

# Financial Aid

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## *Applying for financial aid*

### **The Official Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Website**

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

This is the government site to fill out the official FAFSA in January of a student's senior year. The easiest way to begin the financial aid process is to complete the FAFSA on the web worksheet (listed below) before completing the FAFSA online. Parents and students must also register for a pin number prior to submitting the FAFSA (listed below). Remember, the earlier a FAFSA is submitted, the better!

### **FAFSA on the Web Worksheet**

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

The FAFSA on the Web Worksheet allows you to read and complete the questions before entering your information online. The questions are listed in the same order that they appear on the Web site. This is a great way to ensure your information is complete, organized, and accurate prior to completing the online FAFSA.

### **FAFSA Form Guide**

<http://www.fafsaonline.com/>

How, when, and where to fill out the FAFSA, this step-by-step guide is the perfect tool to help families complete their FAFSA quickly and accurately.

### **Applying for a Pin Number**

<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/before004.htm>

A Pin Number is required for both student and parent in order to electronically sign the online FAFSA application. Apply for one prior to filling out the FAFSA at the website above.

### **Financial Aid Calendar**

<http://www.collegeboard.com/student/pay/scholarships-and-aid/23642.html>

This helpful guide reveals a timeline for the financial aid process.

## ***Additional Financial Aid Resources***

### **Comprehensive Financial Aid Information**

<http://www.finaid.org/>

One of the best resources on the web that fully explains the financial aid process, answers common questions, and provides information on all factors relating to financial aid.

### **Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) and Financial Aid Calculators**

<http://www.finaid.org/calculators/finaidestimate.phtml>

[http://apps.collegeboard.com/fincalc/efc\\_status.jsp](http://apps.collegeboard.com/fincalc/efc_status.jsp)

Great tools to estimate how much your family will be expected to contribute towards a college education and how much financial aid you may be eligible for.

### **Private Student Loans Comparison Tool**

<http://www.privatestudentloans.com/>

A unique online private student loan comparison tool to help students make informed decisions about private student loan options and to borrow more responsibly.

### **College Answer**

<http://www.collegeanswer.com/paying/content/index.jsp>

An incredible resource for all things financial aid, including a glossary of terms, financial aid calculator, savings comparison chart, education savings plans information, and federal loan comparison chart.

### **Mapping Your Future – Paying For College**

<http://www.mappingyourfuture.org/paying/>

This site explores the steps and process to funding a college education.

### **Free Scholarship Search Sites**

[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)

[www.scholarshiphunter.com](http://www.scholarshiphunter.com)

[www.collegetoolkit.com](http://www.collegetoolkit.com)

[www.scholarshipexperts.com](http://www.scholarshipexperts.com)

[http://apps.collegeboard.com/cbsearch\\_ss/welcome.jsp](http://apps.collegeboard.com/cbsearch_ss/welcome.jsp)

<http://www.scholarshippoints.com/>

## **Federal Trade Commission Information on Scholarship Scams**

<http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/menus/consumer/education/scholarships.shtm>