

SECTION TWELVE

Financial Aid and Scholarships

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Financial Aid in a Nutshell

The financial aid process can be intimidating, especially because it involved forms, tax returns and reporting personal financial information. Financial aid should not be confused with scholarships. According to the website FinAid, the difference is as follows:

Financial Aid

Money provided to the student and the family to help them pay for the student's education or which is conditioned on the student's attendance at an educational institution. Major forms of financial aid include gift aid (grants and scholarships) and self-help aid (loans and work).

Scholarship

A form of financial aid given to undergraduate students to help pay for their education. Most scholarships are restricted to paying all or part of tuition expenses, though some scholarships also cover room and board. Scholarships are a form of gift aid and do not have to be repaid. Many scholarships are restricted to students in specific courses of study or with academic, athletic or artistic talent.

College Financial Aid offices are always available to help and are quick to remind parents and students that financial aid is always free. In other words, you should not be asked to pay fees to file forms. Do not confuse private companies who charge a fee to fill out your forms with government websites for the financial aid form known as the FAFSA: Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

This is the official website: <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>

If you are confused by financial aid, there are resources on our school website to explain it. www.pvhigh.com click: **CCC > Financial Aid/Scholarships > General Information.**

Here you will find live links to:



Applying for Financial Aid in 7 Easy Steps: a downloadable pamphlet published by NACAC: National Association for College Admission Counseling.



Financial Aid Quick Reference Guide: an easy to use guide published for students at Charles Drew University, reprinted with their permission.



United States Department of Education Student Guide to Federal Student Aid. This is the official website and guidebook for federal student aid programs. A 64 page booklet may be viewed or downloaded from the U.S. Dept. of Education.

If the terminology of financial aid is confusing, there are two helpful glossaries also with live links on our school website to decode the language of financial aid from:



and



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 header with the CollegeBoard logo and the text "for Students". Below the header is a navigation bar 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 navigation bar, the page title is "Pay for College" and the breadcrumb trail is "Home > Pay for College > CSS/PROFILE". The main content area is titled "CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE®" and includes the following text: "The fast, easy, convenient secure way to apply for financial aid". Below this, there is a welcome message: "Welcome to PROFILE, the financial aid application service of the College Board -- a national, not-for-profit membership association whose mission is to connect students to college success and opportunity. Many of the member colleges, universities, graduate and professional schools, and scholarship programs use the information collected on PROFILE to help them award nonfederal student aid funds." This is followed by instructions: "Completing PROFILE Online requires you to have a secure browser and either a valid credit card or checking account." and "If you have forgotten your user name or password, click on 'PROFILE 2010-11' below then click on 'Forgot your user name?' or 'Forgot your password?' and follow the directions." There is a green button labeled "PROFILE 2010-11" with a right-pointing arrow. To the right of this button, there is a link: "Click here to register for and complete your PROFILE Online Application for 2010 - 11. You should file this application if you are entering or returning to college in the fall of 2010 or the spring of 2011." Below this, there are two more 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

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).

Cal Grants



Cal Grants are state funded monetary grants administered by the California Student Aid Commission. The grant is an award that does not require repayment, however, it must be used at a qualifying California college, university or career or technical school. Awarding of a Cal Grant is based on need.

To apply for a Cal Grant:
FAFSA + Your GPA Verification = Cal Grant Application

Deadline is March 2.

For more information, go to: www.calgrants.org or www.csac.ca.gov

HOW TO APPLY - Information & form (from www.calgrants.org)

1 GETTING READY

Taking care of the details now will make it easier to apply for a Cal Grant by the deadline.

- Get an e-mail address if you don't have one. Make sure your e-mail address is current and entered correctly on your FAFSA and the resulting Student Aid Report (SAR), and don't let your inbox get full. Remember to check your bulk or junk mail folder before logging off.
- Find out how your school will submit your verified Cal Grant GPA. Start the process early to get your GPA submitted by March 2nd.
- If your school does not submit your GPA for you, you must fill out a paper [GPA Verification form](#) that the school can sign. Don't forget to mail the form after both you and your school sign it.
- Get a [PIN](#), a personal identification number that lets you e-sign the FAFSA. If you're a dependent student, ask one of your parents to get a PIN so they can sign your FAFSA.
- Use this [checklist](#) to gather all your documents in preparation for filling out your FAFSA. Then complete the [FAFSA on the Web worksheet](#) to make it easier to complete the online FAFSA.

2 APPLY

Determine how you will apply – online or on paper. Provide an e-mail address for a fast response.

Submit the two forms (FAFSA + GPA) for a Cal Grant by the March 2 deadline.

- Starting January 1, file your [FAFSA](#) online. You can also download a PDF version of the FAFSA or call toll free 800-4FED-AID (800-433-3243) to have a paper FAFSA sent to you.
- Submit [your verified GPA](#) form.

For help, go to:

- Your High School Counselor
 - Your Financial Aid Office at College or Career Technical School
 - A [California Cash for College Workshop](#) where you could cash in on a \$1,000 scholarship
- If you have any questions, e-mail them to studentsupport@csac.ca.gov or call 888-CA-GRANT (888-224-7268)

3 TRACK IT

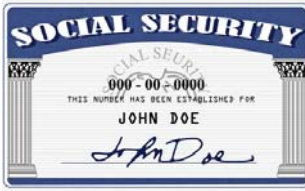
Now that you've applied, check the status of your applications.

- To check out the status of your Cal Grant, set up your [WebGrants for Students](#) account to access your information 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- If you submit your FAFSA online and provide an e-mail address, you may receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) within 72 hours. The FAFSA paper process takes a few weeks. Be sure to review your SAR right away for accuracy and follow the instructions to make corrections. You can check your SAR or make corrections [online](#) using your PIN.

Financial Aid Timeline and Checklist

Senior Year:

Make sure you have a Social Security number. You will need one to file for financial aid.



September:

If intend to submit and Early Action or Early Decision college application, check with the college Financial Aid office for their deadlines.

October:

If you are applying to a private school, check to see if they require the CSS Profile. A list of these colleges and the application is found on their website
<https://profileonline.collegeboard.com/prf/index.jsp>

The CSS Profile is available October 1st. Check with each college Financial Aid Office for specific requirements and deadlines. There is an initial application fee and an additional fee for each report sent to colleges.

The screenshot shows the CollegeBoard.com website interface for students. At the top, there is a blue header with the CollegeBoard logo and the text 'CollegeBoard.com for Students'. Below the header is a navigation bar 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 navigation bar, the page title is 'Pay for College' and the breadcrumb trail is 'Home > Pay for College > CSS/PROFILE'. The main content area is titled 'CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE' and includes a sub-heading 'The fast, easy, convenient secure way to apply for financial aid'. The text describes the PROFILE service as a national, not-for-profit membership association that connects students to college success and opportunity. 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. The page 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: one to view the '2010 - 11 PROFILE Student Guide' and another to view the 'list of colleges, universities, and scholarship programs' that will use the 2010 - 11 PROFILE, Noncustodial PROFILE (NCP), and IDOC Services.

November

Attend Financial Aid Information Night at PVHS for an understanding of terms, Process and the financial aid timeline.

December:

Request your PIN (Personal Identification Number) for the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)
<http://www.pin.ed.gov/PINWebApp/pinindex.jsp>

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Federal Student Aid PIN Web site. At the top left is the U.S. Department of Education logo with the slogan "START HERE GO FURTHER FEDERAL STUDENT AID". To the right is the text "Federal Student Aid PIN". Below this is a navigation bar with links: "PIN Home", "Help", "Contact Us", "FAQs", and "About Us". On the right side, there are language options: "English | Español". A left-hand menu lists various actions: "Apply For A PIN", "Check PIN Status", "Request A Duplicate PIN", "Access My PIN E-mail", "Change My PIN", "Update My Personal Information", "Disable My PIN", "Reestablish My PIN", and "Activate My PIN". Below the menu are "Helpful Links" including "Student Aid on the Web", "Links to Federal Student Aid Electronic Services", and "FAFSA on the Web". The main content area features a large heading "Welcome to the Federal Student Aid PIN Web site" with a graphic of blue dots. Below the heading is a paragraph: "This Web site is your source of information for the Federal Student Aid PIN. Your PIN can be used each year to electronically apply for federal student aid and to access your Federal Student Aid records online. If you receive a PIN, you agree not to share it with anyone. Your PIN serves as your electronic signature and provides access to your personal records, so you should never give your PIN to anyone, including commercial services that offer to help you complete your FAFSA. Be sure to keep your PIN in a safe place." To the right of this text is a blue box titled "Apply For A PIN" containing the text: "The PIN Application is for students and parents who want to apply for a Federal Student Aid PIN." and a button labeled "APPLY NOW".

Parents should gather your tax information and prepare to complete your taxes early. This will help in filling out the FAFSA as information requested is based on your current income tax information.



If you intend to apply for a Cal Grant, talk to your counselor about submitting your verified Cal Grant GPA to the California Student Aid Commission. This must be done along with the FAFSA by March 2.

January:



Obtain the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) Available January 1st.
<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>

START HERE GO FURTHER
FEDERAL STUDENT AID

FAFSA
Free Application for Federal Student Aid

FAFSA Home Student Aid on the Web Application Deadlines PIN Site Help Contact Us FAQs Site Map About Us

English | Español

Federal Student Aid FAFSA

We have simplified the process of filling out the FAFSA. You can follow each section all of the way through for a comprehensive set of instructions.

- 1 Before Beginning a FAFSA**

Get organized!
To simplify the application process, gather required documents and other information ahead of time.

 - [Determine Your Dependency Status](#)
 - [FAFSA on the Web Worksheet](#)
 - [Search for School Codes](#)
 - [Students & Parents Apply For a PIN](#)
 - [Check Application Deadline Dates](#)
- 2 Filling Out a FAFSA**

Fill out the application!
The FAFSA contains questions that ask about you, your financial information, your school plans, and more.

 - [Fill Out Your FAFSA](#)
 - [Open Your Saved FAFSA or Correction Application](#)
 - [Sign Electronically With Your PIN](#)
- 3 FAFSA Follow-Up**

View your results online!
You can check the status of your application, make corrections to a processed FAFSA, and get other information.

 - [Check Status of a Submitted FAFSA or Print Signature Page](#)
 - [Make Corrections to a Processed FAFSA](#)
 - [Add or Delete a School Code](#)
 - [View and Print Your Student Aid Report](#)

Special Announcements
[Updated information available for the new TEACH grant.](#)

Looking for an early start on the financial aid process?
You can use FAFSA4caster to learn about the financial aid process and get an early estimate of your eligibility for federal student aid.
[Link to FAFSA4caster](#)



Attend the FAFSA Workshop at PV High for help filling out your form. Watch the CCC weekly e-mail bulletin (register your e-mail on Naviance) announcement for the day and time.

February:



Contact the Financial Aid office of colleges and inquire about financial aid programs that might be available to you. Make sure you are aware of any deadlines specific to a particular college.

March:



File your FAFSA and/or Cal Grant Application before the March deadline.

April:

Compare your financial aid awards from colleges that have offered you admission. Contact the College & Career Center if you have any questions.

If you have any questions or concerns about the financial aid offered to you, contact the college – Office of Financial Aid. They are very helpful.

May-June:

Make sure you have completed any financial aid forms requested by the college of your choice. Call the Financial Aid office if you do not receive a confirmation. Never assume.

WUE! The Western Undergraduate Exchange

The Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) is part of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE). All member colleges are located in the western United States.

Colleges that participate in the WUE program offer reduced tuition to students who attend outside of their home state.

Reduced tuition is not automatic and requirements may be specific to each college and college major.

Go to the WUE website: <http://wue.wiche.edu/> to search by state for participating schools.

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) website. The header features the WUE logo and the tagline "College in the West for less". Below the header is a navigation bar with links for "WICHE HOME", "WUE HOME", "WICHE STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAMS", and "STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM STATISTICAL REPORT, 2008-09". The main content area is divided into several sections:

- WUE Online**: A sidebar menu with two options: "SEARCH FOR PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS BY PROGRAM OF STUDY AND GEOGRAPHIC REGION" and "LIST ALL WUE INSTITUTIONS".
- STUDENTS AND PARENTS >>>**: A section featuring a photograph of a student in a graduation cap and gown with two adults, and a link to learn more.
- WUE INSTITUTIONS, COLLEGE ADVISORS, HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELORS >>>**: A section featuring a photograph of a student and two adults looking at a laptop, and a link to learn more.
- THE WESTERN UNDERGRADUATE EXCHANGE (WUE) is a program of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE). Students who are residents of WICHE states are eligible to request a reduced tuition rate of 150% of resident tuition at participating two- and four-year college programs outside of their home state.**
- The WUE reduced tuition rate is not automatically awarded to all eligible candidates. Many institutions limit the number of new WUE awards each academic year, so apply early!**
- WICHE states include: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wyoming.**
- WICHE ICE**: A logo for the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) and the International Commission on Education (ICE).

SCHOLARSHIPS – Show Me The Money!

You've heard the expressions, "Millions of dollars go unawarded each year", but wonder where do I find these scholarships? With a little time and effort, you may be able to find scholarships that fit your personal profile and eligibility. Always remember a scholarship is FREE, never pay a fee.

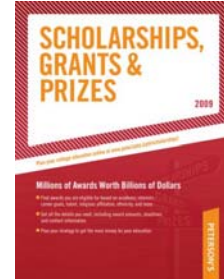
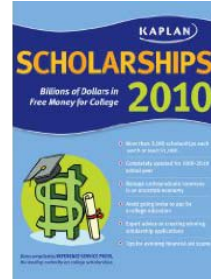
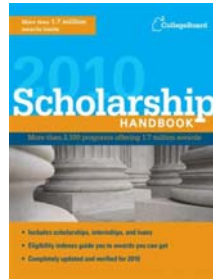
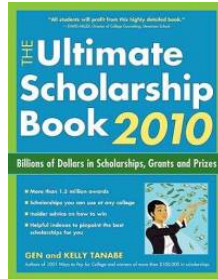
PRIVATE SCHOLARSHIPS

Private scholarships from community foundations, service and fraternal organizations, corporations, independent foundations, research institutes, associations and national membership organizations, community organizations and local donors.

Local and community scholarships are listed on Naviance under the "Colleges" tab. The list is found under "Scholarships and Money" then click on "Scholarship List". Seniors should check this list often as new scholarships are added frequently. Questions should be directed to the Scholarship Coordinator in the College & Career Center.

Scholarships may also be found in many different books published by organizations and businesses such as Kaplan, College Board, Peterson's and individual authors. These books resemble "telephone books" and contain a wealth of information on scholarships offered across the nation. In these directories you may find scholarships for unique interest or characteristics such as milk drinkers, dart throwers, asthmatics, tall people and cultural backgrounds. Grab a pad of post-it flags and start perusing all these directories have to offer. These directories have similar information. Check them out at your local bookstore.

Here are just a few examples:



There are several online website that can assist you in finding scholarships:



http://apps.collegeboard.com/cbsearch_ss/welcome.jsp



<http://www.fastweb.com/college-scholarships>



<http://scholarshipexperts.com>

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

When applying to colleges, consider those who give merit based scholarships, awards based on merit rather than need. Information is found on the college website or by contacting their Office of Financial Aid. Be aware of any early application deadlines in order to be eligible for merit scholarship consideration.