

Facts about the FAFSA application for financial aid

Based on information from fafsa.ed.gov

The FAFSA is free to fill out. The “F” in FAFSA stands for free. If you need help filling out the FAFSA, you can call 1-800-FED-AID or go to FAFSA.gov. **You should never pay somebody to help you fill out forms, find scholarships, or receive scholarships. These organizations are likely scams.**

The FAFSA helps you get the best and most reliable financial aid. The FAFSA is a government form that will make you eligible for the biggest sources of scholarships and best student loans. The FAFSA is also the “messenger” form to states and colleges to make you eligible for other scholarships.

The FAFSA opens in October for college applications the following year. You can submit the FAFSA later, but many scholarship deadlines close early. Submit the FAFSA as soon as you can for the best chances of the best scholarships.

You will probably need to work with both of your parents to complete the FAFSA. This means that you and parents will have to provide a lot of information about your finances, including tax information. If this is a challenge, talk to the financial aid offices of the colleges you are applying to.

Parent citizenship status does not affect financial aid. Instead of putting a social security number, you can put 0s on the form.

You can submit the FAFSA in paper or online. If you filed taxes online, the FAFSA online is much easier. FAFSA can take the tax information that was sent to the IRS to help complete the application.

Undocumented students can still fill out the FAFSA. If you are applying to college as an undocumented student, contact the individual college about opportunities for financial aid. Look up organizations that give scholarships to undocumented students.