



The FAFSA

The best place to begin looking for Financial Aid is with the Free Application for Student Aid, the FAFSA! (you will not be eligible for school, state or federal aid if you do not file a FAFSA).

The federal government is the largest provider of financial aid. Most financial aid (including scholarships) requires you and your family to complete the FAFSA. This process is commonly used to determine the amount a family can afford to pay for college. *You and your family should complete the FAFSA even if you think you are not eligible for need-based financial aid.* Your school will need the results of your FAFSA to determine if you qualify for loans, grants, and scholarships. Awards from these programs may be combined in an "award package" to meet the cost of education—and Award Letter will be sent to you from your school after your FAFSA application is processed.

The deadline for completing and returning the FAFSA form is March 10th! Financial aid is generally awarded on a first come, first serve basis, so it is important to complete it and submit it as close to January 1st as possible.

The best and fastest way to submit the FAFSA form is to do so on-line at www.fafsa.ed.gov. However, before you begin, you will need to register for a pin number at www.pin.ed.gov. If you cannot file on-line, the Counseling Office will have paper forms available soon.

To complete the FAFSA you will need to:

- **Gather the documents you need** Start with your Social Security Number, driver's license, income tax return, bank statements and investment records. You will need all of this information from your parents too.
- **Print a FAFSA on the Web Worksheet (<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/fafsaws67c.pdf>)** Write in your answers and gather your parent's information then transfer the data to FAFSA on the Web.
- **Plan how to sign your FAFSA** Sign electronically with a U.S. Department of Education Personal Identification Number (PIN) or by mailing in a signature page.
- **Apply for a PIN now!** Speed up the process by signing your FAFSA electronically with your PIN. Your parent can sign electronically too.
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- Complete the FAFSA as close to Jan. 1 as possible.

Need Help? Visit: www.studentaid.ed.gov/completefafsa or come see us!