

FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID

FAFSA is the free application for federal student aid—and it's basically a form filled out by current and prospective college students to determine their eligibility for financial aid primarily at the federal level—but it's also used to determine whether the state government, a college or university, or an outside organization may award you financial aid or scholarships.

This FREE application opens every year on October 1st. Every eligible 12th-grade student seeking financial assistance for college must file an application and use income and tax information from the previous year.

- For example, a 12th-grade student [during the 2022-23 academic year] can apply starting on October 1st, 2022 until their state's or college's deadline—using tax information from 2021—requesting financial aid for the 2023-2024 academic year during their first year in college.

Aid that can be awarded to eligible students consists of:

- The Federal Pell Grant and other grants like; the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity (FSEQ) Grant, Iraq, and Afghanistan Service Grant, the Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grants
- Direct Subsidized Loans, Direct Unsubsidized Loans, and potentially, Direct PLUS Loans
- Federal Work-Study

Resources:

- [Creating and Using the FSA ID](#)
- [Do I Have to Provide My Parents' Information on the FAFSA® Form?](#)
- [Who Is My "Parent" When I Fill Out the FAFSA® Form?](#)
- [Financial Aid and Undocumented Students](#)
- [Tip Sheet for Refugee and Asylee Students](#)
- [Federal Student Aid and Homeless Youth](#)
- [Students in Unique Situations: Tips for Completing the 2022-23 FAFSA®](#)
- [Students with Divorced or Separated Parents](#)

*This section focuses on the financial aid programs offered by the US federal government. This is not the only form of financial assistance you may be eligible for to cover the total cost of attendance at the colleges or universities on your particular list of institutions. Please make sure to visit the "State Resource," "Searching for Scholarships," or "Resources for Immigrant Students" sections for quick access to information regarding financial aid programs in your respective state or opportunities provided by private scholarship providers.