

# Applying for Federal Student Aid

**Funding Education Beyond High School**

**Academic Year**

**2016-2017**

**Presentation January 14, 2016**

## FAFSA Completion Resources

[www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov)

### FINANCIAL AID TOOLKIT:

<http://financialaidtoolkit.ed.gov/tk/>

Completing the FAFSA available at:

<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sites/default/files/2015-16-completing-fafsa.pdf>

Do You Need Money for College?

<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sites/default/files/2015-16-doyou-need-money.pdf>

College Goal Sunday: [www.collegegoalsundayusa.org](http://www.collegegoalsundayusa.org)

# FAFSA

- Produced by the U.S. Department of Education
- Collects family's personal and financial information used to calculate student's EFC
- Available in English and Spanish
- Available in three formats:
  - On-line
  - PDF (Download from [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov))
  - Paper

# FAFSA ON THE WEB



The screenshot shows the FAFSA website homepage. At the top left, it says "Federal Student Aid" with the tagline "An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION". To the right, it says "PROUD SPONSOR of the AMERICAN MIND®" and "FAFSA® Free Application for Federal Student Aid". Below this is a navigation bar with icons for Home, About Us, FSA ID, StudentAid.gov, and Help. There is also a search bar and language options for English and Español. A large blue banner reads "Get help paying for college" and "Submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)". Below the banner is a collage of four photos of diverse college students. At the bottom, there are two columns: "New to the FAFSA?" with a "Start A New FAFSA" button, and "Returning User?" with a list of actions (Make a correction, Add a school, View your Student Aid Report (SAR), and more...) and a "Login" button.

Website: [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov)

- 2016-17 FAFSA on the Web available on January 1, 2016
- FAFSA on the Web Worksheet:
- Used as optional “pre-application” checklist

# FAFSA ON THE WEB

Good reasons to file electronically:

- Built-in edits to help prevent costly errors
- Simplification: Skip-logic allows student and/or parent to skip unnecessary questions
- Immediate submission of original application and any necessary corrections
- More detailed instructions than space allows on the paper FAFSA
- Help & Live Chat Assistance Options
- Ability to check application status on-line
- Simplified application process in subsequent years

# PIN REPLACED BY FSA ID

## **Students and parents can no longer use PIN**

- May 10, 2015 – FSA ID replaced the PIN for student and parent log-ins and signatures
- FSA ID consists of username and password – which increases the security level for the user
- FSA ID needed to log into fafsa.gov, the National Student Loan Data System(NSLDS) at nslds.ed.gov, StudentLoans.gov, StudentAid.gov and Agreement to Serve(ATS) at teach-ats.ed.gov
- Create FSA ID at <https://studentaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm>
- Students & parents that have current PIN will be able to enter it and link it to their FSA ID to assist with verification of FSA ID

# Additional FSA ID Information

- Instruction Sheet Available at:  
<http://ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/attachments/050415FSAIDReplaceHowToCreateFSAIDGuideATTACH.pdf>

# IRS Data Retrieval Tool

- Students completing a 2016-17 FOTW will be able to utilize IRS Data Retrieval Tool in early February 2016 after taxes have been filed
- Data available in English and Spanish
- IRS data tool anticipated to be available in February 2016



# Frequent FAFSA Errors

- Parent and Student Social Security Numbers
- Divorced/remarried/unmarried but living together parental information-which belongs on the form
- Income earned by parents/stepparents
- Untaxed income
- U.S. income taxes paid
- Household size
- Number of household members in college
- Real estate and investment net worth
- Not signing the FAFSA

# Making Corrections

- Corrections to FAFSA data may be made by:
- Using FAFSA on the Web ([www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov)) if student has a FSA ID
- Updating and mailing paper SAR
- Submitting documentation to school's financial aid office
- Corrections required if “estimated income” used for initial filing
- Consistent messaging sent to use IRS Data Retrieval Tool if data is not transferred during initial submission

# Which tax return to use?

- Class of 2015-2016 uses 2015 tax return and FAFSA opened 1/1/16
- Class of 2016-2017 uses 2015 tax return and FAFSA opens 10/1/16
- Class of 2017-2018 uses 2016 tax return and FAFSA opens 10/1/17

# Additional FAFSA Resources

- <http://financialaidtoolkit.ed.gov/tk/>
- Contains documents, videos, power point slides, social media items that can provide FAFSA completion support as well as informational pieces for students/parents.
- Can sort for types of materials, desired audience, calendar timing

# Overview of Financial Aid Programs

MONEY FROM A SOURCE OTHER THAN THE  
FAMILY TO ASSIST WITH THE COST OF  
ATTENDING COLLEGE

How much federal student aid can I get?

# Cost of Attendance (COA)

- Direct costs
  - Costs paid to the college
- Indirect costs
  - Personal and other expenses not paid to the college
- COA varies widely from college to college

# Expected Family Contribution (EFC)

- An index used to calculate eligibility for aid
- Stays the same regardless of college
- Two components
  - Parent contribution
  - Student contribution

Calculated using FAFSA data and a formula specified by law

# Financial Need

Cost of Attendance (COA)

– Expected Family Contribution (EFC)

= **Financial Need**



# Categories of Aid

- Need-based aid
  - Grants
  - Scholarships
  - Work-Study
- Non need-based aid
  - Federal Loans
  - Private Loans

# Types of Aid

- Grants
  - Do not need to be repaid
- Scholarships
  - Do not need to be repaid; based on academic achievement, athletic ability, skills, etc.
- Loans
  - Self-help aid that must be paid back
- Work-Study
  - Self help aid that allows students to earn money to help pay for college expenses

# Sources of Aid

- Federal government
- States
- Colleges
- Additional sources

# Federal Pell Grant

The Federal Pell Grant Program provides need-based grants to low income undergraduate students.

- **Grant amounts depend on the student's:**
  - Expected Family Contribution (EFC)
  - Enrollment status (full or part-time)
  - Attendance status (full academic year or less)
  - Pell Grant maximum award per academic year: \$5,775 (2015-2016)

\* Maximum award may be subject to change pending legislative budgetary adjustments

# TEACH Grant

The Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education Grant Program (TEACH) provides assistance to students who intend to teach in a public or private elementary or secondary school that serves students from low-income families.

## **Grant recipients must be:**

- Enrolled in an institution that participates in the TEACH Grant Program
- Enrolled in coursework geared towards a career in the field of teaching
- Able to demonstrate certain academic achievements

# TEACH Grant (Cont'd)

## The Teach Grant:

Is not based on financial needs

Available to both undergraduate and graduate students

Provides the following maximum award \$4,000 (2015-2016)

**TEACH Grant recipients must sign an 'Agreement to Serve' which states that the student will:**

Teach at least four years in a public or private elementary or secondary school

Teach full-time in a high-need field

Teach in a school that serves students from low-income families

If the teaching obligation is not completed, the TEACH Grant **must be repaid** as a Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan

# Federal Financial Aid Programs

## Work-Study

Provides part-time jobs for undergraduate and graduate students with financial need, allowing them to earn money to help pay education expenses

- Eligible employers (On-campus or off-campus employment)
  - Schools
  - Federal, state or local public agency
  - Private nonprofit organization
  - Community service activities
- Students are paid at least federal minimum wage
- Not all colleges participate in the Federal Work-Study program and funding depends on availability at the college

# Direct Stafford Loans

## Subsidized Loans

- Government PAYS the borrowers accrued interest while you are attending college and other eligible periods
- **Based on Financial Need**
- Fixed Rate
- Undergraduate students
- Amount: **\$3,500-\$8,000**

## Unsubsidized Loans

- The borrower is responsible for the interest for the life of the loan
- **NOT Based on Financial Need**
- Fixed Rate
- Undergraduate and graduate students qualify
- Amount: **\$5,500-\$20,500**



# Searching for Scholarships

## Federal Sources

- U.S. Department of Education – [Students.gov](http://Students.gov)
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- U.S. Armed Forces

# State and Institutional Sources

- Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board:  
College For All Texans

[College for All Texans](#)

- College of Choice  
Scholarships & Financial Aid

[Scholarships](#)

# Private Sources

- Foundations
- Community organizations and civic groups
- Religious or ethnicity-based organizations
- Organizations related to student's field
- Local businesses and employers

\*Make sure to give scholarship checks to financial aid office.

# Typical On-line Scholarship Search

- <http://studentaid.gov/types/grants-scholarships/findingscholarships>
- [Collegeboard.org](http://Collegeboard.org)
- [CappexScholarships](http://CappexScholarships)
- [Bellvilleisd.org](http://Bellvilleisd.org)
- Never pay for scholarship searches
- Always use free searches!
- Other resources available

# Typical On-line Scholarship Search

- Pay close attention to application deadlines
- Guidelines on when and how to apply
- Department of Labor scholarship search engine:

<http://www.careerinfonet.org/scholarshipsearch/ScholarshipCategory.asp?searchtype=category&nodeid=22>

