How to Apply for Financial Aid

Financial Aid is available to students to help cover the cost of tuition and fees at public and private colleges and universities.

Applying for Financial Aid is easy.   To be eligible to receive aid, students must complete the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**

Before you start:

- Gather documents (federal tax returns from previous year; bank statements; social security number or alien registration number) and make a list of schools you may want to attend.

- Go to this link to determine whose information must be provided on your FAFSA
  https://studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/filling-out/dependency
  - If you're a dependent student, you will report your and your parents' information.
  - If you're an independent student, you will report your own information

Then follow these simple steps:

1. Create an FSA ID

Go to this link to create your FSA ID: https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm

- This is the username and password that gives access to the Federal Student Aid online system.
- Your FSA ID also serves as the digital signature for your application.
- If you are a dependent student, one of your parents will also need to create an FSA ID.

2. Fill out the FAFSA

Go to this link to start your application: https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa

- Login using your FSA ID.
- When asked for income information, you can use your tax return from last year or use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool to obtain that information from the IRS.
- Enter the name of schools you think you may want to attend. This will allow those schools to access your application and determine how much aid they can offer you.

3. Submit your FAFSA

- Once your FAFSA has been processed it will be forwarded to the schools you selected.
- Check your eMail frequently to see if additional documents are requested from the schools who received your FAFSA.
- Those schools will use the FAFSA to determine how much aid you will receive.