

# THE FAFSA PROCESS

## COUNTDOWN TO COLLEGE

Filing the FAFSA is required to receive Federal and State financial aid to attend college or a career school. Many colleges also require completion of the FAFSA before they will award their scholarships, even those that are not need-based. Submission of the FAFSA/WASFA is a mandatory component of the High School & Beyond Plan, which is a requirement for graduation.

### Preparing for the FAFSA:

- You and your parents will need to get an FSA ID at [fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm](https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm)
  - To create FSA ID will need to provide:
    - Email address
    - A unique username and password
    - Full name and date of birth
    - Social Security number
    - Mailing Address
    - Mobile phone number
- Gather this information:
  - Social Security Number or Alien Registration Number
  - Federal tax information or tax returns
  - Records of untaxed income
  - Cash, savings, and checking account balances
  - Investments other than the home in which you live
- To find out if you need to report your parents info, visit [studentaid.gov/dependency](https://studentaid.gov/dependency)

### Filling out the FAFSA:

- Submission options:
  - Electronic form
    - The electronic application opens on **October 1<sup>st</sup>**. Federal and State aid is limited, and will run out
    - Once you have an FSA ID, fill out the FAFSA at [fafsa.ed.gov](https://fafsa.ed.gov)
  - Mail-in application
    - Download PDF at [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov) or order printed PDF at [www.edpubs.gov](https://www.edpubs.gov)

### Processing the FAFSA:

- You'll receive an email within a few days confirming that your FAFSA was processed
  - Your college or career school might request additional information from you. Make sure you respond by the deadlines.
- First-Time Applicants
  - You will receive an aid offer from each college or career school you applied to and listed on your FAFSA. This will state the amount of aid you could receive from this school.
    - Review and compare offers to help decide which school to attend based on your needs.