# Financial Aid for New Jersey High School Students and Families

## 2025-2026 Academic Year

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#### The Mission

Since 1959 The Higher Education Student Assistance
Authority is the only State agency with the sole mission of providing students and families with the financial and informational resources to pursue their education beyond high school.

#### The Support:

Going to College in New Jersey magazine
State & Federal Booklet (Pell, SEOG, Perkins, FWS, TAG –
Tuition Aid Grant, EOF, CCOG, NJSTARS, STARSII)
Financial Aid Dictionary
Student Loan Guide
8 Steps to Apply for State & Federal Aid
Other tools and videos
Call center

# Student and Parent Survey Results

Students believe that college is a path to opportunities

However, families are stressed about education financing

81%

believe a degree will provide better opportunities in the long run or a good job

81%

agree that paying for college is stressful

# Goals of Financial Aid Office

# Primary goal is to assist students in paying for college and is achieved by:

- Evaluating family's ability to pay for educational costs
- Distributing limited resources in an equitable manner
- Providing a balance of grants/scholarships and other funds from the family's own resources, such as savings or wages from school-sponsored student employment.
- Implementing federal and state regulations for their college/university

# Case Study Example

School	Common App?	Essay	Status	CSS Profile	FAFSA	Institutional App	Doc Deadlines
USC	У		Submitted	2/13/2016	2/13/2016	n/a	4/15/2016
UC Los Angeles	N	See Below	Submitted	n/a	3/2/2016	http://www.scholarshipcenter.ucla.edu	4/15/2016
Claremont McKenna	У		Submitted	1/1/2016	3/1/2016		4/15/2016
Pomona	У		Submitted	1/1/2016	3/1/2016		4/15/2016
NYU	У		Submitted	2/15/2016	2/15/2016		-
Oberlin	У		Submitted	2/15/2016	3/1/2016		4/15/2016
University of San Diego	у		Submitted	3/2/2016	3/2/2016		4/15/2016
UC Santa Barbara	N	See Below	Submitted	n/a	3/2/2016	http://www.scholarshipcenter.ucla.edu	4/15/2016
UC Berkley	N	See Below	Submitted	n/a	3/2/2016	http://www.scholarshipcenter.ucla.edu	4/15/2016
Chapman University	У		Submitted	n/a	2/15/2016		4/15/2016
Pitzer College	у		Submitted	1/1/2016	3/1/2016		4/15/2016
UC Santa Cruz	N	See Below	Submitted	n/a	3/2/2016	http://www.scholarshipcenter.ucla.edu	4/15/2016
University of San Francisco	у		Submitted	12/1/2016	2/15/2016		4/15/2016
5 1111							
For all University of CA schools:							
2 Essays required - 1,000 combined total maximum							
Prompt #1: Describe the							
world you come from — for							
example, your family,							

Example: New York University (NYU) by 11:59 p.m.

CSS Profile Early Decision I: 11/10/2024 CSS Profile Early Decision II: 1/10/2025 CSS Profile Regular Admission: 2/1/2025

FAFSA Early Decision I: 2/1/2025 FAFSA Early Decision II: 2/1/2025 FAFSA Regular Admission: 2/1/2025

# Sources & Types of Aid

#### Sources of Aid

- ➤ The College/University (school-funded aid)
- ➤ Federal

awards

- State of New Jersey
- ➤ Private Scholarships
  Civic organizations (ex.
  local Rotary Club), parent's
  employer, high school

#### **Types of Financial Aid**

- **>** Grants
- **>** Scholarships

# Paying for College with Student/Family Resource

- **≻**Loans
- ➤ School-sponsored student employment
- **>** Savings

# Factors that may influence institutional aid, particularly merit-based aid

- ➤ Academics
- > Athletic Ability
- ➤ SAT or ACT
- Geographic Diversity
- ➤ AP Courses
- Legacy (child of alumni)
- > Activities
- ➤ Talent (extracurricular or academic)
- ➤ Gender/Ethnicity
- > H.S. Attended
- ➤ Class Rank

# Making College More Affordable

Applications and Deadlines – most important! Institutional aid deadlines will be earlier; check with each college or university



Not all colleges

CSS Profile if required by college available every
October 1

Participating colleges located at:

https://profile.collegeboard.org/profile/ppi/participa tingInstitutions.aspx

**CSS Profile Website:** 

https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/

CSS Profile Customer Support 844-202-0524 Live Chat Available

College Scholarship Service (CSS) Profile begins October 1st (\$25 for first school, \$16 additional for each school) \*\*No payment for income under \$100,000\*\*



**FAFSA** 

**All** colleges

FAFSA Available December 1, 2024 for the 2024-25 FAFSA year

www.studentaid.gov

www.fafsa.gov

Required every year

DACA & Undocumented students ONLY



NJ Dreamer

New Jersey colleges ONLY

NJ Alternative Application Available October 1, 2024 for the 2025-26 FAFSA year

> www.HESAA.org or www.njfams.hesaa.org

> > Required every year

# Participating CSS Profile Colleges

**♦** CollegeBoard

CSS Profile

October 1, 2024

#### 2025-26 Participating Institutions and Programs

The following colleges, universities, and scholarship programs use CSS Profile and/or IDOC as part of their financial aid process for some or all of their financial aid applicants in the populations listed below. Please check schools' websites or contact the institution for more information.

CSS Code	Institution Name Show All  ▼	Institution State Show All V	CSS Profile  - Domestic Students Show All V	CSS Profile  - International Students Show All V	CSS Profile – Noncustodial Parents Show All V	IDOC Show All V
1001	Adrian College, MI	MI	No	Yes	No	No
5007	American University	DC	Yes	No	Yes	No
3003	Amherst College	MA	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
4007	Arizona State University	AZ	Yes	No	No	No
6011	Arkansas State University	AR	Yes	No	Yes	No
0193	Armenian Student Assoc of Amer	RI	Yes	Yes	No	No
3075	Babson College	MA	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
2037	Bard College	NY	Yes	No	Yes	No
3795	Bard College at Simons Rock	MA	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
2038	Barnard College	NY	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
3076	Bates College	ME	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
6032	Baylor University	TX	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
1059	Beloit College	WI	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
3080	Bennington College	VT	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
3098	Bentley U: Mccallum Graduate	MA	Yes	No	No	No
3096	Bentley University	MA	Yes	No	Yes	No
3107	Berklee College of Music	MA	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

# Applications to Access Aid

studentaid.gov FAFSA Available by December 1, 2024



student.collegeboard.org/profile CSS Profile Available October 1, 2024



NJ Dreamer Available by December 1, 2024





## Net Price Calculator

- All institutions must have a net price calculator posted on their websites.
- Students will be able to estimate the individual net price per institution.
- Based on full-time, first degree/certificate-seeking undergraduate students.

# Types of Aid - Federal

### Grants

### Federal Student Aid for Award Year 2024-25

- Pell \$7,395 (max award)
- SEOG \$4,000 (max award)
- TEACH \$3,772 (max award)

. \* 2025-26 award amounts subject to change

## 2024-2025 Award Amounts

#### New Jersey State Grants 2024-25 Academic Year

(2025-2026 award amounts to be determined July 2025)

Award Amounts	Award Type		
\$1,280 - \$14,404	Full-Time TAG		
\$320-\$1,097	Part-Time TAG (community college only)		
Up to \$3,050 includes college success support	EOF (Educational Opportunity Fund)		
Tuition Only - community college only	ARS (top 15.0% of high school class junior or senior year)	NJ STARS (top 15	
Up to \$2,500 per year — any NJ 4-year college	NJ STARS II		
Up to \$1,000	Irban Scholarship (for top 5.0% of high school junior year)	Governor's Urban Schola	
Up to \$2,000 - building trades only	NJ-GIVS (women and minorities)		
Up to full tuition and approved feesAGI between \$0 and \$100,000	Community College Opportunity Grant (CCOG)		
Up to full tuition and approved feesAGI between \$0 and \$100,000	Garden State Guarantee (GSG)	myself I'd graduate debt-free that's a promise	
*2025-2026 award amounts subject to change	liege Promise	I can now afford.	

# Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)



- The 2025-2026 FAFSA is available by December
   1, 2024
- Collects family's personal and financial information used to calculate the student's Student Aid Index (SAI). The SAI determines eligibility for federal student aid
- File the FAFSA electronically via FAFSA on the Web at www.studentaid.gov
  - FAFSA uses prior-prior year income information (2023 for award year 2025-26)
  - All contributors on the application (student and parent(s)) must provide consent to the IRS to obtain Federal Tax Information (FTI) to populate income and tax information with actual prior-prior year tax information
    - All prior-prior year tax information (2023) is already filed, allowing immediate retrieval.

# 2025-2026 Federal Student Aid ID

Used to provide consent to obtain Federal Tax Information and digitally sign the FAFSA

Student and all Information Contributors must create a Federal Student Aid ID (FSA ID) at <a href="www.studentaid.gov">www.studentaid.gov</a> by clicking on "create account"

Student identifies who the Information Contributor(s) are and invites them to contribute to the FAFSA. Each contributor must have their own separate FSA ID and password.

Information Contributors include: Biological Parent, Stepparent, and Adoptive Parent

#### Who Needs an FSA ID?

- If there are two parents who filed taxes jointly, only one parent
- If the parents are divorced/separated, the parent who provided more financial support in the last 12 months
- If married or unmarried/living together but did not file taxes jointly, then each parent will need an FSA ID

# 2025-2026 Federal Student Aid ID account for Undocumented Contributors

- Information Contributors who do not have an SSN will register with their name, date of birth, permanent address, email address and will have to verify identity through a knowledge-based verification process
- All contributors must be verified by individual email when creating the FSA ID
- Information Contributors who cannot verify identity will be able to complete the process of creating their FSA ID account and complete the FAFSA
- FSA will send a case number with information to submit documentation to verify identity via email

# Federal Tax Information Consent

Information Contributors will be instructed to provide Federal Tax Information from their 2023 tax return to be used to determine the student's eligibility for federal student aid for Award Year 2025-26

#### Provide Consent or the Student Will Be Ineligible for Federal Student Aid

#### Summary

Your consent is needed to retrieve and disclose federal tax information (FTI). With your consent, we can obtain tax return information automatically from the IRS to help you complete your section of the student's FAFSA® form. If you don't provide consent, the student will not be eligible for federal student aid, including grants and loans. You must provide consent even if you didn't file a U.S. federal tax return or any tax return at all.

- Get your 2023 tax return information for the 2025-26 form.
- Tax return information is required to complete the FAFSA form.
- FTI is used to determine the student's eligibility for federal student aid.

# Key Components of the FAFSA

#### Student Contributor Section

- √ Full Name and address.
- ✓ Social Security Number or ITIN Number
- √ Date of Birth
- √ Mobile phone number (optional)
- √ Email address
- √ College/Career plans 20 Colleges
- Student Consent and Assets
  - √ FTI (Federal Tax Information)
- Student Status: Personal Circumstances
  - ✓ Dependent or Independent Determination
  - ✓ Student Special Circumstances
  - ✓ Student Unusual Circumstances
  - √ Social Security Number

#### Parent Contributor Section

- √ Last Name
- √ Date of Birth
- √ Email address
- √ Family size FTI
- ✓ Income and Assets
- √ Federal Means-tested benefits
  - √ Medicaid, SSI, SNAP,
  - ✓ Free or Reduced Lunch
  - √ TANF, WIC, WITC QHP
- Business and Farm will be considered as assets in the calculation of the SAI
- Child Support received is an asset

# FAFSA Submission Summary

# All Information Contributors will receive an individual FAFSA Submission Summary



Applicants are instructed to log into "NJFAMS.HESAA.org" to create a user ID and password. In 3-5 business days, students can their check awards and eligibility status and complete any outstanding items on their "To Do" list (There is no separate State Application, only a To-Do List in the state's NJFAMS system).

Please note, all notifications will be sent to the student email address listed on the FAFSA.

# What Is The Student Aid Index (SAI)?

- •SAI is determined by a federal formula that calculates federal Pell grant eligibility and is used to determine further financial need using the information you supplied on the FAFSA
- SAI and Financial Need are guidelines used by schools to determine student aid offers

# Federal Pell Grants -Sample SAI for Smith vs Jones Family

The Smith family lives in New Jersey
Married parents filing jointly
Family size of 4
2023 adjusted gross income = \$94,002
Assets = \$0
Student income / assets = \$50 / \$213

SAI = 8,667 \$o federal Pell grant eligibility The Jones family lives in New Jersey
Married parents filing jointly
Family size of 6
2023 adjusted gross income = \$94,002
Assets = \$0
Student income / assets = \$50 / \$213

SAI = 3,764 \$3,631 federal Pell grant eligibility

SAI Calculator: <a href="https://www.collegemoneymethod.com/2024-25-student-aid-index-sai-calculator/">https://www.collegemoneymethod.com/2024-25-student-aid-index-sai-calculator/</a>

# Financial Need for Smith Family

College	Community	State College or	Private College or
	College	University	University
COA	\$8,000	\$30,000	\$60,000
SAI	8,667	8,667	8,667
Other Financial Aid	1,000	1,000	1,000
Unmet Financial Need	<b>\$</b> O	\$20,333	\$50,333

# Cost of Attendance

- Tuition and fees
- Food and housing
- Books and supplies, equipment, transportation, and miscellaneous personal expenses
- Medical Insurance
- Federal Loan Fees
- Study abroad costs
- Dependent care expenses
- Expenses related to a disability
- Expenses for cooperative education program

# The Cycle of Financial Aid

December - March	Complete FAFSA application (Available December 1st for 2025-26), college search, college application process, and CSS Profile
February - May	Schools send financial aid offers
June - July	Schools send Fall semester bills
August	Bills are due

# What to do if Free Scholarships & Grants are not Enough

# Loans & Financing Shortfall Solutions

- Monthly Payment Plans offered by the college
- Federal Direct Loan Program (1st year dependent student)
  - Subsidized Loan \$3,500 need based
  - Unsubsidized Loan \$2,000 additional
- 2024 2025 Federal Undergraduate Direct Loan interest rates are 6.53%, plus a 1.057% origination fee

2025 – 2026 federal rates and fees are subject to change

## 3 Education Loan Options 2024-25 Interest Rates

# NJCLASS Family Loan 2024-25

Fixed rate NJCLASS loan, varying repayment options

#### Interest rates - you choose

**5.99%** Principle and Interest, or

**6.99%** Interest only, or

7.99% Fully deferred

- ZERO fee & .25% discount for ACH auto pay when in repayment.
- Can borrow up to the cost of attendance AT ANY COLLEGE ANYWHERE
- Student or Parent can be the borrower
- State tax benefits for P&I payments up to \$2,500 for AGI of \$200,000 and less.

New rates June 1, 2025 for 2025-26

# Federal Parent PLUS 2024-25

Fixed rate Parent loan, varying repayment options

**9.08%** & 4.24% Origination fee

- Parent is the <u>only</u> borrower
- Can select pay now, interest only or defer payment
- Can borrow up to the cost of attendance

More information at: www.studentaid.gov

# Private Bank loans 2024-25

Fixed or Variable rate loans rates, varying repayment options

- Can borrow up to the cost of attendance
- Student or Parent can be the borrower
- Tiered lenders rate based on cosigner credit. Range 4.50% to 15.49% and zero fee
- Sallie Mae Smart Option Loan according to the Sallie Mae website 8/22/2023 - Investor Presentation the weighted average annual borrower interest rate (23-C) is

11.26%.

## Where Do I Go From Here?

- Obtain and review admission, financial aid materials and deadlines from each school to which you are applying
- Meet all application deadlines
  - CSS Profile if applicable
  - Complete the FAFSA and any other application materials required by the school or your state agency deadlines
  - NJ State deadlines for high school Class of 2025:

September 15, 2025 for Fall '25 and Spring '26 semesters and February 15, 2026 for Spring '26 ONLY awards

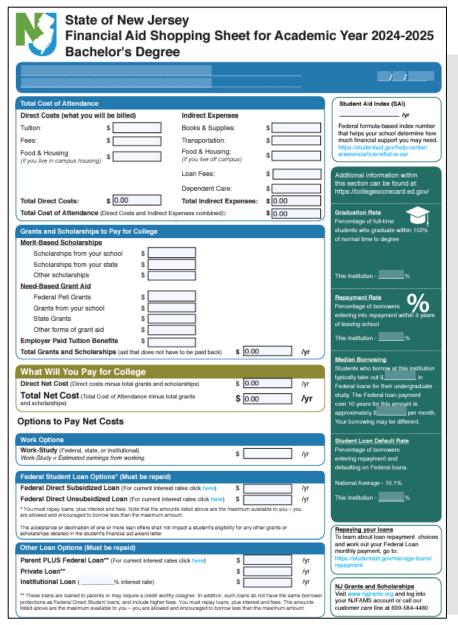
April 15, 2026 to renew your financial aid for Academic Year 2026-27

Note: After 1<sup>st</sup> year, students must renew ANNUALLY by April 15<sup>th</sup> e.g., April 15, 2026 for sophomore year, if the student received a State TAG award in the current year)

# The College Financing Plan New Jersey Shopping Sheet

- Help families with net cost transparency
- Separates the Cost of Attendance listing the direct and indirect costs
- Grants and Scholarships (no repayment required, "free money")
- Student Net Costs in center box
- College coordinated work-study employment
- Federal Student Loans
- If necessary, alternate loans

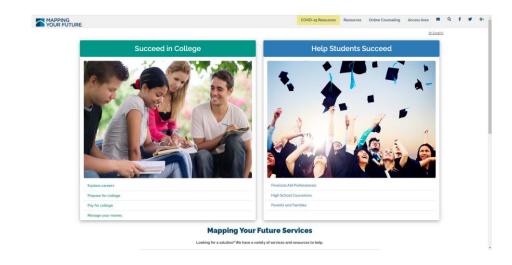
Aid Offer must replicate the Shopping Sheet



## Other Resources

- Outside Scholarships
- Campus-Administered Payment Plans
- Campus Employment (including schoolsponsored "work-study" jobs)
- Specialized Campus Opportunities
  - √ Residential Advisors
  - √ Student Ambassadors
  - √ Student Tour Guides
  - ✓ Internships/Co-ops

# Scholarship Planning



All yours for free:

http://mappingyourfuture.org/

Strategies for Making the Most of Scholarship Applications Webinar - recording and great resources available here:

https://mappingyourfuture.org/Newsroom/newsroomarticle.cfm?7F54464 242595E5C7043445F525D5478740B04060008

# Finding Private Scholarships

#### Resources for Finding Scholarships:

The following links are to scholarship search engines that allow you to save a profile and enter your information which is used to find ideal scholarships for you. These sites also offer resources for navigating the college application, admissions, and financial processes.

https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college

http://www.educationplanner.org/students/paying-for-

school/find-grants-scholarships/index.shtml

http://www.fastweb.com/college-scholarships

http://www.collegescholarships.com/

https://immigrantsrising.org/resource/list-ofundergraduate-

**scholarships** 

ASPIRA provides a list of scholarships on their website.

http://aspira.org/book/scholarships

United Negro College Fund has a scholarship search engine, but also allows you to browse lists of scholarships with upcoming deadlines. <a href="http://www.uncf.org/forstudents/scholarship.asp">http://www.uncf.org/forstudents/scholarship.asp</a>

# Apply for State Aid Workshops & Webinars



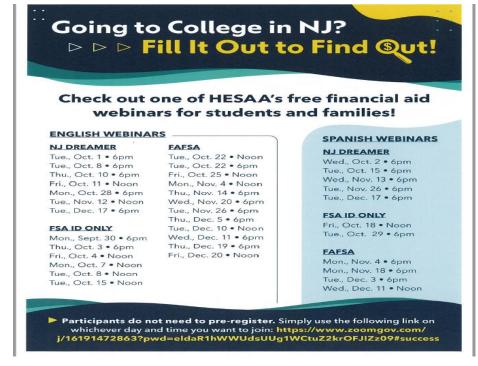
**Live Webinars** 

Need help completing the 2024-2025 FAFSA®? Join us online as we walk you through the revised FAFSA® application.

Webinar Dates

Spanish Webinar Dates

https://www.zoomgov.com/j/16191472863?pwd=eldaR1hWWUdsUUg1WCtuZ2krOFJIZzog

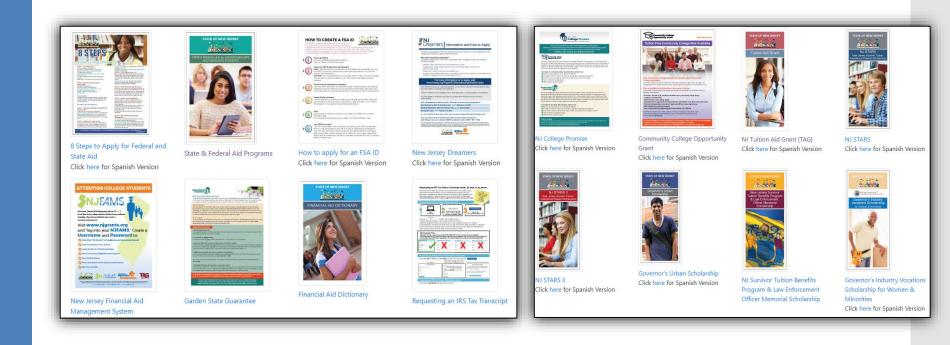


#### **Pre-recorded Webinars**

Steps on how to apply for federal and state aid	View/Download YouTube Video
Steps on how to apply for the New Jersey Alternative Financial Aid Application	YouTube Video (English) YouTube Video (Spanish)

### **Publications**

About Us Students Parents/Guardians School Counselors



### HESAA Services

Customer Care Center

CustomerCare@hesaa.org
609-584-4480

Monday – Thursday: 8:30 – 8 and Friday: 8:30 – 5:00

Online Resources

www.hesaa.org

www.njgrants.org

www.njclass.org

https://njfams.hesaa.org

www.hesaa.org/pages/financialaidhub

# Getting Assistance

# QUESTIONS? Thank you



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