

FAFSA – Free Application for Federal Student Aid

Colleges use the FAFSA to determine individual need. After the FAFSA is submitted, a Student Aid Report (SAR) is compiled based on the application information. Individual colleges will use the SAR and Expected Family Contribution (EFC) number to determine the amount of financial aid needed. Please check with each individual college's Office of Financial Aid for their programs and deadlines, as they will differ.

The U.S. Department of Education Federal Student Aid program administers the FAFSA. Always make sure you are on the government site: www.fafsa.ed.gov There are many "for-profit" companies that will charge you a fee to fill out the FAFSA for you. The FAFSA is the FREE Application for Federal Student Aid. Always know your sources when you are submitting private and personal financial information.

FAFSA provides a checklist of items you will need to complete the application:

You will need records of income earned in the year prior to when you will start school. **You may also need records of your parents' income information if you are a dependent student.**

For the 2010-2011 school year you will need financial information from 2009. You will need to refer to:

- Your Social Security Number. Be sure it is correct!
- Your driver's license (if any)
- Your 2009 W-2 Forms and other records of money earned
Your (and your spouse's, if you are married) 2009 Federal Income Tax Return.
 - IRS 1040, 1040A, 1040 EZ
- Foreign Tax Return, or
 - Tax Return for Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Marshall Islands, the Federal States of Micronesia, or Palau
- Your Parents' 2009 Federal Income Tax Return (if you are a dependent student)
Your 2009 untaxed income records
 - Veterans noneducation benefit records
 - Child support received
 - Worker's compensation
- Your current bank statements
- Your current business and investment mortgage information, business and farm records, stock, bond and other investment records
- Your alien registration or permanent resident card (if you are not a U.S. citizen)

To organize your information, print and complete a FAFSA on the Web Worksheet before you begin entering your information online.

Keep these records! You may need them again. Do not mail your records to Federal Student Aid.



FAFSA provides a worksheet on their website to assist you before filling out the application:

<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/before012.htm>



If you would like an early estimate of your FAFSA eligibility, the U.S. Department of Education provides a “FAFSA 4caster”:

<http://www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov/F4CApp/index/index.jsf>

This feature also allows you to transfer your information to the actual application and apply for your personal identification number (PIN).