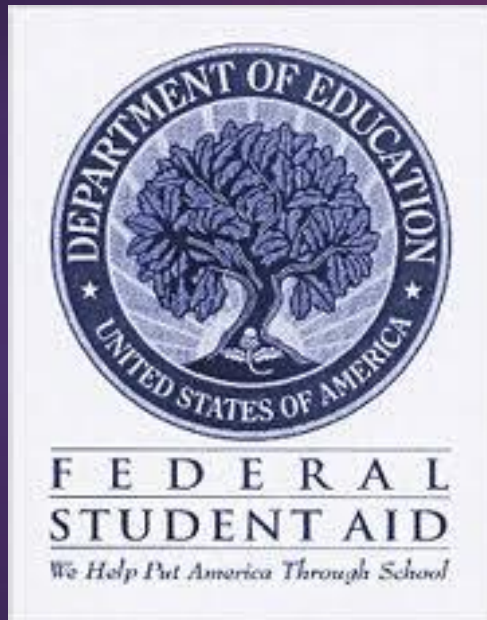
Federal Work Study



BORROWED MONEY

Education Loans
(Federal and Private)

Gift Money: Grants



Grants are **NEED-BASED** and are usually offered by the GOVERNMENT and the COLLEGES

- ▶ Eligibility is determined by a student's FAFSA*
 - ▶ **Free** Application for Federal Student Aid
- ▶ Grants DO NOT need to be repaid

*The Pell Grant is an example of a Federal Grant Program

Gift Money: Scholarships

Scholarships can be

- ▶ *MERIT-BASED
- ▶ *NEED-BASED
- ▶ *CIRCUMSTANCE-BASED
- ▶ May be some combination of all of the above.
- ▶ Scholarships DO NOT need to be repaid!



Tips for Scholarship Searching:

Think SPECIFIC

Scholarships are available for students based on a wide variety of criteria:

- Academic Achievement
- Certain Majors and Cohorts
- Underrepresented Students

Think LOCAL

Local **civic organizations**, your **high school**, and your **place of employment** all might offer scholarships.



Think EASY

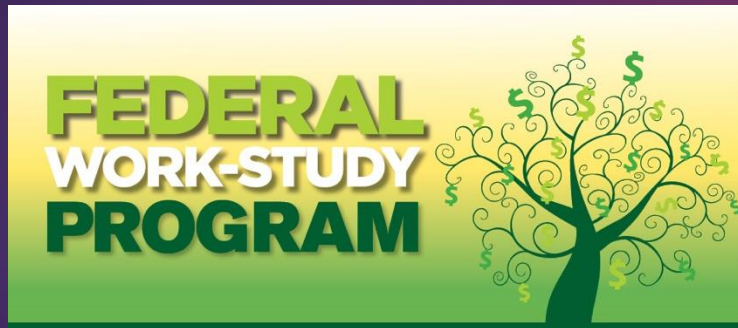
Apply to the most obvious scholarships first.

Some local scholarships offer very competitive odds because the applicant pool is small.

Check College Now's website for a comprehensive list of scholarships.

EARNED MONEY:

Federal Work Study



- ▶ On-campus employment
 - ❖ Some colleges also offer community-based opportunities
- ▶ Students must search for available jobs, apply, and interview
- ▶ Payment comes to the student in the form of a check
 - ❖ Few students apply it to their tuition; most use it for personal expenses
- ▶ Students will not be penalized on the next year's FAFSA for funds earned from a work-study position.

Borrowed Money



Federal STUDENT Loans – Awarded upon completion of the FAFSA

- ▶ Stafford Subsidized Loan [6.53% fixed interest*]
- ▶ Stafford Unsubsidized Loan [6.53% fixed interest*]

Federal PARENT Plus Loan – [9.08% fixed interest*]


*Federal Interest Rates are set every July and remain for the life of the loan unless consolidated. These rates are for loans disbursed between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025.

Private or Alternative Loans – Loans from banks, credit unions, and other loan sources

Student Aid Estimator


An official website of the United States government. [Help Center](#) [Submit a Complaint](#) [English | Español](#)

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

[FAFSA® Form](#) ▾ [Loans and Grants](#) ▾ [Loan Repayment](#) ▾ [Loan Forgiveness](#) ▾ [Log In](#) | [Create Account](#) 

Federal Student Aid Estimator

Our *Federal Student Aid Estimator* provides an estimate of how much federal student aid the student may be eligible to receive. These estimates are based on the Student Aid Index (SAI), an index to determine federal student aid eligibility.

 **This Is Not the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) Form**

With this tool, students can find out how much federal student aid they may be eligible for starting with the 2024–25 award year—note that this tool estimates the Student Aid Index (SAI) for 2024–25 award year, not the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) for 2023–24 award year.

To apply for financial aid, complete the [2023–24 FAFSA® form](#).

The 2024–25 FAFSA form will be available in December 2023.

<https://studentaid.gov/aid-estimator/>

FAFSA

Overview

HOW TO APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID

What is the FAFSA?

▶ FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID

studentaid.gov

- ▶ The Department of Education (DOE) oversees the FAFSA
- ▶ Gives the DOE, state government, and colleges a baseline to measure student need.
 - ▶ Calculates Student Aid Index: SAI
- ▶ Completed for every year that a student intends to enroll

The screenshot shows the homepage of studentaid.gov. At the top, it says "An official website of the United States government." and includes links for "Help Center" and "Submit a Comment". The main navigation bar includes "federalStudentAid" (with "OFFICE OF FFA U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION" below it) and menu items for "UNDERSTAND AID", "APPLY FOR AID", "COMPLETE AID PROCESS", and "MANAGE LOANS". The main content area features a large banner with the heading "Complete the FAFSA® Form" and a sub-heading "New to the FAFSA® Process?". Below this, it states "Completing the FAFSA form is free. Fill it out now." and provides a "Start Here" button. There is also a "Returning User?" section with options to "Correct info | Add a school" and "View your Student Aid Report (SAR)", along with a "Log In" button. The background of the banner shows an illustration of three people walking.

WHAT CONTRIBUTORS NEED TO COMPLETE THE FAFSA

- FSA ID
 - Both the Student and the parent(s)
- Tax Returns
 - Both the student and the parent(s) **2023 Tax Returns**
- Amount of child support received in the past year
- Asset Information
 - Value of cash, savings and checking
 - Net worth of investments
 - Net worth of any business/farms
- List of any federal benefits received
- List of colleges



Create an FSA ID Now: Student and Parents

- ▶ Visit **StudentAid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch** to create an FSA ID.
- ▶ You'll need your Social Security number, full name, and date of birth.
- ▶ You'll also need to create a memorable username and password
- ▶ Complete challenge questions and answers so you can retrieve your account information if you forget it.

Federal Student Aid
AN OFFICE OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

FAFSA® Form ▾ Loans and Grants ▾ Loan Repayment ▾ Loan Forgiveness ▾

Create an Account (FSA ID)

Step 1 of 7

Personal Information

I understand that I'll be required to certify that the information I provide to create an account (FSA ID) is true and correct and that I'm the individual I claim to be.

If I'm not the person I claim to be, I understand that I'm not authorized to proceed and that I should exit this form now. If I provide false or misleading information, I understand that I might be subject to a fine, prison time, or both.

First Name

Middle Initial

Who is My Parent for FAFSA Purposes?

- ▶ **Married Parents:** Report information for both parents
- ▶ **Parents Living Together:** Report information for both parents
- ▶ **Parents Not Living Together:** Report information for the parent who financially supported student the most in the past year
 - ❖ If Parent is **Remarried:** Also report information for your stepparent
- ▶ The following people are **NOT** your parents unless they have legally adopted you:
 - ▶ Widowed Stepparent
 - ▶ Grandparents
 - ▶ Foster Parents
 - ▶ Legal Guardians
 - ▶ Older Brothers or Sisters
 - ▶ Aunts or Uncles

On the FAFSA, Parents are called Contributors!

Independent Student

Several criteria for determining this status, including the following:

- ▶ Married
- ▶ Have children or other dependents who receive more than half their support from you
- ▶ Armed services veteran or currently on active duty
- ▶ Unaccompanied youth who is homeless or is self-supporting and at risk of homelessness
- ▶ At any time since age 13:
 - ❖ Both parents are deceased
 - ❖ In foster care
 - ❖ Dependent or ward of court

A Quick Look at studentaid.gov

Click
Create
Account
to Make
your FSA
ID

 An official website of the United States government.

[Help Center](#)

[Submit a Complaint](#)

[Español](#)

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

[FAFSA® Form](#) ▾

[Loans and Grants](#) ▾

[Loan Repayment](#) ▾

[Loan Forgiveness](#) ▾

[Log In](#) | [Create Account](#)



Click
FAFSA
Form to
Begin
Your
FAFSA

Get Ready for Student Loan Payments

[Restarting Payments](#)

[Making Payments for the
First Time](#)

POPULAR TOPICS

[Apply for Aid Using the FAFSA® Form](#) >

[Learn About Public Service Loan Forgiveness](#) >

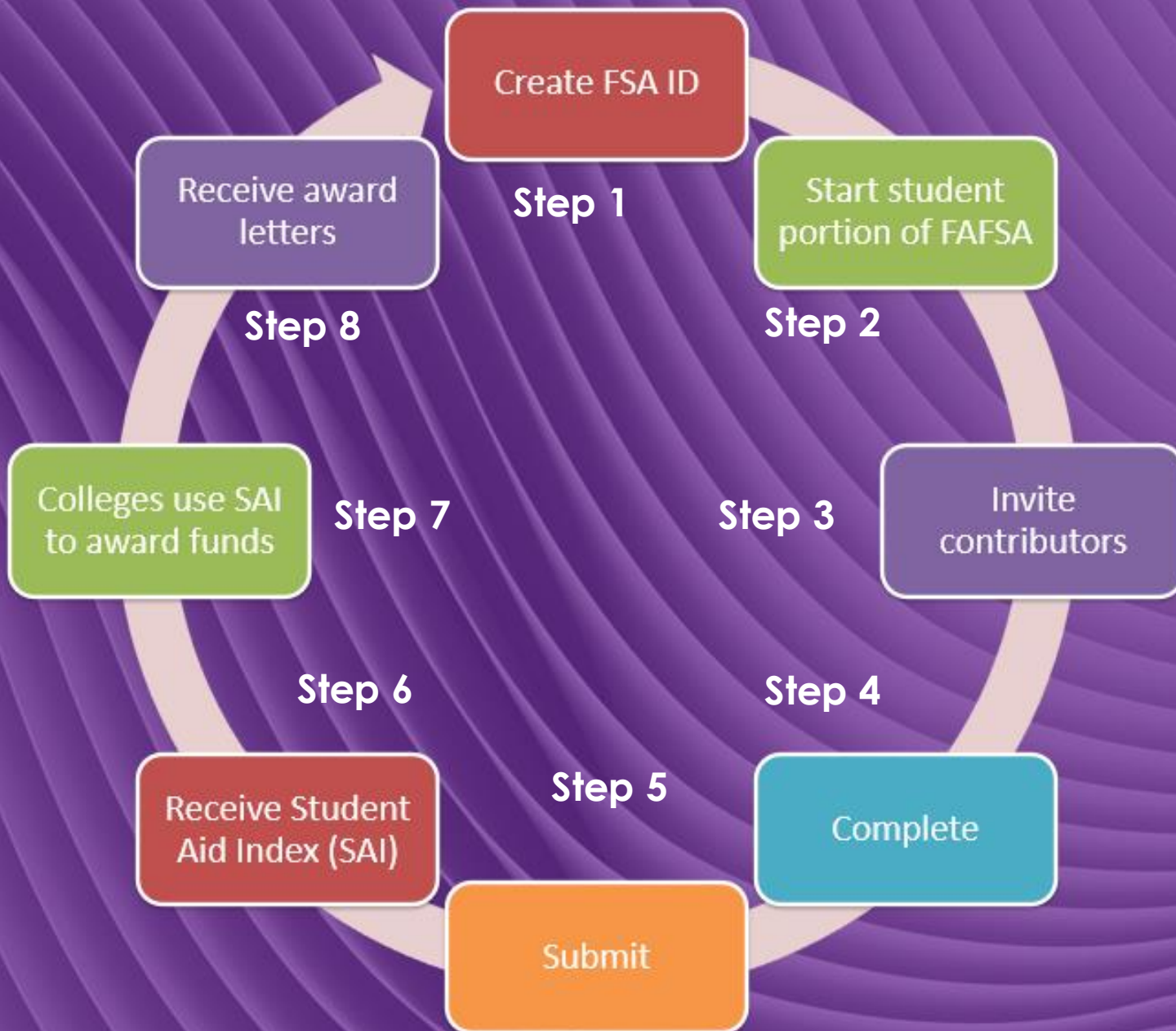
[Update on Student Loan Debt Relief](#) >

[Complete a *Master Promissory Note* \(MPN\)](#) >

[Complete Loan Entrance Counseling](#) >



The FAFSA Process



Student must complete process every year.

Some aid is awarded first come, first serve so important to file early.

Many institutions have priority deadlines for some sources of aid – make sure you know your deadlines.

FAFSA typically opens on October 1 but this year due to Better FAFSA it is opening in December.

The **SAI** is a number calculated by the Department of Education based on the information provided in the **FAFSA**.

In the past, federal financial need was calculated by subtracting the expected family contribution (EFC) from the school's cost of attendance. Moving forward, need will be calculated by subtracting the student aid index (SAI) from cost.



Cost of
Attendance

—



Student Aid
Index

=



Federal
Financial Need

The SAI will not change from school to school

Student Aid Index (SAI)

Award Letters

SENT FROM SCHOOLS IN LATE
MARCH OR BEGINNING OF APRIL

Compare AWARD LETTERS for:

- ▶ Gift Money
- ▶ Earned Money
- ▶ Borrowed Money
- ▶ ***Unmet Need and True Cost of Attendance***

	School A	School B	School C
Cost of Education	\$50,000	\$39,000	\$22,016
• Presidential Scholarship	\$10,000	\$10,000	
• Leadership Award	\$1,000		
	\$11,000	\$10,000	0
• Institution Grant	\$5,000		
• Federal Work Study	\$2,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
• Federal Direct Student Loan – Subsidized	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
• Federal Direct Student Loan – Unsubsidized	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,500
	\$12,500	\$6,500	\$6,500
Net Cost to Attend (Cost minus Aid)	\$32,055	\$22,500	\$15,516

Quick Reminders...

The FAFSA needs to be completed EVERY YEAR

- The 2025-2026 FAFSA is available on December 1, 2024

Why complete the FAFSA in the first place?

- *The FAFSA generates EVERY TYPE of financial aid*
- *Colleges can REQUIRE it for MERIT based Scholarships, too*

You SHOULD have your taxes completed!

- Strive to complete the FAFSA between the time it opens in December and February 15 – There is a limited amount of time!



Additional Financial Aid Information

Verification

Schools are required to verify information

Failure to complete requested paperwork can delay an award letter!



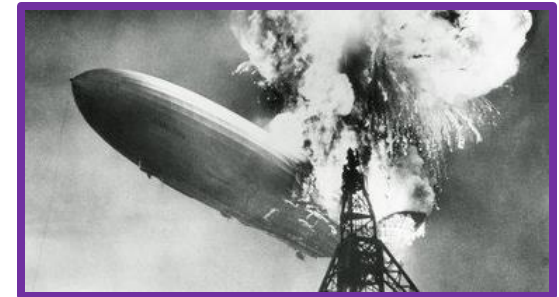
CSS Profile

Some colleges require additional financial and tax information to assess financial aid needs

Will require additional documentation separate from Federal Taxes

Special Circumstances

- Loss of Income
- Divorce or separation
- Medical expenses
- Death of parent or spouse
- Private school expenses





Verify Your
Income

Complete
Verification
Worksheet

Submit
Documents

What is Verification

A process which requires the college to collect documentation to verify and collect information you reported on the financial aid application



Your Options

You may verify your income electronically through the Data Retrieval process on the FAFSA or by submitting a Tax Return Transcript obtained from the IRS



Documentation Needed

Signed Verification Worksheet from the **College**
W-2's, Schedule C's and/or Schedule K-1

What is the CSS Profile?

- College Board has another financial aid form used by over 400 schools (mostly the more selective schools)
- Used for non-federal aid
- Available to complete October 1
- More detailed information than the FAFSA
- Fee to complete \$25 for the first school and \$16 for each additional school.
- Free if your family income is less than \$100,000.

CSS Profile

[About CSS Profile](#) [Application Steps](#) [Fee Waivers](#) [Additional Resources](#) [en Español](#) [Contact Us](#)

APPLY WITH CSS PROFILE

CSS Profile

Each year CSS Profile unlocks access to more than \$10 billion in nonfederal aid to thousands of students.

[Sign in to Fall 2023/Spring 2024](#)

FINANCIAL CHANGES

Special Circumstances

If you have had any of these circumstances since you filed your 2023 tax return...

Job layoff

Reduction in hours worked

Medical, dental, or nursing home expenses not covered by insurance

Divorce or separation

Critical illness or disability in your family, causing a reduction in income or increased medical expenses

Death in your family

Income from a rental property, court settlement, or alimony that is no longer available.

	FAFSA	CSS PROFILE
On the Application	No free fields to indicate special circumstances within application.	Final question of application allows for an explanation of any circumstances not covered in the application.
After Application Submission	Contact each institution to ask how to communicate special circumstances.	Contact each institution to ask how to communicate special circumstances.

When to request special circumstances



College Now
Greater Cleveland

Welcome to College Affordability Night!

Please use the QR Code to register your
attendance at this evening's session.

Pam Sandoval

psandoval@collegenowgc.org

Dr. Anne Gates

agates@collegenowgc.org

