

Financial Aid 101

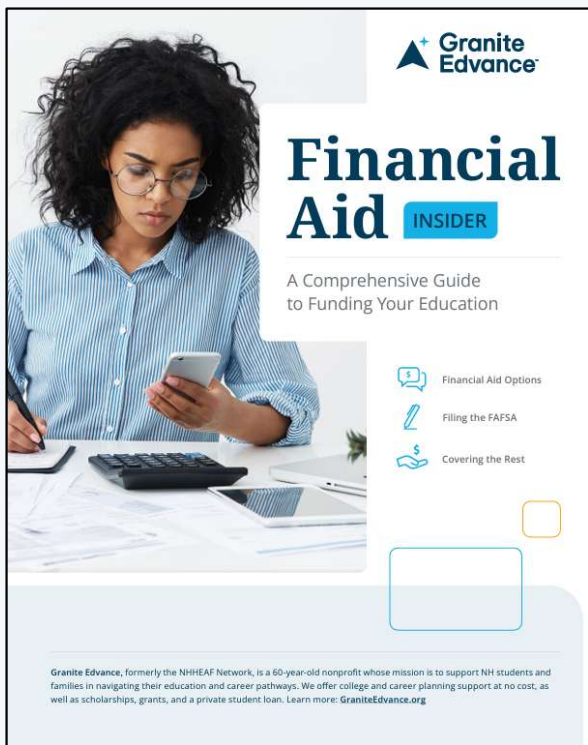


Please sign in



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Financial Aid Insider- Digital Copy

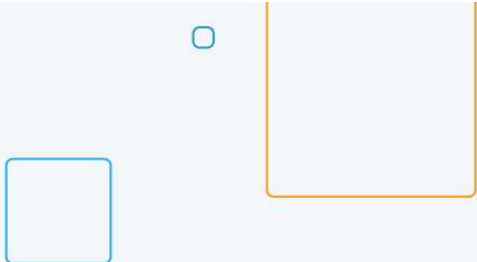


Scan me!

Slide 2

ST1 Do we need to update the QR code or the Insider graphic?
Sharleigh Thomson, 2025-08-07T19:57:07.484

Introducing Granite Edvance



We
Are

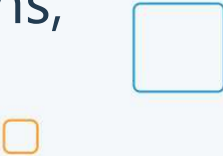
A New Hampshire-based 501c3 nonprofit, established in 1962 (formerly the NH Higher Education Assistance Foundation Network)

Our
Mission

To support New Hampshire students and families in navigating their education and career pathways

We
Offer

Free career and higher-education counseling and resources as well as funding support, including loans, grants and scholarships



Appointments We Offer

Career &
Aptitude
Exploration

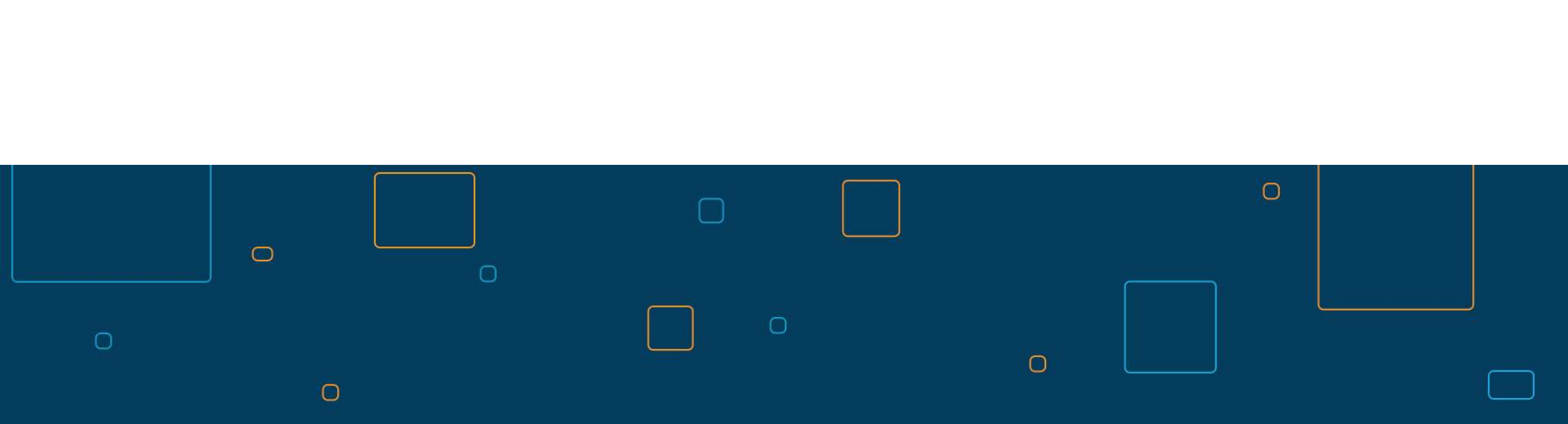
Exploring Future
Options

Financial Aid
Planning

FAFSA
Assistance

Reviewing
Financial Aid
Offers

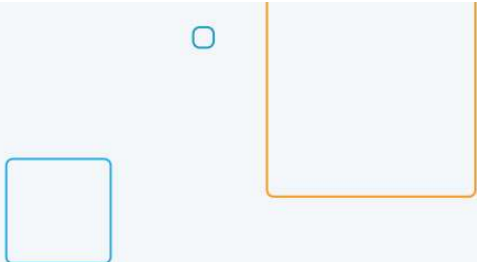
College Success

The header features a dark blue background with several light blue and orange-outlined squares and rectangles of various sizes scattered across the top.

Financial Aid Basics

How to Prepare

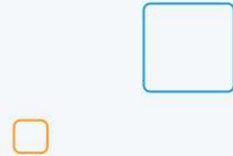
Understanding Financial Aid



Definition and Goal

- Financial aid is offered in the form of grants, scholarships, student loans, and work study jobs. The goal of financial aid is to help students pay for college. SE1

This goal is achieved by

- Evaluating a family's ability to pay for educational costs (Student Aid Index)
 - SAI can be as low as -\$1,500 and as high as \$999,999
 - Distributing limited resources in an equitable manner
 - Providing a balance of self-help aid and gift aid (when available and eligible)
- 

Slide 6

SE1

I changed the second headline to "This goal is achieved by" to make the messaging clearer. I suggest switching the order of the first two sentences for a clearer segue clearer.

Sarah Earle, 2025-09-04T20:28:54.532

Types of Financial Aid



Gift Aid

- Merit-based (scholarships)
 - Offered based on academic, artistic, or athletic talent; community service, leadership
- Need-based (grants)
 - Based on the family's finances



Self Help Aid

- Federal Loans
 - Subsidized loans
 - Unsubsidized loans
- Work Study
 - Need-based campus employment

Slide 7

WT1 Notes for Subsidized Loan should say "the government pays the interest that accrues during school" to be accurate and consistent with the Insider.

Also The interest rate for Sub and Unsub loans for 2025-2026 is 6.39% not 6.53% as indicated in notes.

William Tanguay, 2025-09-09T19:54:45.914

Financial Aid & the College Search

- Have the “money talk” early
- Focus on net price, NOT sticker price
- Types of aid offered at each school:
 - Merit
 - Need
 - Both

Net Price Calculators

- Calculators will differ from college to college
- Results are an estimate of potential financial aid – you still must file the FAFSA and any other required financial aid forms

NH-Specific Cost Savings Programs

Granite Guarantee

- Free tuition for first-time students or CC graduates attending a NH public college
- Must be attending full-time and be eligible for Pell Grant

SE1

Community College

- Offers a more affordable college option for students (\$230/credit)

Slide 9

SE1

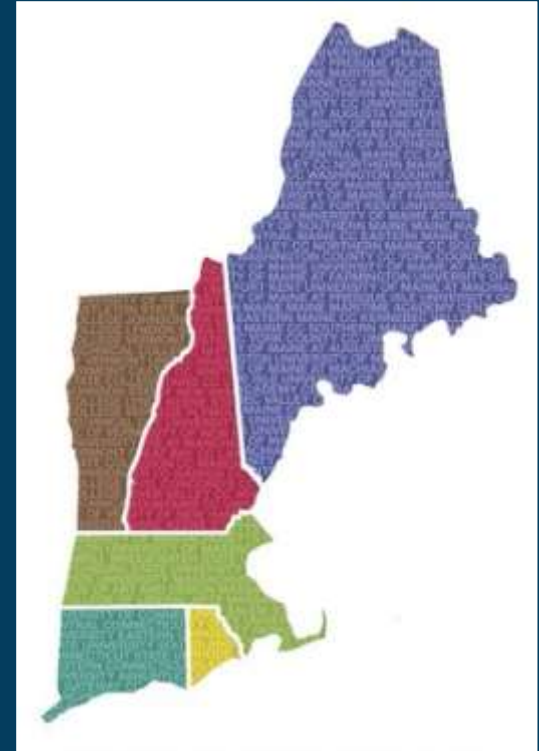
Not my area, but would this look better aligned left?

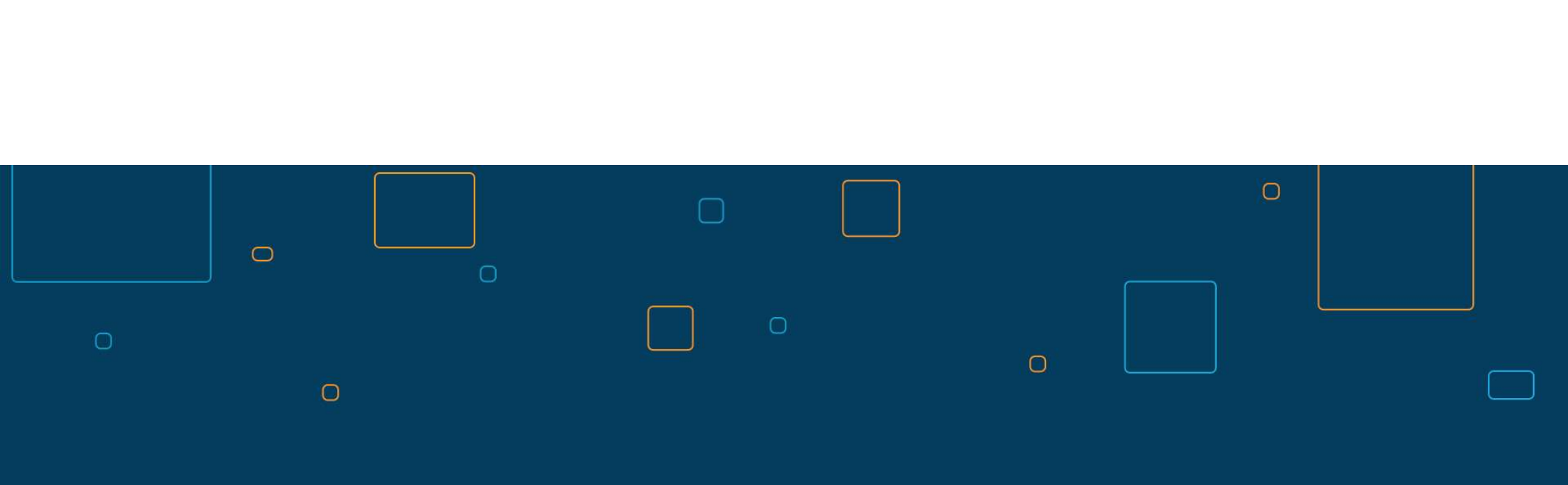
Sarah Earle, 2025-09-04T20:31:07.029

Tuition Break

- For approved majors not offered within own state's public colleges/universities
- Full-time student receives an average tuition break of \$8,600

nebhe.org/tuitionbreak





Applying for Financial Aid

Financial Aid Forms

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

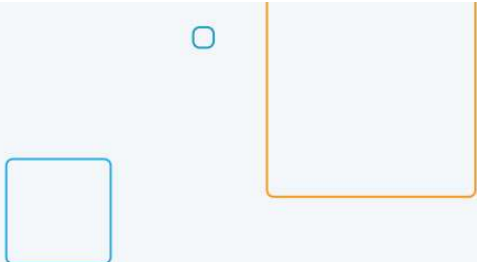
- Available October 1st
- studentaid.gov

CSS Profile

- Available October 1st
- cssprofile.org

- Check with each school to determine required application forms and specific deadlines
- Your timeline may be very different from the timeline of others
- Consider these variables:
 - **Where** are you applying?
 - **How** are you applying?
 - **When** is the college's deadline?

The FAFSA



Goal

To collect a family's personal and financial information to calculate the Student Aid Index (SAI)

$\text{COA} - \text{SAI} = \text{Financial Need}$

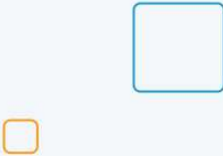
Why File the FAFSA?

- Eligibility for Federal Aid (federal loans, federal grants and/or work-study opportunities)
- Private scholarship applications

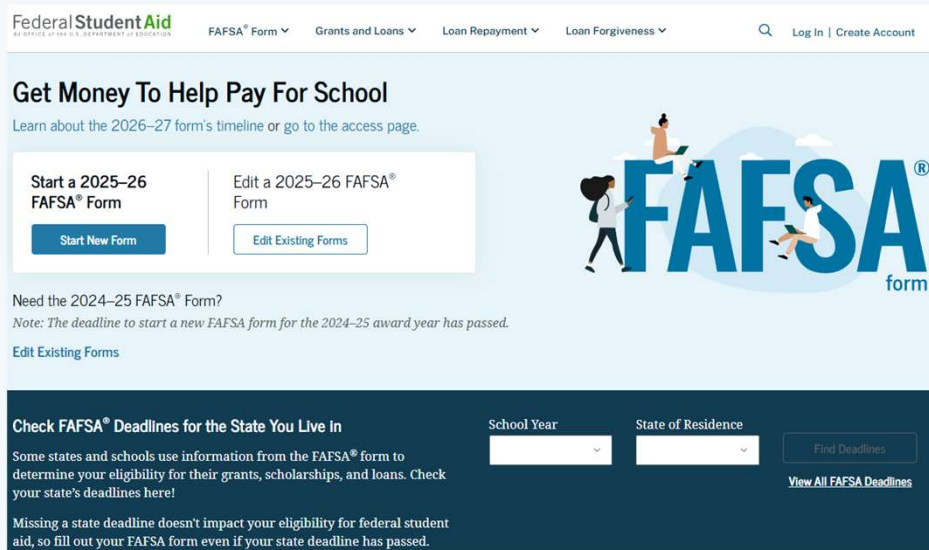
Who Should File the FAFSA?

Everyone!

The FAFSA Form must be completed **every** year



File Online



The screenshot shows the Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) website. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for 'FAFSA® Form', 'Grants and Loans', 'Loan Repayment', and 'Loan Forgiveness'. A search icon and 'Log In | Create Account' are also present. The main heading is 'Get Money To Help Pay For School', followed by a subtext: 'Learn about the 2026–27 form's timeline or go to the access page.' Below this, there are two buttons: 'Start a 2025–26 FAFSA® Form' and 'Edit a 2025–26 FAFSA® Form'. To the right of these buttons is a large graphic of the FAFSA logo with the word 'form' underneath. Below the logo, there's a note: 'Need the 2024–25 FAFSA® Form? Note: The deadline to start a new FAFSA form for the 2024–25 award year has passed. Edit Existing Forms'. At the bottom, there's a section titled 'Check FAFSA® Deadlines for the State You Live In' with a brief explanation of why state deadlines matter. It includes two dropdown menus for 'School Year' and 'State of Residence', a 'Find Deadlines' button, and a link to 'View All FAFSA Deadlines'.

Federal Student Aid
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

FAFSA® Form ▾ Grants and Loans ▾ Loan Repayment ▾ Loan Forgiveness ▾

Log In | Create Account

Get Money To Help Pay For School

Learn about the 2026–27 form's timeline or go to the access page.

Start a 2025–26 FAFSA® Form

Edit a 2025–26 FAFSA® Form

Start New Form Edit Existing Forms

Need the 2024–25 FAFSA® Form?
Note: The deadline to start a new FAFSA form for the 2024–25 award year has passed.
Edit Existing Forms

Check FAFSA® Deadlines for the State You Live In

Some states and schools use information from the FAFSA® form to determine your eligibility for their grants, scholarships, and loans. Check your state's deadlines here!

Missing a state deadline doesn't impact your eligibility for federal student aid, so fill out your FAFSA form even if your state deadline has passed.

School Year ▾ State of Residence ▾ Find Deadlines

[View All FAFSA Deadlines](#)

studentaid.gov

Completing the FAFSA
is *free*

Chat online with
FAFSA Specialist or
call:
1-800-4-FEDAID

studentaid.gov Account

What is it?

- A username/password used by students and parents to log in to studentaid.gov
- Real time identity verification for users with a Social Security number

What is needed to create your account:

- Social Security number
- Cell phone number and/or email address unique to your account

Create an Account

Whether you're a student, parent, or borrower, you'll need to create your own account to apply for, receive, and manage your federal student aid.

Get Started

Already have an account? [Log In](#)

Remember to save
your Backup Code!

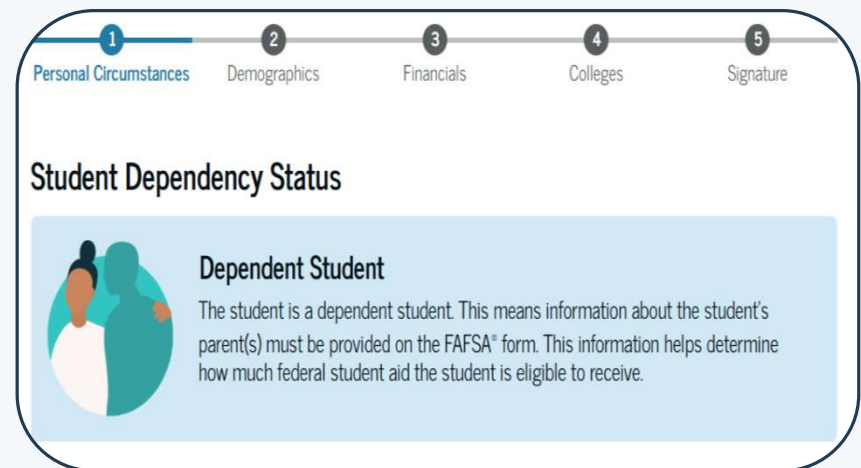
Defining Dependency

Dependent Student

- Requires “contributor”
- Different from tax “dependent”

Independent Student

- Student files alone



The image shows a portion of the FAFSA form interface. At the top, a progress bar with five numbered steps is visible: 1. Personal Circumstances, 2. Demographics, 3. Financials, 4. Colleges, and 5. Signature. Below the progress bar, the section is titled 'Student Dependency Status'. It features an icon of a family (two adults and a child) and the heading 'Dependent Student'. The text below explains that a dependent student must provide information about their parent(s) on the FAFSA form to determine federal aid eligibility.

1 Personal Circumstances 2 Demographics 3 Financials 4 Colleges 5 Signature

Student Dependency Status

Dependent Student

The student is a dependent student. This means information about the student's parent(s) must be provided on the FAFSA® form. This information helps determine how much federal student aid the student is eligible to receive.

The FAFSA is a smart form which walks students through adding contributors

Who Needs a studentaid.gov Account?

Biological/Adoptive parents are...	Who Needs an Account?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• married• file taxes jointly	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Student• One parent
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• married• file taxes separately	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Student• Both parents
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• divorced• not remarried	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Student• Parent who provided the most financial support over the last 12 months
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• divorced• parent providing the most financial support is remarried• file taxed jointly	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Student• Parent providing the most support
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• divorced• parent providing most support is remarried• file taxes separately	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Student,• Parent providing the most support,• Spouse

Reporting Income & Assets

Income:

- Wages
- Rental income
- Interest and ordinary dividends
- Cashed in pensions, annuities, and IRAs

Assets INCLUDED:

- Cash, checking, and savings
- CDs, stocks, bonds, money markets, mutual funds
- Equity second/rental property
- 529/Coverdell accounts
- UTMA and UGMA accounts

Assets NOT INCLUDED:

- Equity in your primary residence
- Qualified retirement savings
- Small businesses with less than 100 employees
- Farm on which family resides

Dependency Status for FAFSA

Students are considered conditionally independent if they:

- are 24 years of age or older
- are married
- have a child whom they support financially
- are in a graduate program
- are currently serving or are a veteran of the military
- were at any time over the age of 13 in foster care, were adopted, were orphaned, or were considered a ward of the court
- are in a legal guardianship with someone other than their parents
- are an emancipated minor
- are unaccompanied and homeless or self-supporting
- they are putting themselves at risk to contact parents

Dependency for FAFSA

Students are conditionally independent if:

they are over the age of 24

they are married

they have dependents for whom they provide more than 50% of their support

they have a bachelors degree

they are or were a member of the U.S. armed forces

at any time since the age of thirteen were an orphan, ward of the court, or in foster care

they are legally emancipated

they are/were in a legal guardianship with someone other than a parent

they are unaccompanied, and homeless or self supporting

they are putting themselves at risk to contact parents

FAFSA Contributor(s)

My biological parents or adoptive parents are married:

Or

My biological parents or adoptive parents aren't married but live in the same house

My parents filed taxes jointly

Only one parent needs a student aid account

My parents filed taxes separately or didn't file taxes

Both parents need a student aid account

Need more help? Try the Parent Wizard

<https://studentaid.gov/fafsa-apply/parents>

FAFSA Contributor(s)

My biological or adoptive parents are divorced or separated:

One parent provided more financial support over the last year

Both parents provided equal financial support in the past year, but **one parent** has greater income/assets

This parent needs a student aid account

Did that parent remarry?

That parent did not remarry

Only that parent needs a student aid account

That parent remarried and filed taxes jointly

Only that parent needs a student aid account

That parent remarried and filed taxes separately or didn't file taxes

That parent and their spouse both need a student aid account

Financial Information

Income

Wages

Rental
income

IRA/pension/
inheritance
payouts



Assets

Cash

Balance of
savings
accounts

Balance of
checking
accounts

Stocks/Bonds

Second/rental
properties

Mutual Funds

Trusts

UGMA/UTMA

529/Coverdell

Tax information verified
with the IRS

Non-Retirement

Common FAFSA Questions

- Whose FAFSA is it?
- When is the deadline to complete the FAFSA?
- Which year's tax return should a family use?
- Does the number of college students in the household impact financial aid?
- If a student is not sure they are going to college, should they still complete a FAFSA?

CSS Profile

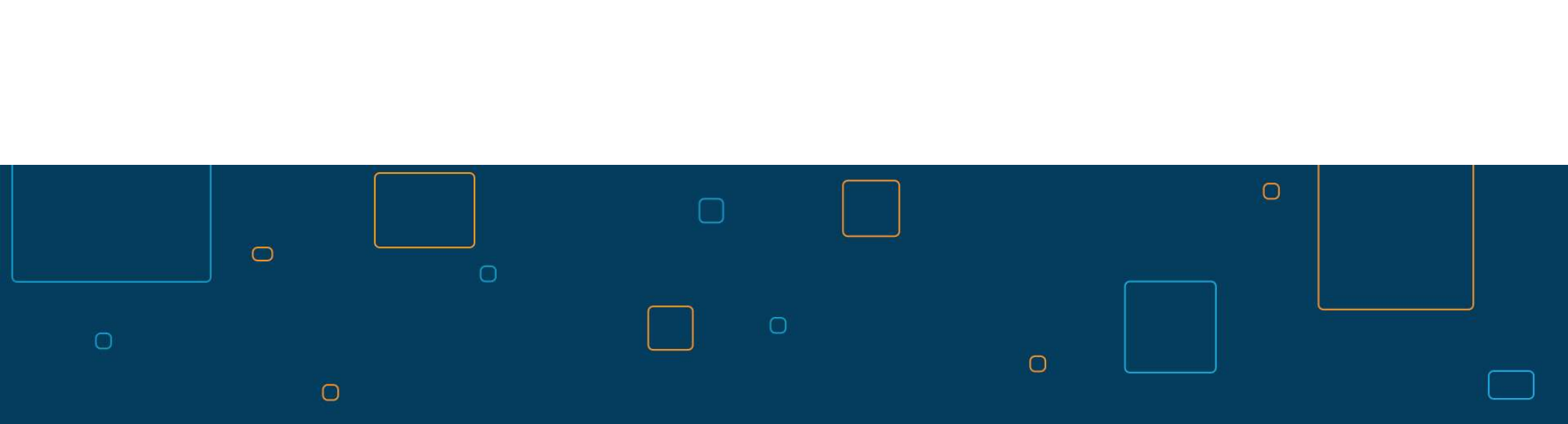
- Used by approximately 250 colleges to determine eligibility for institutional aid
- Use student's College Board log-in to access form
- \$25 fee to register and to send to first school
 - \$16 for each additional school
- Fee waivers available for qualified students
- A list of participating schools can be found on the CollegeBoard website, cssprofile.org



Special Circumstances

- Contact financial aid professionals at each college
- Complete special circumstances form on each school's financial aid webpage
- Have realistic expectations of financial aid appeal outcomes

<i>May</i> be considered	<i>Will not</i> be considered
Loss or reduction of employment	Vacation expenses
Separation or divorce of parents	Graduate school expenses for a sibling
Death of a parent	Wedding expenses
High unreimbursed medical or dental expenses	Consumer debt
Unusual losses in business, investments, or real estate	Expenses related to pets



Searching for Scholarships

National Search

- Start the search now
- Deadlines differ based on the scholarship

collegeboard.org

fastweb.com

scholarships.com

scholarshipowl.com

scholarships360.com

Helpful Tips

- Create an appropriate and unique email address for the college and scholarship processes
- Make sure that if you are providing an essay, it answers the prompt you are given
- Do not pay money to apply

Local Search



School

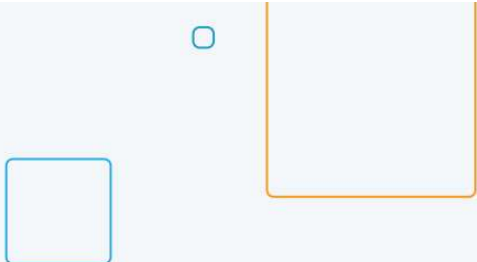
Check with your school counselor for information about local scholarships for students from your community



Work

Check with your (or your parents') employer(s). Many have scholarship programs set up for their employees or their family members.

NH Specific Scholarships



Granite Edvance

- Awarded over \$750,000 to NH students in 2025
- Award amounts range from \$1,000 – \$3,000
- Trade school, certificate programs, associate, and bachelor's degree students eligible
- Application period and deadlines depend on the program a student is pursuing

NH Charitable Foundation Statewide Student Aid Program

- For students enrolling in 4-year degree programs
- Typically open from mid-January to early April

Career Aid to Technical Students Program

- For students enrolling in certificate and 2-year degree programs
 - Rolling deadlines for students in technical and associates programs
- 

Prepare



Gather the required personal and financial information required by the FAFSA and/or CSS profile



Make a chart/list of each school's submission deadline



Complete the FAFSA, being sure to identify each school you may consider applying to (up to 20)



Submit your FAFSA before the ***earliest*** financial aid submission deadline



Determine which schools may also require the CSS profile and complete and submit that as well

Thank you for attending!



Follow us on Instagram!

Stay up-to-date on all
our happenings and
offerings.



Questions?

Contact us by phone,
email, or schedule an
appointment.



Your feedback matters!

Please let us know how
we did.