

# Completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

## Basic FAFSA Eligibility

- ✓ Must have a high school diploma or GED
- ✓ Must be enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a regular student working toward a degree or certificate in an eligible program
- ✓ Must be a US citizen or eligible non-citizen
- ✓ Must have a valid social security number or permanent resident number
- ✓ If male, must be registered with the Selective Service, which can be done at <https://www.sss.gov>

## Before Starting

- ✓ Create an **FSA ID** at [fsaid.ed.gov](https://fsaid.ed.gov) (both you and your parents must have your own)
- ✓ Gather the following information from you and your parents: tax returns or estimates, social security numbers, dates of birth, bank statements, and investment records

## Steps to Filing Your FAFSA

1. Start at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov), click “Start a New FAFSA”, remember: FAFSA is FREE
2. Login using your FSA ID
3. Choose which FAFSA you would like to complete
4. Enter your personal information
5. Enter your and your parent’s financial information
6. Choose up to 10 colleges to which you would like your FAFSA information sent
7. Sign the document with your FSA ID and your parent’s FSA ID

## What’s Next

- You will receive your Student Aid Report (SAR) within three weeks of submitting your FAFSA, either by email or by mail
- The SAR will tell you how much you should expect to pay for college out-of-pocket, not how much financial aid you might receive
- Over the next few months, you will receive letters that explain what kind of aid you’ve been awarded. These letters come from the colleges that have admitted you.

## FAFSA Notes

- FAFSA is used to determine your Expected Family Contribution (EFC), which determines eligibility for federal and state grants, and loans
- You can use estimated tax information
- Make sure you have the correct Social Security Number
- You can start checking with your colleges three weeks after submitting
- After you have submitted the application, you can go back and make changes

To learn more about financial aid and the FAFSA, visit [studentaid.gov](http://studentaid.gov)