



Financial Aid & the FAFSA

COLLEGE NOW GREATER CLEVELAND



College Now
Greater Cleveland
Developing Tomorrow's Talent Today

College Now's mission is to increase postsecondary educational attainment through college and career access advising, financial aid counseling, and scholarship and retention services.

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 college (2- or 4-year), trade school, or training programs



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What Costs are Associated with College?

Financial Aid assists students in paying for:

- ▶ Tuition and Fees (Direct Costs)
- ▶ Room and Board (Direct Costs)

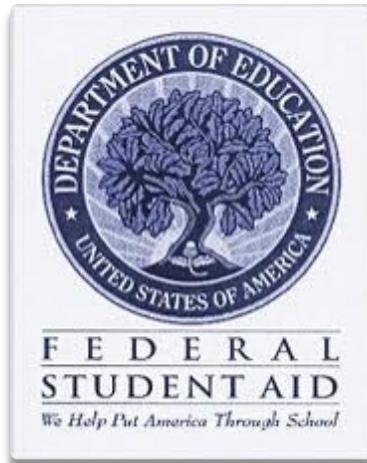
- ▶ Books and Supplies (Indirect Costs)
- ▶ Personal Expenses (Indirect Costs)
- ▶ Transportation (Indirect Costs)

All of these factors comprise a school's
COST OF ATTENDANCE (COA)

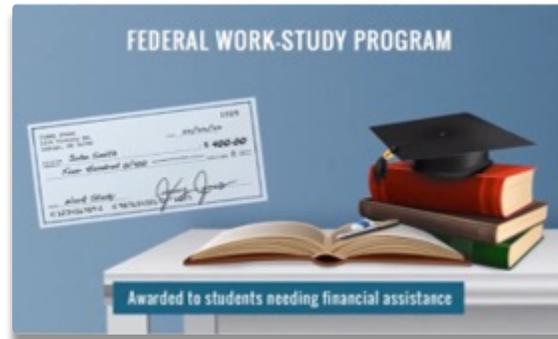


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Types of FINANCIAL AID



GIFT MONEY



EARNED MONEY



BORROWED MONEY



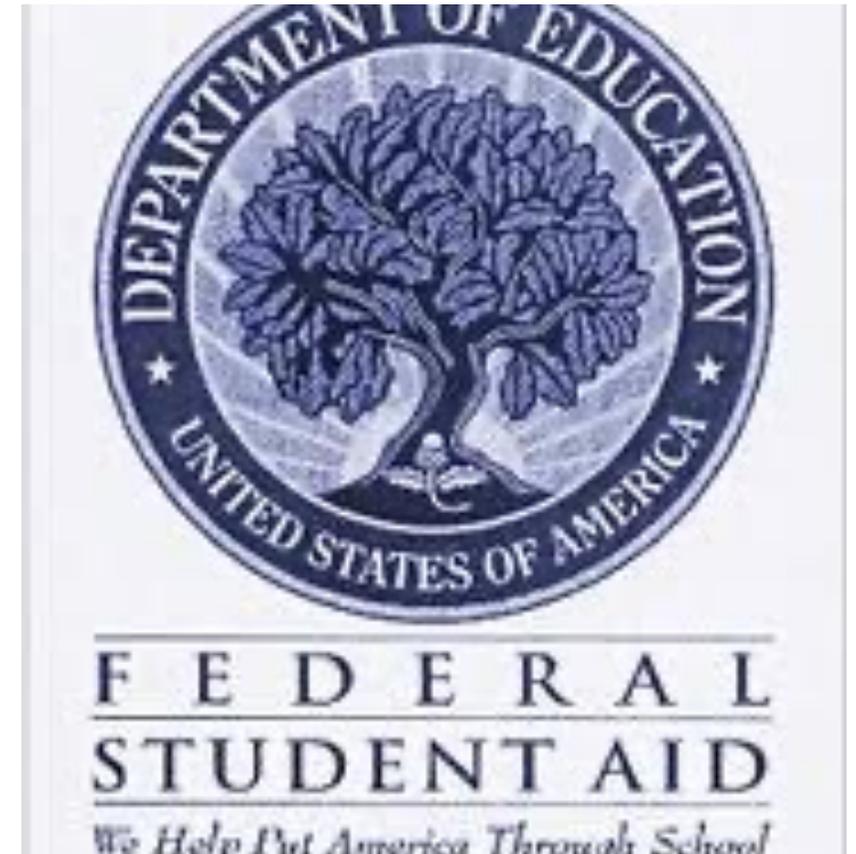
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Gift Money: Grants

- ▶ Grants are **NEED-BASED** and are usually run 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
- ▶ Offered by Federal Government & Colleges



Gift Money: Scholarships

▶ Scholarships Are Offered Using Various Criteria:

▶ **MERIT-BASED**

▶ **NEED-BASED**

▶ **CIRCUMSTANCE-BASED**

▶ * SCHOLARSHIPS MAY BE BASED ON A COMBINATION OF THE ABOVE CRITERIA

▶ * 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

- civic organizations
- high school
- place of employment



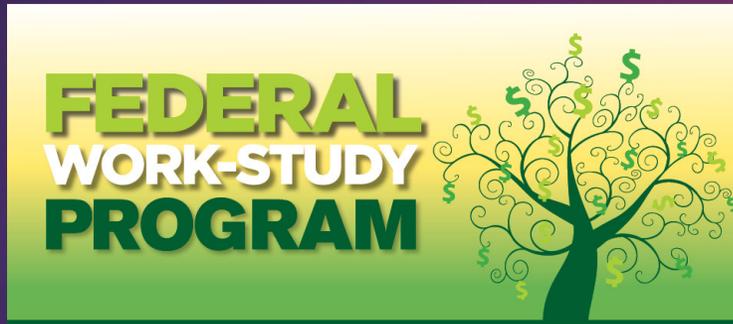
Think EASY

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



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Federal Work Study:

- ▶ On-campus employment
 - ❖ Campus-specific & limited number of community work opportunities
 - ❖ Students must search for available jobs, apply, and interview
- ▶ Payment comes to the student in the form of a check
 - ❖ Students generally use funds for personal expenses
- ▶ Students will **not** be penalized on the FAFSA for funds earned from a work-study position

Borrowed Money: Loans



- ▶ **Federal STUDENT Loans** – Awarded upon completion of the FAFSA
 - ❖ Subsidized Loan [6.39 fixed interest*]
 - ❖ Unsubsidized Loan [7.94% fixed interest*]
- ▶ **Federal PARENT Plus Loan** – [8.94% 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, 2025 and June 30, 2026.
- ▶ **Private or Alternative Loans** – Loans from banks, credit unions, and other loan sources

What is the FAFSA?

- The Department of Education (DOE) oversees the FAFSA
- Gives the *DOE*, state government, and colleges a baseline to measure student need.
- Completed for every year that a student intends to enroll
 - ❖ Available October 1.
 - ❖ Note colleges' priority deadlines

Free Application for Federal Student Aid

Studentaid.gov

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Federal Student Aid website. At the top, it states "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 THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION" below it) and four menu items: "UNDERSTAND AID", "APPLY FOR AID", "COMPLETE AID PROCESS", and "MANAGE LOANS". The main content area features a dark blue background with an illustration of three students. The primary heading is "Complete the FAFSA® Form" with a subtext: "Use the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) form to apply for financial aid for college or graduate school." To the right, there are two main sections: "New to the FAFSA® Process?" with the text "Completing the FAFSA form is free. Fill it out now." and a "Start Here" button; and "Returning User?" with options "Correct info | Add a school" and "View your Student Aid Report (SAR)", along with a "Log In" button.

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.

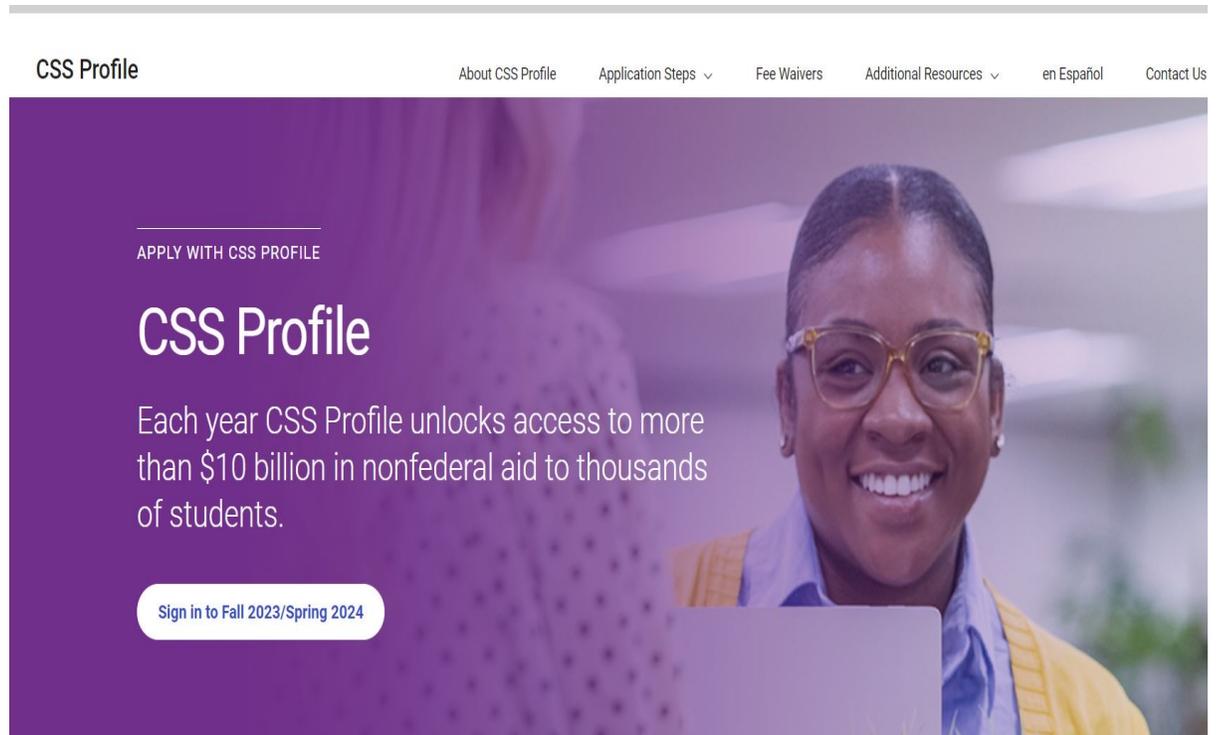
If I'm not the person I claim to be, I understand that I'm not authorized to proceed and that I should exit this form now. If I provide false or misleading information, I understand that I might be subject to a fine, prison time, or both.

First Name

Middle Initial

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.**

The image is a screenshot of the CSS Profile website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the following links: "CSS Profile", "About CSS Profile", "Application Steps" (with a dropdown arrow), "Fee Waivers", "Additional Resources" (with a dropdown arrow), "en Español", and "Contact Us". The main content area features a purple background with a photograph of a smiling young woman with glasses and a yellow cardigan. The text on the page reads: "APPLY WITH CSS PROFILE" in small white letters, followed by "CSS Profile" in a large white font. Below that, it says "Each year CSS Profile unlocks access to more than \$10 billion in nonfederal aid to thousands of students." At the bottom of the main content area, there is a white button with the text "Sign in to Fall 2023/Spring 2024".

Steps to Take this Fall to Prepare Financially for College



Create FSA ID



Apply to Colleges



Make a list of places to look for scholarships



Check SAT/ACT score: Should you consider retaking?
Take the other test?



Ensure that 2024 taxes are filed



Review family budget for college expenses



Review colleges' financial aid information – net
calculators



Questions

