

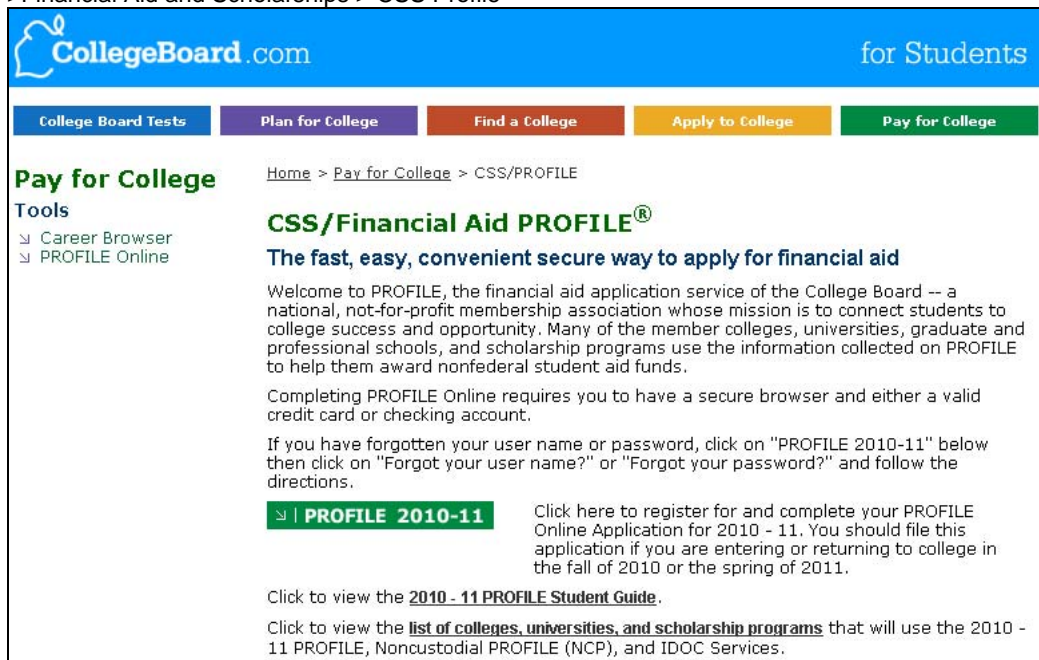
CSS Profile

From the CollegeBoard website:

<http://www.collegeboard.com/student/pay/scholarships-and-aid/8374.html>

Live links on this page are also found on our school website: pvhigh.com

>Financial Aid and Scholarships > CSS Profile



The screenshot shows the CollegeBoard.com website interface. At the top, there is a blue navigation bar with the CollegeBoard logo and the text "for Students". Below this is a horizontal menu with five buttons: "College Board Tests", "Plan for College", "Find a College", "Apply to College", and "Pay for College". The "Pay for College" button is highlighted in green. Below the menu, the page title is "Pay for College" and the breadcrumb trail is "Home > Pay for College > CSS/PROFILE". The main heading is "CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE®" with the tagline "The fast, easy, convenient secure way to apply for financial aid". The text describes PROFILE as a financial aid application service of the College Board, a national, not-for-profit membership association. It mentions that many member colleges, universities, graduate and professional schools, and scholarship programs use the information collected on PROFILE to help them award nonfederal student aid funds. It also states that completing PROFILE Online requires a secure browser and either a valid credit card or checking account. There is a link to "PROFILE 2010-11" and a note that users should file this application if they are entering or returning to college in the fall of 2010 or the spring of 2011. At the bottom, there are two links: "Click to view the 2010 - 11 PROFILE Student Guide." and "Click to view the list of colleges, universities, and scholarship programs that will use the 2010 - 11 PROFILE, Noncustodial PROFILE (NCP), and IDOC Services."

The PROFILE Process

CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE® is the financial aid application service of the College Board. More than 600 private colleges, universities, graduate and professional schools, and scholarship programs use the information collected on the PROFILE to determine eligibility for nonfederal student aid funds. The PROFILE is a fully Web-based application system that provides students a secure and efficient method for reporting their financial data to schools.

How to Register

PROFILE applications are customized for each student, based on information you supply during registration. Customization allows the PROFILE to respond to the unique needs of each applicant and provides a streamlined application process, by asking only the questions that pertain to you, your family, and your financial situation. Register at: <https://profileonline.collegeboard.com/prf/index.jsp> available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Registration requires a College Board online account.

When to Register

You should register for PROFILE as soon as you're sure about where you are applying for aid. This should be—at the minimum—at least two weeks before the

earliest college or scholarship program priority filing date you need to meet. The priority filing date is the date by which the college or program tells you that you must have submitted a completed PROFILE Application.

How Much Does It Cost?

You are charged an application fee of \$9, plus \$16 for each college or scholarship program to which you want information sent. A limited number of fee waivers are granted automatically to first-year, first-time citizen, or eligible non-citizen applicants from low-income families, based on the financial information provided on the PROFILE.

Completing the PROFILE

Once you register online, your personalized PROFILE application is available to complete. You can choose to complete the application immediately or return to it a later time. A customized preapplication worksheet can be printed after the registration process. This worksheet helps you review your application questions in advance and contains important information to assist you. What you can expect in the PROFILE application:

- Customized application questions about income, assets, and expenses tailored to your unique family and financial circumstances
- Supplemental questions required by one or more of your colleges or scholarship programs (if applicable)
- An easy to navigate system that provides a unique Help code for each question. Just click on the "?"
- An online Noncustodial PROFILE that must be completed by your noncustodial parent (if applicable)

PROFILE Online Features

Flexibility: 24/7 access to the application. Start, resume, and submit the application any time.

Support: Online help is available (PROFILE customer service hours listed below) and extensive FAQs.

Speed: Colleges and scholarship programs request to receive your information via a paper report or electronically. Paper reports are sent within one week. Electronic data is sent according to the schedule requested. Make sure you submit the PROFILE in time to meet important institutional deadlines.

Accuracy: Using online edits, we will alert you about missing or incorrect information before submitting your application for processing. This step ensures that only accurate and complete applications are forwarded to schools for review.

Security: Information is stored in a secure environment with firewall protection. All data that passes between your computer and the College Board, including your personal and payment information, is data encrypted.

Tips for Completing the PROFILE

- Make sure you apply on time! Review the priority filing dates for all recipients to ensure the application arrives on time. Remember, colleges use PROFILE information to determine who gets limited grant dollars. Late filers must make do with what is left over and may lose eligibility altogether.
- Have your tax returns and financial documents handy. Ideally, you'll have already completed your tax return for the most recent tax year.
- You should leave plenty of time to fill out the form. Don't assume the entire application can be completed in one session. We recommend you start at least one week before intending to complete the form.
- Save time by using the preapplication worksheet.

What Happens After You Apply?

You print the acknowledgment, which includes the data you entered on your application and your college list. The acknowledgment can be used to make changes to the PROFILE information, and gives you information about the next steps in the process.

PROFILE data is analyzed and reported back to the colleges and scholarship programs. They then apply their own need analysis formulas to determine your family's ability to pay for education costs. Many PROFILE colleges use a need analysis formula developed by the College Board, known as the Institutional Methodology (IM), which helps schools target their funds to families in an equitable way.

The colleges on your list receive a *Financial Need Analysis Report* which the aid office uses to determine award eligibility. If you send the aid office supplemental information, that will be considered in addition to the PROFILE data, when considering your eligibility for funds.

Getting Help

- Call PROFILE customer service at (305) 829-9793 / TTY (800) 915-9990
- Email questions about PROFILE to help@cssprofile.org.

PROFILE Customer Service Hours

January–April: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Eastern Time
May–December: Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Eastern Time