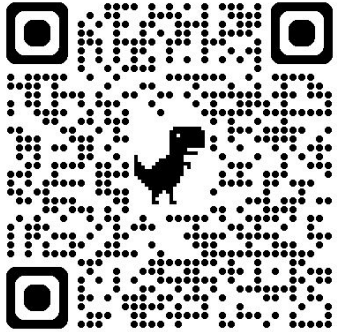


It's go time!

Navigating the College Application & Financial Aid Process



<https://sites.google.com/view/jvhscounseling/college-career>

Senior Milestones

2

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

College Readiness

SAT/ACT

TSIA2

ASVAB

Events & College Fairs

OCT. 7

OCT. 27

NOV. 18

College Visits

2 College Visit days

4 Military Visit days

Scholarships

District Website

Search Engines

Local

Financial Aid

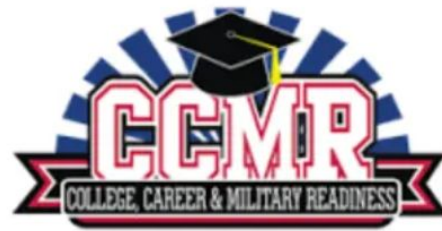
Merit based

Need based

Types



College, Career, & Military Readiness



3

What are the benefits for students who are CCMR Ready?


Students with CCMR Ready status may...

- **SAVE TIME & MONEY**
Graduates will not have to take remedial classes in college!
- **FIND, ACQUIRE, MAINTAIN & GROW WITHIN A CAREER**
Students have the essential skills to embark on a meaningful career after graduation. Career ready graduates can also enroll in additional postsecondary training without the need for remediation.
- **CHOOSE TO ENLIST IN THE MILITARY**
Graduates are prepared if they choose to commit to enlistment with the United States military. Proof of enlistment (DD Form 4) must be turned into the campus.



CCMR requirements & info

4



Do you have your CCMR point? (College, Career and Military Readiness)

Check here to confirm the scores that count.

What does it mean to be College, Career, or Military Ready?

- College Ready:** Graduates will not have to take remedial classes in college, thus saving time and money!
- Career Ready:** Graduates have the essential skills to find, acquire, maintain, and grow within a career. They can also enroll in additional postsecondary training without the need for remediation.
- Military Ready:** Graduates have committed to enlistment with the United States military. Proof of enlistment (DD Form 4) must be turned into the campus.

How can students earn "CCMR Ready" status?

- ☐ **Dual Credit:** Student completed at least **one English** or **one Math Dual Credit Course** (3 credit hours), or completed a least **three Dual Credit courses** (9 credit hours) in other subjects.
- ☐ **AP:** Student scored a **3 or higher** on an AP Exam or a **4 or higher** on an IB Exam.
- ☐ **CTE Industry Based Certification:** Student completed at least **one CTE Industry Based Certifications** as outlined by the TEA Accountability System, plus a Program of Study Concentrator (Class of 2025) or Program of Study Completer (Class of 2026+). For a list of Certifications accepted, click [here](#).
- ☐ **Graduate Under an Advanced Diploma Plan and be identified as a Current Special Education Student.** A graduate who is identified as receiving special education services during the year of graduation and whose graduation plan type is identified as a RHSP, DAP, FHSP-E, or a FHSP-DLA. For more information click [here](#).
- ☐ **Both TSI Reading/ELA and TSI Math criteria:** Student completed at least **one Reading/ELA option** AND at least **one Math option** below.

Reading/ELA

- ☐ **Testing:**
Scored a **480 or higher** on SAT EBRW
OR
a combined score of **40 or higher** on ACT English and ACT Reading
OR
a **945 or higher** on TSA 2 ELAR CRC and a **5 or higher** on TSA 2 essay
OR
less than a **945 or higher** on TSA 2 ELAR CRC, a **5 or higher** on TSA 2 diagnostic.
- ☐ **Texas College Bridge Course:** Student enrolled and successfully completed course in ELA (12th grade only)
- ☐ **College Transition/Prep Course (CARE Academy):**
Student completed and passed the English IV K or L course with a grade of 75 or higher (second semester).

Mathematics

- ☐ **Testing:**
Scored a **530 or higher** on SAT Math
OR
a **22 or higher** on ACT Math
OR
a **950 or higher** on TSA 2 Math CRC
OR
less than a **950 or higher** on TSA 2 Math CRC and a **6 or higher** on the TSA 2 diagnostic.
- ☐ **Texas College Bridge Course:** Student enrolled and successfully completed course in math (12th grade only)
- ☐ **College Transition/Prep Course (CARE Academy):**
Student completed and passed the College Algebra or Advanced Algebra or College Algebra K course with a grade of 75 or higher (second semester)



CFISD information on CCMR:

<https://www.cfisd.net/academics/advanced-academics/college-career-military-readiness>

TEA information on CCMR:

<https://tea.texas.gov/academics/college-career-and-military-prep>

- Colleges set their entrance requirements based on test scores, GPA, rank, etc.
- Some schools are test optional for entrance/admissions only - visit college admissions websites for more info
- Used by many colleges to qualify for scholarships - must submit to qualify
- Colleges do not prefer the ACT or the SAT over the other; they accept and consider both tests equally for admissions and scholarships
- Many schools superscore - take the highest individual section score across all test administrations of SAT/ACT and combine them to form a new, higher overall/composite score
 - www.collegeboard.org
 - www.act.org

2025-26 TEST DATES

SAT

Register to take the SAT at collegeboard.org

SAT Test Date

August 23, 2025
 September 14, 2025
 October 4, 2025
 November 8, 2025
 December 6, 2025
 March 14, 2026
 May 2, 2026
 June 6, 2026

Registration Deadline

August 8, 2025
 August 29, 2025
 September 19, 2025
 October 24, 2025
 November 21, 2025
 February 27, 2026
 April 17, 2026
 May 22, 2026

ACT

Register to take the ACT at act.org

ACT Test Date

September 6, 2025
 October 18, 2025
 December 13, 2025
 February 14, 2026
 April 11, 2026
 June 13, 2026
 July 11, 2026

Registration Deadline

August 1, 2025
 September 12, 2025
 November 7, 2025
 January 7, 2026
 March 6, 2026
 May 8, 2026
 June 5, 2026

No test centers are scheduled in New York for the July ACT test date.



Purpose:

To evaluate college readiness in English Language Arts/Reading (ELAR) and mathematics for students enrolling in Texas public colleges and universities.

Components:

- ELAR: A multiple-choice section and an integrated [WritePlacer Essay section](#).
- Mathematics: An initial 20-question section, followed by a 48-question diagnostic math test if the first section is not passed.

Exemptions:

Students who meet certain CCMR criteria may be exempt from taking the test.

ASVAB Career Exploration Program - Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery

7



- ❖ Career Assessment for those that would like to know more about different careers that match their personality, interests and abilities. It measures developed abilities and helps predict future academic and occupational success.
- ❖ The ASVAB measures a person's aptitude in four domains: verbal, math, science and technical, and spatial, which are measured by several subtests to assess aptitude for different career paths and military jobs. These domains help evaluate a candidate's current knowledge and their potential to learn in various subject areas.
- ❖ Military branches can use ASVAB scores to identify careers that may be a good fit if you choose to enlist..
- ❖ Your scores will not be kept by the school or shared with any outside organizations, including military recruiters.
- ❖ A score interpretation session will be provided by a military professional.

Events & College Fairs

8

- District College Night @Berry Center
Tuesday, Oct. 7, 6-8 pm 150+ schools,
colleges, universities, technical/trade
schools, financial aid, military
- HARN College Fair @ JV
Monday, Oct. 27 During all lunches
20-30 schools
Spring date TBD
- District Financial Aid Night
@Berry Center
 - - Nov. 18, 5:30-7:30
- Trade School & Military Fair
@ JV during lunches
Jan. date TBD

The poster for "College Night" is set against a blue background. At the top left, there are three colorful arrows pointing in different directions, labeled "TRADE SCHOOL", "COLLEGE", and "TECH SCHOOL". To the right of these arrows is the Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District logo. The main title "College Night" is written in large, white, bold letters, with a graduation cap icon above the "C". Below the title, the date and time "OCT. 7 • 6-8 P.M." are listed, followed by the location "BERRY CENTER" in a yellow box. A paragraph of text invites secondary students and parents to the event. Below this, a white box contains parking and concession information. At the bottom, there is a QR code and a registration link. Four small photographs show students and parents interacting at the event.

CYPRESS FAIRBANKS
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

College Night

OCT. 7 • 6-8 P.M.
BERRY CENTER

All secondary students and parents are invited to this free event. Wherever you are in the college search, explore your options here!

Students and parents should park in **Lots A & B** and enter through **Entrance 2**.

Free parking is available.
Concessions will be open.
No registration required.
Clear bag policy enforced.

Save time and impress reps by coming prepared with your Student Barcode Pass.
falltacrao.swoogo.com/Registration
Filter by Region - Houston 1
Cypress-Fairbanks ISD - Oct. 7th

College/Military Visits

- 2 days given for college visits each year in 11th/12th and 4 military visit days in 12th. They do not carry over. Can use one for a travel day and the other for the actual visit.
- Approved college and military days do not count against students' opportunity to exempt or toward excessive absences.
- Contact the college admissions office/website or military recruiter to schedule an appointment for an admissions presentation and tour.
- Pick up college/military visit form in attendance office before you go to your appointment.
- When you visit the college of your choice, get the admissions office to stamp the college visit form or have your military recruiter sign to verify attendance.
- Return the college/military visit form to the attendance office when you return to school to excuse the absence.



College Applications

10



Apply Texas

www.applytexas.org

Texas public and private schools

FREE APPLICATION WEEK!!!!!!
OCTOBER 13-19

Common App

www.commonapp.org

Includes state/out of state schools
and selective universities

Coalition for College

www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org

Mostly out of state and selective
universities

For list of schools participating:
<https://www.scoir.com/apply-colleges>

- Applications, fees, and supporting material must be completed and submitted by each university's deadline.
- Fee waivers available for those on free or reduced school lunch

College application categories

DEADLINE

11

Early Application Deadlines

Early Decision (ED): This is a binding commitment, meaning if you are accepted, you are required to attend that college and withdraw all other regular applications. Only an option for one school, so it needs to be one that you will absolutely attend if accepted. The application deadline is typically in early to mid-November, with a decision expected by mid-December.

Early Action (EA): Similar to Early Decision, EA has a November deadline and a December decision timeline, but it is non-binding. Students can apply to multiple EA schools, but sometimes there are restrictions, such as Restrictive Early Action (REA), which limits early applications to private institutions.

Standard Application Deadlines

Regular Decision (RD): This is the most common application type, with deadlines usually in early January but ranging until mid-February. Students can expect to hear back by early April.

Ongoing Application Deadlines

Rolling Admission: Instead of a strict deadline, schools with rolling admission review applications as they are received. This means decisions can be made much faster, often within 4–6 weeks, and there isn't a universal deadline, as applications are accepted until all spots are filled.

Check the admissions websites of colleges to get deadline information.

Average College Tuition & Fees at Ranked Colleges

2025-2026

12

Private

\$44,961



4 Years of Tuition =
\$45,000 to \$180,000
This does not include living
expenses!!!

Public, out-of-state

\$25,415

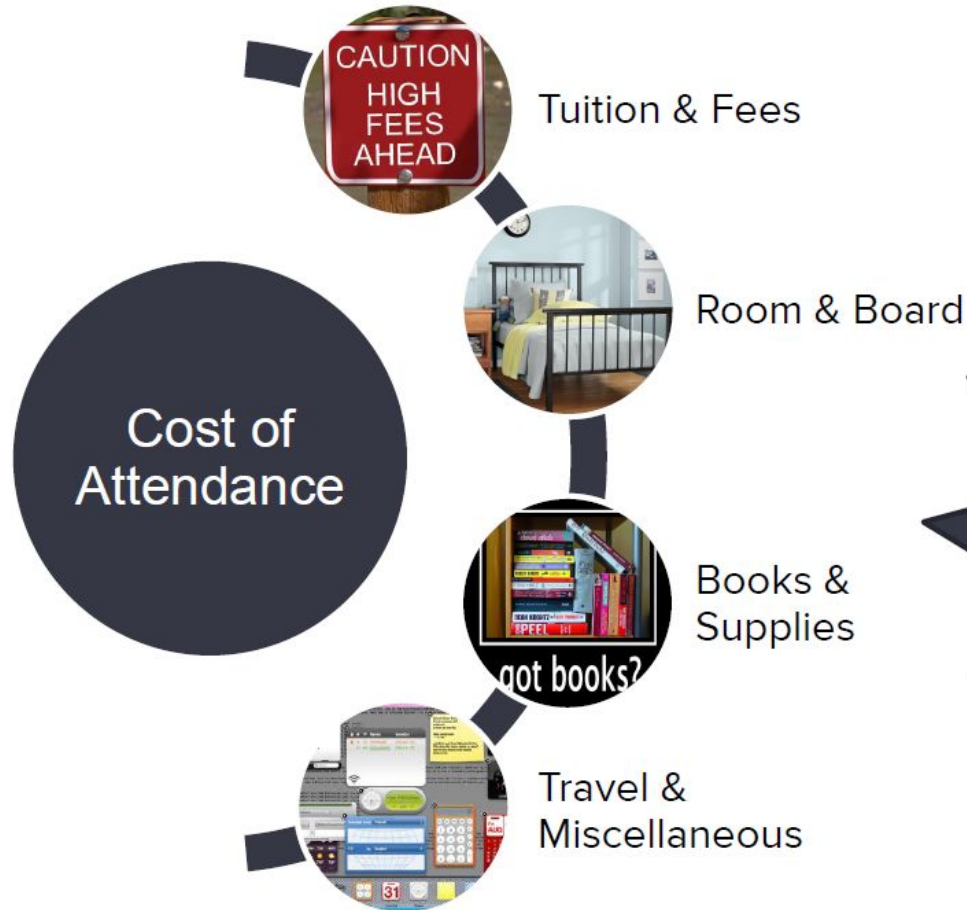


Public, in-state

\$11,371



What do students pay for in College & Career Programs?



What can
you
control?



What is
Financial Aid?

Money to help students
pay for College & Career
Training

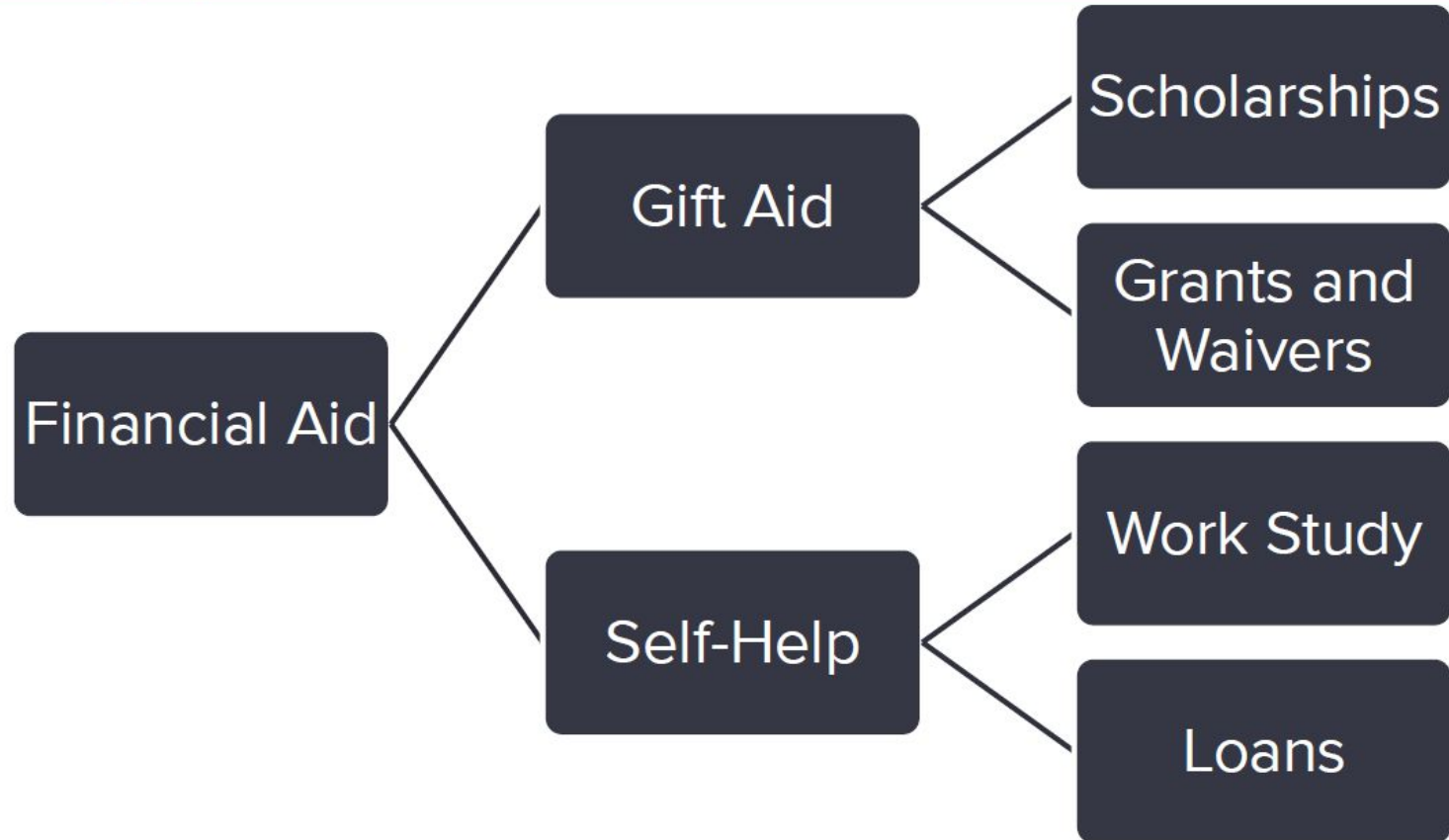
Financial Aid Expectations

It is important to have realistic expectations...



Financial Aid is not designed to cover 100% of college expenses.

Types of Financial Aid



Types of Financial Aid



Scholarships

Scholarships are awards given to students by the University or Independent organization in recognition of merit and/or need.



Grants

State or Federal money given to students who meet a designated criteria. Typically based upon FAFSA application.



Student Loans

Money borrowed by student and/or parent to pay for school. This amount will have to be paid back to the lender with interest.



Work Study

Program that enables students to work part time to help finance their educational costs.

Scholarship - What is it? How do I get one?

*Money that is awarded to a student based upon Merit (an ability, skill, talent) and/or Financial Need. Scholarships do NOT have to be paid back - **FREE MONEY!***

Skill/Talent Based

- ☐ Academics
- ☐ Artistic
- ☐ Athletic Ability
- ☐ Test Scores
- ☐ Community Service

Student Characteristics

- ☐ Gender
- ☐ Race
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Family/Medical history
- ☐ Employer
- ☐ First Generation

Financial Need Based

- ☐ Awarded to promising students based upon family income

Bottomline to receive a Scholarship:

You have to EARN IT: Be SCHOLARSHIP WORTHY!

SCHOLARSHIP WORTHY ATTRIBUTES

- ❑ **GPA (guideline: above a 5.5)**
 - ❑ Class rank/GPA matters with scholarships!
- ❑ **Personal Attributes**
 - ❑ Perseverance & Persistence
- ❑ **Clubs and organizations**
 - ❑ Leadership
 - ❑ Entrepreneur – uniqueness
- ❑ **Service Drive**
 - ❑ Community Involvement
- ❑ **Job related experience**



Scholarships - search often

District website: www.cfisd.net/scholarships

Parents' Employers/Major Corporations

Local Scholarships - Schoology posts

Schoology Access Code: 7PXM-S82N-M2C4T

Search engines:

www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org

www.fastweb.com

www.scholarships.com

www.goingmerry.com

www.scholarships360.org

www.bold.org

www.niche.com

www.salliemae.com

www.appily.com

www.finaid.org

Individual College/Universities or Departmental Scholarships

<https://www.texasgearup.com/public/files/Scholarships.pdf>



20



Finding a scholarship is like looking for your first job... don't be picky and apply to MANY!

CFEF SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

- Scholarships based on financial need, scholastic achievements and leadership qualities
- Mid-November 2025 – Online application should be available on CFEF website
- Mid-January 2026 – Anticipated deadline for online application for certain CFEF awards
- March 2026 – Anticipated date for online application for CFEF Schroeder application on website
 - Requires Lone Star College attendance
- April 2026 - Deadline for online application for Edwin Schroeder endowment awards
 - Awarded to CFISD senior students attending Lone Star College
 - 35-50 scholarships - \$2,000 each



**C Y - F A I R
EDUCATIONAL
FOUNDATION**

Today's Students – Tomorrow's Future

Grants & Waivers

Grants – programs that “grant” money to students that do not typically need to be paid back.

Waiver – Colleges/Universities can “waive” various fees/tuition rates for students that meet a given criteria. Students must SELF-IDENTIFY. You must know what waivers exist.

Explore: More information about exemptions and waivers.

<https://www.hhloans.com/types-of-financial-aid/>

EX : Some Schools in bordering states waive “Out of State” tuition for Texas students as an incentive to attend.

Federal Grant Programs	State Grant Programs
Pell Grant (\$7395.00 max amount for 2025-26)	TEXAS Grant (no longer avail at 2 year schools)
Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG) <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Campus based aid, not available at all schools	Texas Public Education Grant (TPEG)
TEACH Grant (up to \$4000 per year)	Tuition Equalization Grant (TEG)
	Texas Educational Opportunity Grant (TEOG)

Loans

Federal Loans

- Direct Subsidized

6.39% fixed interest, may change for 2026-27

- Direct Unsubsidized

7.94% fixed interest, may change for 2026-27

- Maximum Federal Student Loan Amounts:

- \$3,500 – Freshman

- \$4,500 – Sophomore

- \$5,500 -- Junior and Senior

- Parent Plus Loan

- Based upon parent credit

- 8.94% fixed interest, may change for 2026-27

State Loans

- College Access Loan (CAL)

- 6.3% fixed interest, may change for 2026-27

Alternate Loans

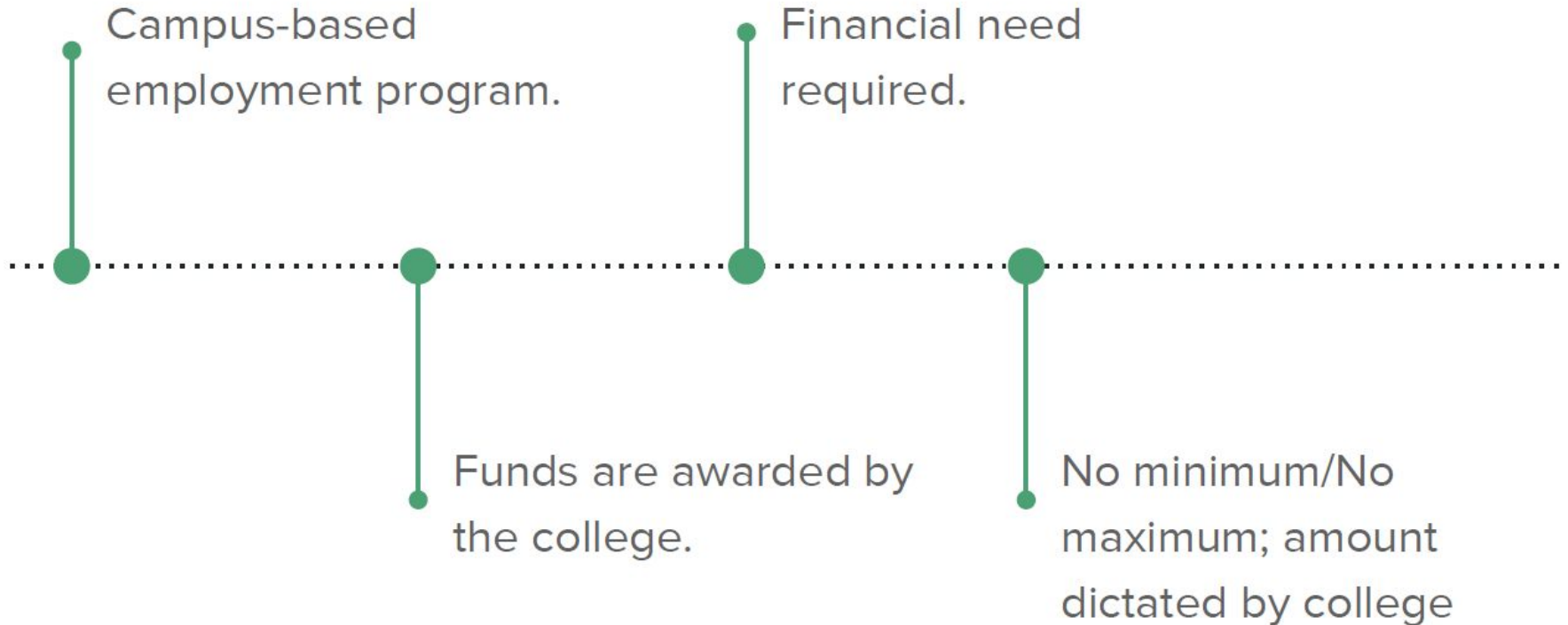
- Private consumer loans

- Home Equity Loans



DUE
LOAN
PAYMENT

Work Study



Financial Aid Process

24

- **merit based aid:** scholarships earned by the student either performance based or talent based
- **need based aid:** grants, loans, and work-study awarded using a family's ability to pay

<https://www.youtube.com/@FederalStudentAid/videos>



FAFSA

VS

TASFA

Financial Aid Applications

26

FAFSA: (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

- Completed each year to receive federal aid (grants and loans)
- Open now for the 2026-2027 application
- Asks for information about student's and family's finances, including tax returns
- Parents & students can create their FSA IDs now (see handout)
- www.fafsa.gov

TASFA: (Texas Application for State Financial Aid)

Financial aid application for students who are state residents but not US citizens, and went to high school for at least 3 years in the state. This includes, but is not limited to, foreign nationals, legal permanent residents, and eligible non-citizens.

- <https://www.highered.texas.gov/students-families/tasfa/>

CSS Profile: (College Scholarship Service)

College Board's online application that collects information used by almost 400 colleges, universities, professional schools, and scholarship programs to award financial aid from sources outside the federal government. Only fill this out if a school you apply to requires it as part of the application process.

- <https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/>

Proof of FAFSA/TASFA or opt out form



27

- Once student and parent(s) have completed the financial aid application they are eligible for, a confirmation email will be sent stating that the application has been submitted and the account will show completion on the confirmation page.
- If student and their family choose not to submit FAFSA or TASFA before graduation for whatever reason, they will be required to submit an opt out form instead. This opt out form does not prevent completing FAFSA or TASFA at a later date.
<https://tea.texas.gov/academics/college-career-and-military-prep/opt-outrevised10.2021finalenglish.pdf>
- A screenshot of the confirmation email from either application, the confirmation page from account, or the opt out form serves as proof of submission and will need to be uploaded to the campus google doc for the financial aid graduation requirement to be met. <https://forms.gle/LqvwP3tvYU6xShVG6>
- The screenshot must clearly show each of the following items:
 - Student's full name
 - The correct application year (2026-2027)
 - Completion date or verification of successful completion/submission
 - Opt out form requires appropriate signatures based on student age

Set up an appointment to
meet with Mr. Silva, your
Lone Star College
Connection Navigator!

Email:

steven.e.silva@LoneStar.edu

Voice: 281.290.3498

Text: 832.422.7302

Or Scan the QR Code





This is YOUR education!! Invest your time in order to make the best decision!

College Applications

Apply ON TIME/EARLY

Finish and submit applications so you don't miss out on opportunities

FAFSA/ Financial Aid

Know how to prepare

Know the types of Financial Aid available and how to apply for each one.

Money is first come, first served!

Check Status

Understand Options

Do not miss deadlines or information regarding college applications/ financial assistance.