

THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA)

TIP SHEET FOR STUDENTS

This tip sheet is intended to be a quick reference only. Be sure to carefully read ALL the instructions on the FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID IMMEDIATELY!

Don't wait until you have been accepted into a college or for you or your parents to file year-end tax returns. You may use estimates from December pay stubs and other end-of-year records, which can be corrected later.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Request a Personal Identification Number (PIN) at www.pin.ed.gov.

- If you are a dependent student, one of your parents must also request a PIN.
- Your PIN acts as an electronic signature and allows you to submit your FAFSA online.

Gather your records of income earned during the previous calendar year:

- W-2 form(s) or other records of income earned;
- Your federal income tax return, and your spouse's if you are married;
- Your parent's federal tax returns if you are a dependent student;
- Records of other untaxed income received, such as welfare benefits, Social Security benefits, child support, etc.
- Your Social Security card and Driver's license or State ID;

If you don't have your federal tax returns, you can use estimated amounts and revise the amounts after you file your taxes.

Remember the FAFSA is free! Avoid sites that charge you for this service.

COMPLETING THE FAFSA

- complete the FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov.
- Answer all questions that apply to you.
- Double check the spelling on your name.
- Be sure enter your Social Security Number correctly.
- Make sure to add the school code.

- Your school of choice will not receive your FAFSA if their school code is not listed.



ONCE YOU'VE COMPLETED THE FAFSA

Make sure you and your parent (if applicable) have signed the FAFSA using the FAFSA PIN. Unsigned forms will not be processed.

Filing a FAFSA generates a Student Aid Report (SAR) that will be sent to you. If you provided an e-mail address when completing the FAFSA, you will receive a SAR immediately at your e-mail address. If you have not received your SAR within four weeks of submitting your FAFSA, it is important to call (800) 433-3243.

