So you've applied to college...
NOW WHAT?

SAVE YOUR LOGIN INFORMATION

Write down and put the username and password you used for each school and put in a safe space. You can usually check the status of your application by signing back in to the account you used for your application. This is also good to know in case you need to go back and submit any other information.

SEND OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS

You will need to send an official transcript to each school you apply to. The fee is $5 per transcript.

Instructions for sending Official and Unofficial Transcripts can be found "Guidance - Seniors Group" in Schoology

SEND OFFICAL ACT SCORES

The ACT allows you to pick 4 schools to send your scores to free of charge each time you take the test. If you apply to a school that was not included in the 4 schools you selected to send for free from the ACT, you will need to login to the ACT and get your scores sent to that school. You will need to do this for each school that was not one of the 4 free schools the ACT sends your scores to.

FILL OUT THE FAFSA

Go to FAFSA.gov.
Create a FSA I.D.
Apply for Financial Aid.
*It is very helpful to do this with your parents/guardians.

SEARCH FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Here are some great websites for scholarships:
jlvcollegecounseling.com
potentialmagazine.com
achievealabama.org

Need Money to Help Pay for College?
You're Not Alone.

Filling out the FAFSA® form is the first step to getting financial aid. It is the application required by all schools in awarding federal student aid to those who qualify. The FAFSA form helps you get access to get:

- Federal grants
- Federal student loans
- Federal work-study
- State loans
- State grants and scholarships
- Grants and scholarships from other organizations

To make it easier, there are two ways designed to help you complete your FAFSA form:

1. Download the myStudentAid app (available on iOS and Android) and conveniently fill it out on a mobile device

2. Or visit fafsa.gov to complete the FAFSA form on your mobile device or laptop

Fill out the FAFSA form **October 1st!**

Download on the App Store   Google play

Creating and Using the FSA ID

What's an FSA ID?

The FSA ID is a username and password you use to log in to U.S. Department of Education (ED) online systems. The FSA ID is your legal signature and shouldn't be created or used by anyone other than you—not even your parent, your child, a school official, or a loan company representative. You'll use your FSA ID every year you fill out a *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) form and for the lifetime of your federal student loans.

How do I get an FSA ID?

Visit **StudentAid.gov/fsa-id/create-account** to create an FSA ID. You'll need your Social Security number, full name, and date of birth. You'll also need to create a memorable username and password, and complete challenge questions and answers so you can retrieve your account information if you forget it.

You'll be required to provide either your email address or your mobile phone number when you make your FSA ID. Providing a mobile phone number and/or email address that you have access to will make it easier to log in to ED online systems and allow additional account recovery options.

Important: A Social Security number, email address, and mobile phone number can only be associated with one FSA ID. If you share an email address with someone else, then only one of you will be able to use that email address to create an FSA ID.

FSA ID Tips

- If you need to provide information about your parents on the FAFSA® form, one of your parents will need an FSA ID to sign the form. Your parent can create an FSA ID and then sign the FAFSA form electronically using that FSA ID. Not sure whether you'll need to put your parents' information on the FAFSA form? Check out **StudentAid.gov/dependency**. **Remember**: You should create your own FSA ID, and your parent should create his or her own FSA ID. Also, make sure to use the correct FSA ID when signing the FAFSA form electronically.

- When you first create your FSA ID, the use of your FSA ID will be restricted to completing, signing, and submitting an original (first-time) FAFSA form. You'll have to wait one to three days for your information to be confirmed by the Social Security Administration (SSA) before you can use your FSA ID for other actions, such as submitting a FAFSA Renewal or signing a *Master Promissory Note*. If you provided an email address, then you'll receive an email letting you know that your information was successfully matched with the SSA and you can begin using your FSA ID.

- If you forget your FSA ID username or password, look for the "Forgot My Username" and "Forgot My Password," links on log-in pages. These links will direct you to web pages where you can request a secure code to be texted to your verified mobile phone number or emailed to your verified email address. The secure code will allow you to retrieve your username or reset your password. You can also retrieve your username or reset your password by successfully answering your challenge questions. **Remember**: If you verified your email address or mobile phone number during account creation, you can enter your email address or mobile phone number instead of your username to log in.

Learn more about how you can use your FSA ID at **StudentAid.gov/help-center/answers/article/how-can-i-use-my-fsa-id-username-and-password**. Find this fact sheet at **StudentAid.gov/resources#fsaid**.

March 2020

Federal Student Aid: Find the Information You Need

Financial aid is a complicated topic, so finding your way through the process can be challenging. But we've got resources to help.

Topic	Resource
FAFSA® Process	
Fill out the FAFSA® form	fafsa.gov
Info on filling out the FAFSA form	StudentAid.gov/fillingout
FSA ID (username and password for the FAFSA form)	StudentAid.gov/fsa-id/create-account
Dependency status for FAFSA purposes	StudentAid.gov/dependency
Determining which parent's info to report on the FAFSA form	StudentAid.gov/fafsa-parent
How aid is calculated (including link to detailed Expected Family Contribution info)	StudentAid.gov/how-calculated
Types of Aid/Getting Aid	
Types of financial aid	StudentAid.gov/types
Who can get federal student aid	StudentAid.gov/eligibility
Pell Lifetime Eligibility Used	StudentAid.gov/pell-limit
Finding and applying for scholarships	StudentAid.gov/scholarships
Loan interest rates and fees	StudentAid.gov/interest
Aid for military families	StudentAid.gov/military
Avoiding financial aid scams	StudentAid.gov/scams
Student Account Access	
"My Aid" (log in to see grant and loan records)	StudentAid.gov/login
Repaying Loans	
Manage loans	StudentAid.gov/repay
Loan Simulator (helps you compare repayment plans)	StudentAid.gov/loan-simulator
Income-driven repayment plans (e.g., Pay As You Earn plan)	StudentAid.gov/idr
Public Service Loan Forgiveness	StudentAid.gov/publicservice
Loan forgiveness in general	StudentAid.gov/forgiveness
Loan forgiveness for teachers	StudentAid.gov/teach-forgive
Preparing for College	
College Preparation Checklist: academic and financial preparation for elementary school through adult students	StudentAid.gov/checklist
Middle school preparation	StudentAid.gov/early
Special Audiences	
Info for parents (tax benefits, support your child, college costs)	StudentAid.gov/parent
Graduate school funding	StudentAid.gov/grad
Financial aid for adult students	StudentAid.gov/adultstudent
Non-U.S. citizen eligibility	StudentAid.gov/noncitizen
Going to college in another country	StudentAid.gov/international
Publications, Videos, Infographics	
Fact sheets, infographics, brochures, videos on all topics	StudentAid.gov/resources
Social Media	
@FAFSA Twitter feed	Twitter.com/FAFSA
Federal Student Aid YouTube channel	YouTube.com/FederalStudentAid
Federal Student Aid Facebook page	Facebook.com/FederalStudentAid

Still have questions? Call the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243; TTY for the deaf or hard of hearing 1-800-730-8913).

June 2020

cash for College

How to Create an FSA ID

1. Go to fsaid.ed.gov

2. Enter in your email address: _____
   - **Do not use your school email**
   - **Do not opt out of verifying your email address.**
   - **Email yourself the FSA ID that you created; put "FAFSA" as the subject line.**

3. Create username _____ and password _____

4. Select continue and choose your recovery questions
   - **Select questions with answers that will not change**

Question:

Answer:

Question:

Answer:

Question:

Answer:

Question:

Answer:

cash for College

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4.   Select continue and choose your recovery questions
     - **Select questions with answers that will not change**

Question:

Answer:

Question:

Answer:

Question:

Answer:

Question:

Answer:

So you submitted the FAFSA.... What's Next?

1. Check your email for your Student Aid Report.
The Student Aid Report is a summary of your FAFSA data and will arrive between 3 days and 3 weeks after you submit the FAFSA. Check the report for accuracy. If you need to make a correction, the quickest way is online through your account at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

2. Check if the Student Aid Report states that you have been selected for Verification.
Verification is a process that colleges use to confirm that the data reported on your FAFSA is accurate. It does not mean that you are in trouble. Verification is sometimes random or mandated by schools. If you were unable to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool to report your income, you are highly likely to be selected. You can see if you have been selected if there is an asterisk (*) next to your Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) amount. You may also be notified by a college's financial aid office. Please see the next page for more information about verification.

3. Consider if your FAFSA does not accurately reflect your current financial situation.
The FAFSA requires prior-prior year tax information which may not reflect changes your family has experienced such as job loss, decreased work hours, or divorce/separation. You can contact the college's financial aid office to request they make adjustments to the reported income and they will advise you about the type of documentation they need.
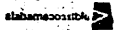
4. Make sure you are not missing any colleges.
If you are applying to more than 10 colleges, you will need to add any additional schools to the FAFSA online after you submit it to ensure they receive your request for aid. Also make sure you have applied for admission to all of the colleges you listed on your FAFSA. If your admission file is not complete with a college, your financial aid will not be released. Check with your college's admission office to confirm that you have completed all admission steps.

5. Communicate with the colleges' financial aid offices.
The financial aid offices of the colleges you added to the FAFSA will be in contact with you through email and your college student portal. Check your email frequently and respond to requests for changes to your FAFSA or submitting additional documents.

6. Consider your Financial Aid Award Offers.
Each college you applied to for admission and aid will notify you of how much aid you have been awarded. Be sure to understand the aid being offered, such as grants versus loans that you need to pay back. Decide what aid you really need and respond to the school's offer by their deadline. Learn more about the different types of aid at https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/next-steps/accept-aid.

What You Need to Know If Selected for Verification

1. You will be notified if flagged for verification when receiving the Student Aid Report (SAR) OR through a letter received from the college/university.

2. Follow the instructions to provide the documentation requested. Every college will have their own verification process and paperwork.

3. Submit all documentation as soon as possible. Verification can be a lengthy process (7 - 10 days) and delays processing your financial aid. It's important to follow up immediately!

4. You most likely need to submit a **Tax Transcript**. You can order it for free from the IRS at https://www.irs.gov/individuals/get-transcript.

5. You need to follow up with EACH financial aid office at each college.

6. Don't be afraid to ask for help!! A financial aid officer's role is to help students complete the verification process.

7. When you call a financial aid office, make sure you have a **pen and paper**. A financial aid officer may give you specific instructions or information that could be hard to memorize!