



College Counseling News

December 2024

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is Live

Any student wanting to submit FAFSA can access it [here](#). **Be sure to select the correct FAFSA - 2025 - 2026 school year.**

Remember that each *contributor* (student and one or both parents or stepparent, depending upon circumstances) will require their own FSA ID. To create a FSA ID, click [here](#). **It is recommended that student and parent(s) get their FSA ID before starting the FAFSA.**

Who is the parent contributor required to input their financial information on the FAFSA?

- If parents are married filing jointly, only one parent is the contributor since there is information from one joint tax return that will be downloaded by the IRS into the FAFSA.
- If parents are married filing separately, both parents are contributors since there is information from two sets of tax returns that will be downloaded by the IRS into the FAFSA.
- If parents are separated, divorced, or never married and living separately, the parent who has provided more financial support to the student during the year to date is the parent contributor. The other is ignored by the FAFSA.
- If the parent contributor is remarried, then both the parent and the stepparent are parent contributors on the FAFSA if they file tax returns separately.

FAFSA Tips & Lessons from Marquette University Office of Financial Aid

These tips and lessons are based on what they learned from working with the 2024-2025 FAFSA. Their recommendations to make filing FAFSA easier are:

- File the FAFSA on a laptop or desktop (not a phone or tablet)
- If you are using an Apple product, use Safari as your browser.
- Applicants find if they click "Exit" on the FAFSA menu, they lose their signature. It is recommended to simply close out the browser when complete.
- The student starts the application and invites the parent.
- When the student invites the contributor(s), the information needs to match the information on the parent's FSAID exactly (example: parent has two last names and only used one when creating FSAID).

CSS Profile

A reminder that there are about 170 undergraduate institutions that also require the CSS Profile, which opened on October 1.

It is important that students not miss their financial aid deadlines, which will vary by institution and application round.

Click [here](#) to go to the CSS Profile page. Click [here](#) for a list of those colleges and universities that require the CSS Profile to be completed.

Private Scholarships

Almost 80% of private scholarships have a deadline between January 1st and May 31st. There are many websites that have an online scholarship search where you may complete an online profile. Based on that profile, students will receive a list of scholarships that they may apply for. Two websites that have an online search are www.fastweb.com and www.collegeanswered.com. Both websites also offer a wealth of information on several college-related topics. There are other free online scholarship searches as well. You should not have to pay for a search or to apply for a scholarship. To learn more about what to be aware of regarding possible scams, click on this link: [Common Scholarship Scams and How to Avoid Them](#)

Local Scholarships

Each year, Marian receives information from many local organizations about their scholarships. A Google document listing information about scholarships that Marian received last year has been shared with the seniors. When we receive information about local scholarships, it will be shared with seniors in one or more of three ways: 1) their mchs.me email; 2) the daily bulletin; 3) Schoology.

Some places to check for scholarships are your place of employment, the union you belong to, fraternal organizations, local organizations such as chamber of commerce, local businesses, banks, and other organizations, like the Rotary, Elks, and VFW.

Transcripts for Scholarships

When a transcript is required for a scholarship, a scholarship transcript request must be completed and turned in at least a week before the deadline.. If the transcript is turned in less than a week before the deadline, we cannot assure that the transcript will be ready in time. Click on the link for a [Scholarship Transcript Request](#)

Unlike transcripts for college admission, transcripts for a private scholarship may be delivered in one of several ways. A transcript could be mailed, emailed, uploaded, or delivered to a human resource office. It is important that the college counselors are given the correct information on where and how to submit the transcript.

Award Letters

We ask that a copy of any award letter that seniors receive be dropped off with a counselor. Award letters may also be emailed to the counselors.

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