

# Tips & Timeline for Filing the FAFSA

Before Senior Year:		
1	<p><b>Use the Federal Student Aid Estimator to get an idea of what your aid might look like.</b>  <i>You'll need your parents' tax information, including Adjusted Gross Income, asset information (cash, savings, investments), and details about child support received. Results can show eligibility for Pell Grants and work-study.</i></p>	<a href="https://studentaid.gov/aid-estimator/">https://studentaid.gov/aid-estimator/</a>
Before September 15th of Senior Year:		
2	<p><b>Create your FSA ID.</b>  <i>You'll need your SSN*, full name, and date of birth. Be sure to use your personal email address and mobile number (not our school or your parent's). *If you are an eligible noncitizen you will provide your ARN.</i></p>	<a href="https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch">https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch</a>
3	<p><b>Identify which parent(s) will be a required contributor on the FAFSA form.</b>  <i>Use the sites listed here to help you determine who is considered your legal parent(s) for the FAFSA.</i></p>	<a href="https://studentaid.gov/help/who-is-parent">https://studentaid.gov/help/who-is-parent</a> or <a href="https://studentaid.gov/sites/default/files/is-my-parent-a-contributor.jpg">https://studentaid.gov/sites/default/files/is-my-parent-a-contributor.jpg</a>
4	<p><b>Have all contributors (determined in #3) create their own FSA ID accounts.</b>  <i>If you are a parent and do not have an SSN, you can still create your FSA ID.</i></p>	<a href="https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch">https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch</a>
On or After October 1st of Senior Year:		
5	<p><b>Fill out and submit your FAFSA for the upcoming school year you will be attending college.</b>  <i>Note: if you also plan to take classes the summer after high school graduation, you must also submit for the current school year. You will list 1-20 institutions as recipients. Some schools might also require the CSS Profile^.</i></p>	<a href="https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa">https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa</a>
6	<p><b>Watch your email for your FAFSA Submission Summary and review for accuracy.</b>  <i>Make any necessary corrections and resubmit, as needed.</i></p>	<a href="https://studentaid.gov/help/view-fafsa-submission-summary">https://studentaid.gov/help/view-fafsa-submission-summary</a>
Throughout Senior Year:		
7	<p><b>Edit your FAFSA to reflect the institutions where you have submitted applications.</b>  <i>You may add or remove institutions or make any other edits, but must resubmit for the changes to process.</i></p>	<a href="https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa">https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa</a>
8	<p><b>Compare financial aid offers from colleges.</b>  <i>Be sure to focus on your out-of-pocket costs. Respond promptly to requests for verification and reach out to financial aid offices for clarification or appeals.</i></p>	<a href="https://studentaid.gov/complete-aid-process/comparing-aid-offers">https://studentaid.gov/complete-aid-process/comparing-aid-offers</a>
9	<p><b>Be sure you are also applying for external scholarships.</b>  <i>A few recommended websites for scholarship databases are shared here.</i></p>	<a href="#">SchoolLinks</a> , <a href="#">My Scholarship Central</a> , <a href="#">Going Merry</a>

^The [CSS Profile](#) is an online application used by some colleges and scholarship programs to award non-federal institutional aid. See site for a list of participating schools.