

IT'S FAFSA TIME!

Must start after October 1, should be done by Mid-January



What Do I Do?

1. Go to- <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa> – this is the official FAFSA website → Click the **New to the FAFSA Process** button on the FAFSA introduction screen.
2. **Get Started** screen – *Right after* you click the **New to the FAFSA Process** button, the **student** needs to apply for a **FSA ID**
Students: click the **I am a Student** link and create yours.
Parents: *It is HIGHLY recommended that you do this with your student, but only the student is authorized to log into their screen. You can make your own FSA ID if you would like*
Once you Created your FSA ID, you will go back to start the process



3. **Start inputting with your information- Step 1 Student**
 - **First and Last Name** – must be exactly as appears on Social Security card
 - **Your e-mail address** – enter if you want to receive information electronically → **Make sure to constantly check your e-mail for messages from the FAFSA Processor and the colleges that you apply to.**
 - **When you begin the 2021-2022 school year what will be your grade level?** - select **Never attended college/1st year** (even if you are or have taken college courses)
 - **When you begin the 2021-2022 school year, what degree or certificate will you be working on?** - select either: 1st bachelor's degree; Associate degree; certificate or diploma of two or more years
 - **Are you interested in being considered for work-study?** – select **Yes**. If you are awarded work-study and then decide you don't want it, you can always decline it. However, it is always easier to receive it up-front and decline it after, than it is to request it later after all the funding may be gone
4. **Next enter your financial status- Step 2 & 3 Student-** questions 32-57 are about you!
 - Some of these questions will be irrelevant to you, answer the best you can
 - Answer questions **32-39 only** if you have worked last year and filled taxes
 - Questions **36-44, if the answer doesn't apply to you or is 0, just enter 0**
 - You **have to answer questions 45-57. If all the answers are "No" then your Parents can fill out Step 4.** If you answered "Yes" to any of these questions, you will answer questions 93-100 in Step 5 Student
5. **Continue to the Income Information Sections- Step 4 Parent-** this is where you will need parent documents
 - If you are given the option to download your/parents most recent federal income tax return = **IT IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THAT YOU USE THIS OPTION TO AVOID HAVING TO MAKE CORRECTIONS TO YOUR TAX INFORMATION LATER.**
 - If you are **not** given the download option – use copy of this years federal tax return to complete each question in this section; or use your/parents most previous federal tax return to *estimate* this years amounts if you have not yet filed your tax return. The **Help and Hints box** will tell you exactly which amounts to report based on the type of tax return you completed (i.e. 1040; 1040A; 1040EZ).
 - **Next**, follow the prompts to the **"Savings and Investments"** Section. Place your cursor in each question to bring up the Help and Hints box. This will explain exactly what type of information/values you must report.
6. **Finish Step 6 Student** and tell the FAFSA what schools to send your information to
 - **School (College) Selection - Federal School Code** – select the state and enter as much as you know about the city or school name (or the college's Federal School Code if you know it) for each college that you want your FAFSA data sent to (up to 10 colleges on this screen) → click the **Search** button → scroll down on screen and click "Add" to select the appropriate colleges → scroll down to "View Selected Schools Information" section and answer "Housing Plan" question for each college
 - **This step is important-** It is how this part of the money comes off your tuition
7. **Sign and Submit**
 - **Are you a preparer?** - **No** (This would be someone who charges a fee to complete your FAFSA.)
 - Follow the steps to submitting- you may need both your confirmation and your parents. Hit **"Submit My FAFSA Now."**
 - **Confirmation Page** – **you are not done until you see this page** → print or have a copy e-mailed to you~ keep this info it may be needed later to check the status of your FAFSA and will be a good place to write down your **FSA ID**

-----SEE BACK-----



Okay, I did the FASFA, now what??

What happens next?

- ❖ The FAFSA processor will calculate your **Expected Family Contribution (EFC)** which is the amount that your family is reasonably expected to contribute toward your college costs (you will see this figure on your FAFSA Confirmation screen). → Your FAFSA results will be sent to the colleges you listed on your application within approx. 2 weeks → If you listed a valid e-mail address on your FAFSA, you will receive an e-mail from the processor with a link to view your **Student Aid Report (SAR)** within 3 to 5 days = *save this document*.
- ❖ **How will I be notified of what type/amount of aid I will receive?** The Financial Aid Office will send you a **Financial Aid Award Notification** either by e-mail (to your personal or college e-mail account) or regular mail that will explain how to access your aid offer.
- ❖ **Do I have to accept the aid offer?** Some colleges may require that you notify them if you want to accept all or a portion of your aid offer, and how to apply for federal student loans (if you are offered and accept them) – they will explain how to do this. **Make sure that you respond by the stated deadline to avoid losing your aid offer.**
- ❖ **Do I have to be accepted for admissions before I submit the FAFSA?** – No. You can apply for financial aid any time after October 1. You do need to have received your admissions notification from each college before they can offer you financial aid → make sure that you have been admitted **before the FAFSA Priority Date** that the college lists on their website – if not, contact the Admissions Office.
- ❖ **What if I'm considering more than one college's aid award to determine which college I will go to?**
- ❖ EducationCents.org offers an award comparison tool (www.educationcents.org → My Tool Box → See All Tools → Compare Award Packages) that allows you to fill in your aid offers and college costs from different colleges to help you compare and determine which is the best offer. You can also ask your high school counselor about scheduling a "Financial Aid Award" workshop at your school with College in Colorado.
- ❖ **Who do I contact if I have questions about my financial aid award notice?** Contact the Financial Aid Office at each college.

Other Important Information

- **What if I have to make corrections to my FAFSA?** Go to <https://studentaid.gov> → you must use your **FSA ID** to access your record → click **Make FAFSA Corrections** → you will receive a confirmation number → your corrections will be processed in 3-5 days.
- **What if I get an outside scholarship? Should I report it to the financial aid office?** - Yes. If you are receiving any kind of financial aid from university or government sources, you must report an outside scholarship to the Financial Aid Office.
- **How to check the status of your FAFSA?** Call 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243) or go to www.fafsa.gov.
- **Where can I get more information about the FAFSA and financial aid?**
<http://studentaid.ed.gov> <http://www.collegeincolorado.org> <http://www.finaid.org>

I want more help, what can I do?

COME TO THE FASFA WORKSHOPS!

Sign up with Mr. Sewell- the dates will be announced soon- keep checking our Post Grad Page on the website and in Schoology announcements. You (more than likely your parents) will need to bring:

- Social Security Number or Alien Registration Number
- Your most recent federal income tax returns, W-2's and other record of money earned (you may be able to download your federal tax return information into your FASFA using the IRS Data Retrieval Tool)
- Bank statements and records of investments (if applicable)
- Records of untaxed income (if applicable)
- An FSA ID to sign electronically

REMEMBER: If you have specific questions or need more guidance, the FASFA workshop is the best place to go! We also have all the information we have provided on Naviance in your Document Library!

