

Paying for College

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Student Financial Assistance

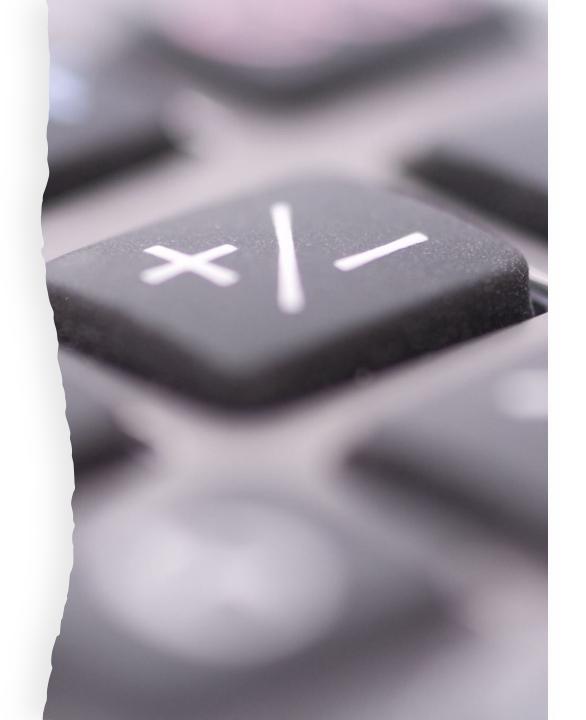
Today's Presentation

- Understanding Financial Aid
- Navigating the Application Process
- Type of Aid Available
- Financial Aid Tips
- Questions



What is Financial Aid

 Funds provided to students to assist with the costs associated with pursuing post secondary education.



What are the sources of Financial Aid?

- Institutional
- State
- Private
- Federal

Key Financial Aid Terms

- FAFSA Free Application for Federal Student Aid www.studentaid.gov
- Student Aid Index- The number computed when the FAFSA is submitted that measures a family's ability to pay
- Cost of Attendance (COA) The budget allotted to a student to based on enrollment, residency and housing status

- Need= COA-SAI
- Prior Prior Year- Financial Information for the FAFSA will use 2 years prior
- Priority Filing Date-Date Established by School for maximum financial aid consideration
- Contributor- Student, Parent or Spouse whose information is being collected on the FAFSA
- Consent-Granting Permission for Federal Tax Information to be Used to Determine Aid Eligibility

What Is Student Aid Index (SAI)?

Number resulting from the evaluation of a student's (and family's) approximate financial resources for a student's postsecondary education

Student contribution

Parent contribution (for dependent students)

What Is Cost of Attendance (COA)?



Tuition and fees



Housing and food



Books and supplies



Transportation



Miscellaneous and personal

What Is Financial Need?

Cost of Attendance (COA)

Student Aid Index (SAI)

Financial need



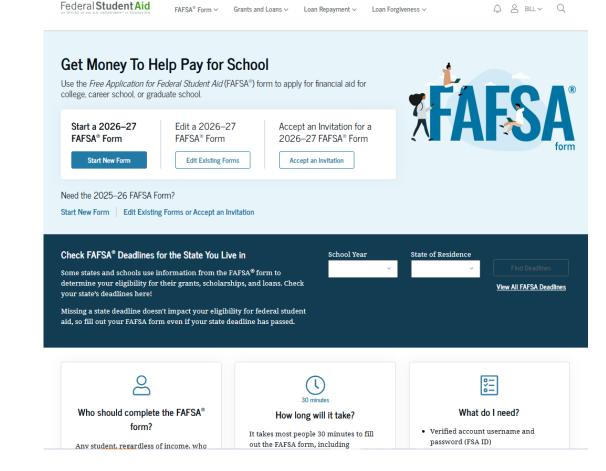
The 2026-2027 FAFSA Becomes

Available on October 1

Check Your School's Priority Filing Date

Completing the FAFSA

- Used to Determine Student Aid Eligibility
- Annual Application
- It can be completed electronically
- www.studentaid.gov
- Student and Parent(s) need FSA ID
- Student and Parental Information will be required in many cases
- Student, Parent or Spouse serve as Contributors on the FAFSA
- The student must invite parents or spouse to contribute in FAFSA process



What Information is Needed to Complete the FAFSA

- Social Security number for contributors
- State-Issued Identification
- · W-2 forms and other records of money earned
- Records of child support received
- Records of taxable earnings from Federal Work-Study or other need-based work programs
- Records of student grant, scholarship and fellowship aid, including AmeriCorps awards, that was included in your (or your parents') adjusted gross income (AGI)
- Current stock, bond, and other investment records
- Current business and farm records
- Current bank statements

Gather the documents you need.

Preparing to Complete the FAFSA

Apply for an FSA ID if you do not have one.

Parents of dependent students should apply for an FSA ID if they do not have one.

Ensure you have information for your contributor(s).

Note important deadline dates.

Obtaining an FSA ID

- An FSA ID is a username and password that you must use to log in to certain U.S. Department of Education (ED) websites.
- Your FSA ID identifies you as someone who has the right to access your own personal information on ED websites such as the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®)* at <u>studentaid.gov</u>.
- If you are a parent of a *dependent student*, you will need your own FSA ID if you want to sign your child's FAFSA electronically. *Each FSA ID user must have a unique e-mail address.
- Your FSA ID is used to sign legally binding documents electronically.
- Don't give your FSA ID to anyone—not even to someone helping you fill out the FAFSA.

Create an Account

Whether you're a student, parent, or borrower, you'll need to create your own account to manage the student loan journey.

Get Started

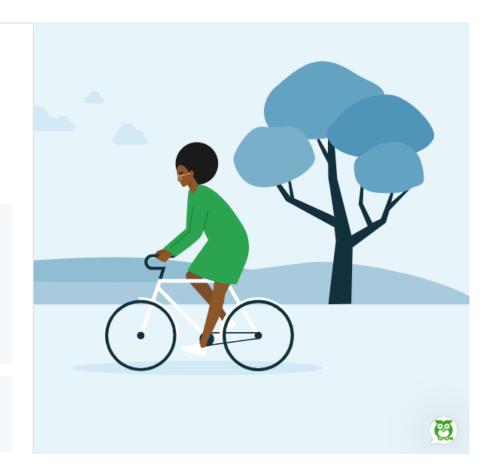
Already have an account? Log In

What You Can Use Your Account For

- Filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFS A^{\otimes}) form
- Signing your Master Promissory Note (MPN)
- · Applying for repayment plans
- Completing loan counseling
- Using the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Help Tool

What You'll Need

- Social Security number
- Your own mobile phone number and/or email address



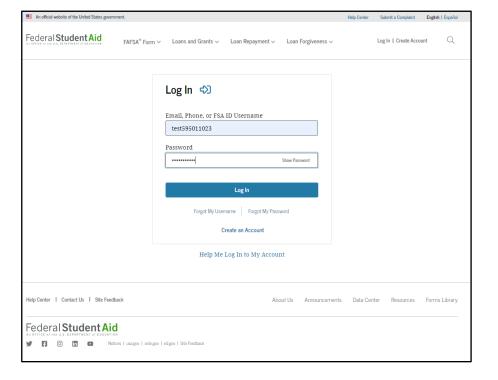
FAFSA INFORMATION

FAFSA Year	Dates Available	Tax Year
2025-2026	December 2024- June 30, 2026	2023
2026-2027	October 1, 2025- June 30, 2027	2024



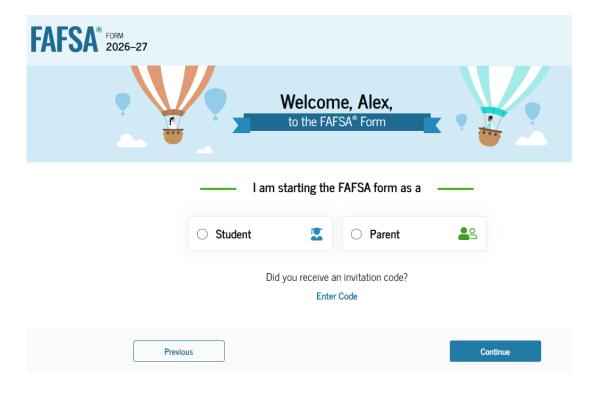
Dependent Student Log In

If the student selects "Start a New Form" from the FAFSA® landing page and they are not logged in to StudentAid.gov, they are taken to the "Log In" page to enter their log-in credentials. To access the FAFSA form, all students are required to have an FSA ID (account username and password). If the student doesn't have an FSA ID, they can select "Create an Account."



Dependent Student Roles

 After logging in, the student can select the applicable role to fill out the FAFSA® form: "Student," or "Parent." The student selects "Student."



Student Information

Identity and contact information

Consent for FTI transfer from IRS

Marital status

College plans

Personal and unusual circumstances

Demographic information

Citizenship status

Parents' education status

Parent killed in line of duty

High school information

Citizenship Question

- Citizenship status. This question cannot be left blank.
- Select the option that indicates your citizenship status.
- You must select the option that indicates your citizenship status.
- Select U.S. citizen if you are a U.S. citizen or U.S. national.
- Select Eligible noncitizen if you are:
 - A U.S. permanent resident, with a Permanent Resident Card (I-551), or a conditional permanent resident with a Conditional Green Card (I-551C)
 - Other eligible noncitizen with an Arrival-Departure Record (I-94) from the Department of Homeland Security showing any one of the following designations: "Refugee," "Asylum Granted," "Parolee" (I-94 confirms that you were paroled for a minimum of one year and status has not expired), T-Visa holder (T-1, T-2, T-3, etc.), or "Cuban-Haitian Entrant"







Understanding the FAFSA® Form

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Contributors to the FAFSA® Form



Parents or Spouses

Your answers on the FAFSA form will determine if any contributors need to be identified. These contributors will complete their own sections of the form and are asked to provide personal and financial information, but will not become financially responsible for your education.



→ How to Invite

Contributors will need to log in with their own FSA ID to provide their information. To invite a contributor to your FAFSA form, you'll need to provide their name, date of birth, Social Security number, and email address.

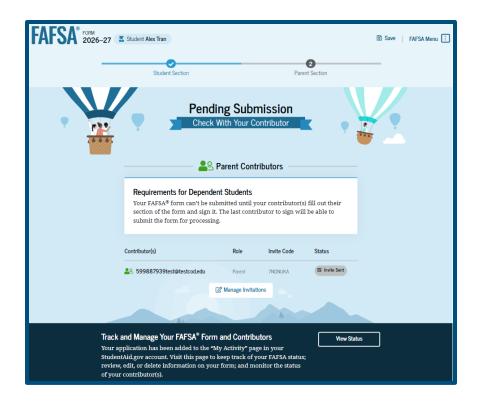
Information or Documents You May Need A

You might need the following information or documents as you fill out the FAFSA form:

- Tax returns
- Records of child support received
- · Current balances of cash, savings, and checking accounts
- Net worth of investments, businesses, and farms

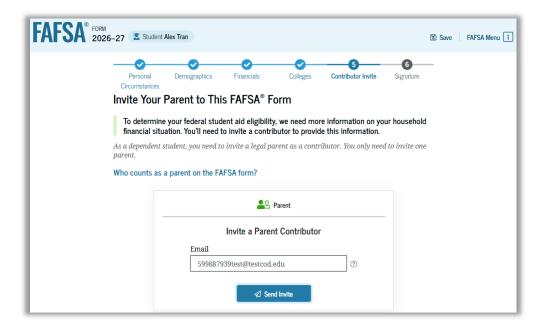
Student Section Completion

- College selection
- Parent invitation
- Review of information
- Signature



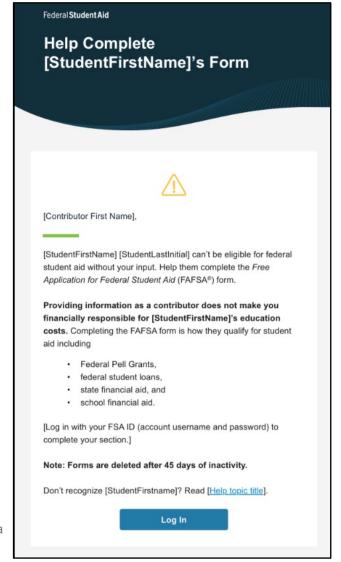
Dependent Student Invites Parents to FAFSA® Form

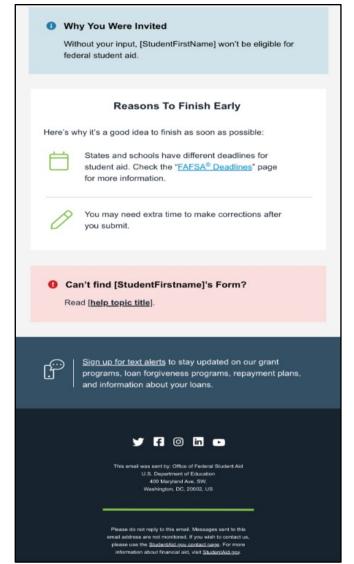
The student is asked to enter personal information about their parents in order to send them an invite to their FAFSA® form.





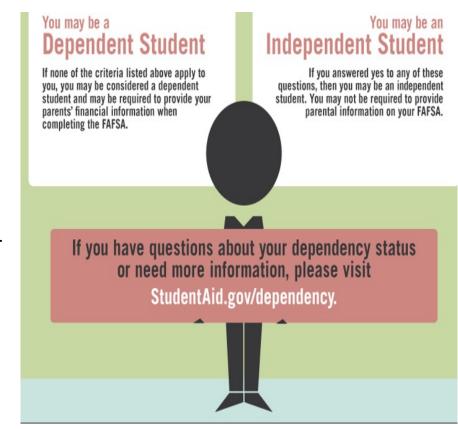
Dependent Student's Parent Email





Dependency Status for Financial Aid Purposes

- 24 Years Old
- Married
- Graduate Student
- Active-Duty Military
- Veteran
- Has dependent(s) who will receive more than half of their support from you...
- Both parents are deceased, Foster Care or Ward of the Court (do any apply since the age of 13)
- Emancipated Minor/Legal Guardianship
- Homeless or Risk for Homelessness





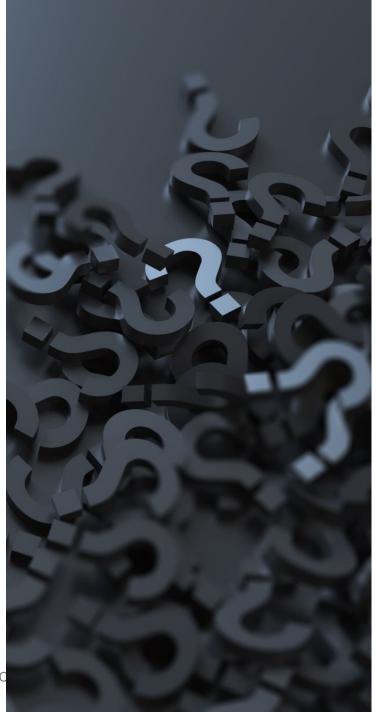
Unusual Circumstances

Unusual Circumstances refer to the conditions that justify an aid administrator making an adjustment to a student's dependency status based on a unique circumstance.

Parent Information

- Identity and contact information
- Consent for FTI transfer from IRS
- Marital status
- State of residence

- Receipt of means-tested federal benefits in the previous two years
- Tax filing status
- Family size and number in college
- Tax return information
- Minimal questions if FTI transferred from IRS
- Assets
- Other parent information



Parental Information Required

- Parents may be biological or adoptive
- Contributing Parent provides most financial support
- If the Contributing Parent is remarried stepparent information is required



Marital Status Questions

Select the answer that describes your marital status as of the day you submit your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). If your marital status has changed or will change since the time the application was initially submitted, check with your college's financial aid office.

"Married or remarried" does not mean living together unless your state of legal residence recognizes the relationship as a common law marriage.

For FAFSA purposes, a married couple is separated if the couple is considered legally separated by a state, or if the couple is legally married but has chosen to live separate lives, including living in separated households, as though they were not married. If you and your spouse are separated but living together, select "I am married / remarried," not "I am separated."

Note: When two married persons live as a married couple but are separated by physical distance (or have separate households), they are considered married for FAFSA purposes.

Information for spouse for contributor must be included on the FAFSA.

Who Is Included in Family Size?

Dependent Applicants

- Student
- Parent (and spouse)
- •Parent's dependent children, even if they live apart from the parent because of college enrollment*
- Other people if they live with the parent*

Independent Applicants

- Student (and spouse)
- Student's dependent children, even if they live apart from the student because of college enrollment*
- Other people if they live with the student*



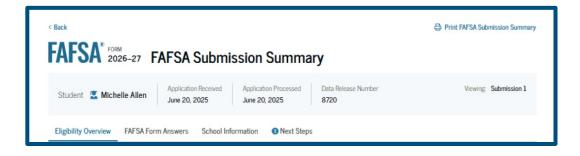
Granting Consent

- All contributors must grant consent for the FAFSA to be submitted and analyzed
- Consent allows contributor to retrieve and disclose federal tax information
- Consent must be granted by all contributors for the student to be eligible for federal student aid
- If consent is not granted to will not be eligible to receive an SAI.



FAFSA Submission Summary

- Four sections:
 - Eligibility Overview
 - FAFSA Form Answers
 - School Information
 - Next Steps
- Ability to print summary





- Used at Some Institutions
- Determines Financial Need for Institutional Aid
- Available as early as October 1
- Check School For Deadlines

CSS Profile



Aid available to assist students and families

Type of Aid Available

Gift Aid

Free money given to students to assist with educational expenses

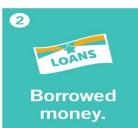
- Federal Grants
- State Grants
- Institutional Grants/ Scholarships
- Private Scholarships

Self-Help Aid

Funds students either earn through employment or funds that must be repaid

- Student Loans
- Student Employment







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Scholarships

Types of Scholarships

- Institutional Scholarships
- Community based Scholarships
- Donor Scholarships
- State Scholarships

Scholarship Search Engines

- Fastweb.com
- Scholarships.com
- Careeronestop.org/toolkit/training/findscholarships.aspx
- School's Scholarship Listing

Bright Futures

Academic Scholars

100 % Tuition and Fees (Cost per Credit Hour)

Summer Courses Covered



Medallion Scholars

75% Tuition and Fees (Cost per Credit Hour) Summer Courses

Covered

Current Bright Futures Requirements

Type	16 High School Course Credits ¹	High School Weighted Bright Futures GPA	College Entrance Exams by High School Graduation Year (ACT®/CLT®/SAT®)	Volunteer Service Only	Paid Work Hours Only	Combination of Volunteer/ Paid Hours
FAS	4 - English (three must include substantial writing) 4 - Mathematics (at or above the Algebra I level) 3 - Natural Science	3.50	2025-26 Graduates ² : 29/95/1330 2026-27 Graduates ³ : 29/95/1330	100 hours	100 hours	100 hours
FMS	(two must have substantial laboratory) 3 - Social Science 2 - Foreign/World Language (sequential, in same language)	3.00	2025-26 Graduates ² : 24/82/1190 2026-27 Graduates ³ : 24/82/1190	75 hours	100 hours	100 hours

¹ The required coursework aligns with the State University System admission requirements found in Florida Board of Governor's Regulation 6.002. Additional information regarding high school coursework can be found within the Florida Counseling for Future Education Handbook.

² Students seeking postsecondary funding for the 2026-27 academic year.

³ Students seeking postsecondary funding for the 2027-28 academic year.

Other Ways to Qualify For Bright Futures

Merit Recognition Program	College Entrance Exams by High School Graduation Year		Volunteer Service*	Paid Work Hours*	Combination of Volunteer/ Paid Hours	Bright Futures Award
	2025-26	2026-27		riours*	raid flours	Awaru
National Merit® Finalists and			100 hours	100 hours	100 hours	FAS
Scholars			75 hours			FMS
AP Capstone Diploma			100 hours	100 hours	100 hours	FAS
Advanced International Certificate			100 hours	100 hours	100 hours	FAS
of Education (AICE) - Diploma			75 hours			FMS
International Baccalaureate (IB) -			100 hours	100 hours	100 hours	FAS
Diploma			75 hours			FMS
AICE - Curriculum	29/95/1330	29/95/1330	100 hours	100 hours	100 hours	FAS
AICE - Curriculum	24/82/1190	24/82/1190	75 hours	100 hours	100 hours	FMS
International Baccalaureate (IB) -	29/95/1330	29/95/1330	100 hours	100 hours	100 hours	FAS
Curriculum	24/82/1190	24/82/1190	75 hours	100 hours	100 hours	FMS

^{*}Student must earn the required volunteer service, paid work hours, or a combination of both equal to 100 total hours.

Bright Futures Gold Seal Vocational Scholarship

Initial Eligibility Requirements: (As determined by the Florida Department of Education.)

- 1. Submit the Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) no later than August 31 after high school graduation.
- 2. Graduate with a standard Florida high school diploma or its equivalent.
- 3. Achieve the required weighted 3.0 GPA in the non-elective high school courses.
- 4. Complete at least three (3) full credits in a single Career and Technical Education program.
- 5. Achieve the required minimum 3.5 unweighted GPA in the single Career and Technical Education program.
- Complete at least 30 volunteer service hours, 100 paid work hours, or a combination that equals a minimum of 100 total hours.
- Achieve the required minimum scores on one of the college entrance exams per the chart below no later than August 31 of the year the student graduates from high school.

Exam Type	Sub-test	Required Score	
	Reading	19	
ACT*	English	17	
	Mathematics	19	
SAT® (March 1, 2024, and thereafter)	Critical Reading or Evidence- Based Reading and Writing	490	
	Mathematics	480	
	Reading Test	24	
SAT [®]	Writing and Language Test	25	
(Prior to March 1, 2024)	Math Test	24	
DEDE	Reading	106	
PERT (Only applies to the GSV Scholarship)	Writing	103	
(Only applies to the GSV Schotarship)	Mathematics	114	

Bright Futures Scholarship



Florida Student Scholarship Grant Programs

Login **∀**



First-Time Applicants

Students must submit a completed Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) to OSFA for programs denoted by an asterisk (*). In order to apply for State Scholarship & Grant Programs, a student must first <u>Create a Student Account</u>. After logging into your account, you may proceed to complete the FFAA.

State Scholarship and Grant Programs

Access to Better Learning and Education Grant

Benacquisto Scholarship Program (FAQ)

Bright Futures Scholarship*

Effective Access to Student Education

First Generation Matching Grant

Florida Farmworker Student Scholarship

Florida Student Assistance Grant
- Career Education

Florida Work Experience Program

José Martí Scholarship Challenge Grant*

Mary McLeod Bethune Scholarship

Minority Teacher Education Scholarship

Rosewood Family Scholarship*

Scholarships for Children and Spouses of Deceased or Disabled Veterans* (Award Amounts)



dentfinancialaid.org

Eligible Institutions

High Schools:

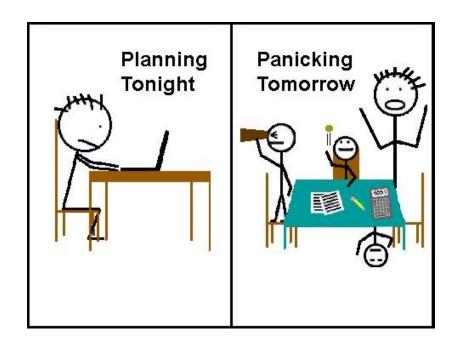
Verify if your high school is a participating Florida public or private high school.

Postsecondary Institutions:

Verify if the postsecondary institution you are planning to attend is eligible to disburse state aid.

Scholarship Search Tips

- Apply Early
- Apply Often
- Get Involved
- Complete the FAFSA



Essay Tips

- 1. Create a scholarship template
- 2. Create a scholarship resume
- 3. Tips from Chegg.com:
 - A. Read the question
 - B. Be unique
 - C. Double check
 - D. Be uplifting



Things to remember:

- 1. Establish a Habit of Regularly Looking for Scholarships
- 2. Create a File Dedicated to Scholarships to Include:
 - A. Resume Remember to list honors, awards, extracurricular & community service
 - B. Essays
 - C. Letters of Recommendation
 - D. Letters of Purpose
 - E. Transcripts
- 3. Make Yourself Standout from the Crowd

Grants



Pell Grant- Need-based grant that is prorated based on the student's SAI and Enrollment Status



Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant- Need-based award given to students with the most need



Florida Student Assistance Grant- State of Florida funded need-based grant given



Effective Access To Student Education (EASE) Grant- State funded grant given students to assist with private university/college costs



The Work Study program allows students to earn a biweekly paycheck as a part of their financial aid packages.

Student Loans

Federal Direct Loans

Not Credit Based

Subsidized Loan-Need-based award; does not accrue interest during periods of in school deferment

Federal Direct
Unsubsidized LoanAccrues interest
after disbursement

Amount Based on Dependency Status and Academic Classification

PLUS Loans

Credit Based Loan that

Allows Parents or Graduate Students to Borrow up to the Cost of Attendance

Parent PLUS Changes

New borrowers on or after July 1, 2026:

Annual loan limit: \$20,000 per dependent student

Aggregate loan limit: \$65,000 per dependent student



Student Loan Limits

		rowing Limits Year Fall & Spring	
Dependent	Maximum Subsidized	Additional Unsubsidized	Combined Subsidized & Unsubsidized
Freshman	\$3,500	\$2,000 =	\$5,500
Sophomore	\$4,500	\$2,000 =	\$6,500
Junior/ Senior	\$5,500	\$2,000 =	\$7,500
Independent	Maximum Subsidized	Additional Unsubsidized	Combined Subsidized & Unsubsidized
Freshman	\$3,500	\$6,000 =	\$9,500
Sophomore	\$4,500	\$6,000 =	\$10,500
Junior/ Senior	\$5,500	\$7,000 =	\$12,500
Graduate	\$0*	\$20,500 =	\$20,500

Tips for Reducing Student Loan Debt



Complete the FAFSA as early as possible each year



Create a budget each semester



Only borrow what is needed



Pay interest on unsubsidized loans quarterly

\$ Ap

Apply for scholarships often... Free money is good money



Understanding a few more things about financial aid

Special Circumstances

There are times when the information requested on the FAFSA does not reflect a student's situation. The school the student attends has the ability to utilize professional judgment to adjust the student's file accordingly.



Loss of Employment



Death of Parent or Spouse



Unusual Medical Expenses

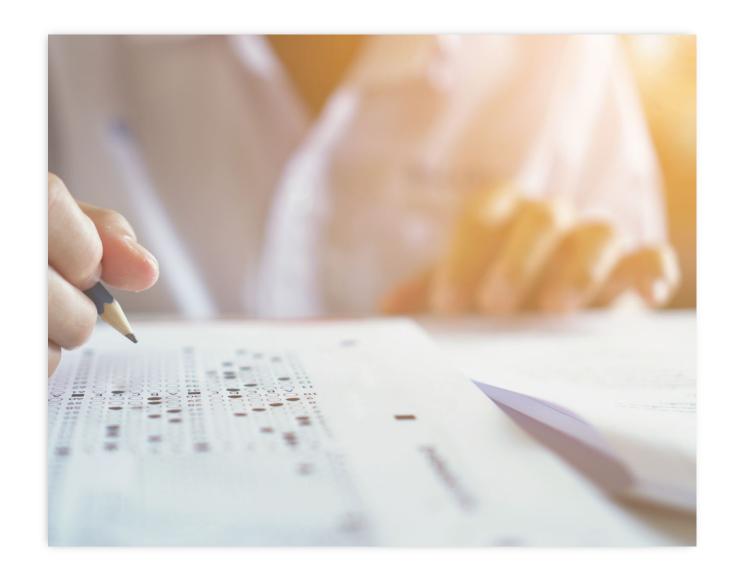
Verification

Some students are selected to Provide

Verification Documentation to the Office of

Financial Aid.

Parent and Student Tax Information and Other Documentation may be Required.



Don't Lose Your Aid

Each school has outlined criteria a student must meet to continue to receive financial aid.

 Some grants and scholarships have renewal criteria to receive funding.

Financial Aid Tips

File the FAFSA Early

Each Year

If You Start College in the Summer You May Need to Complete Two FAFSAs

Know Your School's Priority Filing Date

Borrow as Conservatively as Possible Apply for as Many
Scholarships as
Possible

Never Pay Someone to Assist with the FAFSA

Believe in the Investment You are Making

The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you.

B.B. King





Thank You