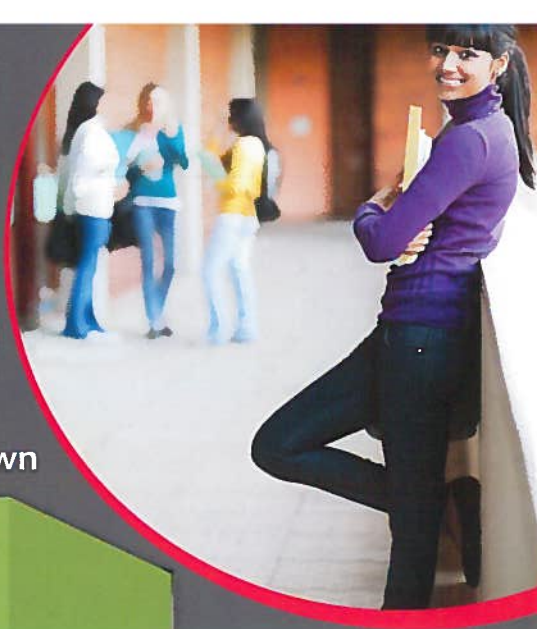


FAFSA Facts

A college education is an investment in your future. Fortunately, financial aid is available to help manage the cost. One of the most important steps you can take to find grants, scholarships and low-cost loans is completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

These handy tips will help you complete the FAFSA and start down the road to success!



Complete the FAFSA as soon as possible after **January 1** every year to meet school and state deadlines.

Apply for your Personal Identification Number (PIN) before you complete the FAFSA. You can request one at PIN.ed.gov.

Visit FAFSA.gov to complete the application online and receive step-by-step instructions. You can also request a paper copy by contacting the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-4-FED-AID.

Hit the 'Save' button often. Always use the 'Next' and 'Previous' buttons on the site. Never use the 'Back' button on your browser or you may lose your information.

If you have a question while completing the FAFSA online, you can view the 'Help and Hints' box on the right-hand side of each screen to get answers.

Include information about your parents' income when completing the FAFSA. If you have a special situation, you should contact your school's financial aid office.

Because FAFSA.gov is a secure site, your information is encrypted for privacy.

Don't forget to apply for your PIN!

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Determine your dependency status with UCanGo2's Dependency Questionnaire available in the resources section at StartWithFAFSA.org

IRS data can be electronically transferred directly to your online FAFSA application.

If you answer "yes" to any dependency status question, you'll be considered an independent student. If all questions are answered "no," you'll be considered dependent.

If you're a dependent student applying for aid, your parents' marital status will affect your application. Use the 'Help and Hints' tool at FAFSA.gov to accurately report this information.

The FAFSA uses a larger percentage of student income and assets when determining your Expected Family Contribution (EFC), so it's best to keep all savings accounts in your parents' names.

You should receive a copy of the SAR (Student Aid Report) after submitting your FAFSA. Remember to review the SAR for accuracy.

Males must be registered with Selective Service to receive federal financial aid. Even if you're not 18 yet, you can still register on your FAFSA.

Even if you think you won't qualify for aid, fill out the FAFSA anyway! Income is only one of the factors considered and nearly everyone qualifies for some type of financial aid.

All school codes are listed on the official FAFSA website, FAFSA.gov.

Never pay to complete the FAFSA - the first letter in FAFSA stands for FREE!

Visit StartWithFAFSA.org to find FAFSA completion video tutorials, available in English and Spanish.

