

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is an online application for money to help pay for college or career school. Grants, work-study, loans, and scholarships help make college or career school affordable.

FINANCIAL AID

CHECKLIST



The FAFSA is open...
now what?



STEP 1

Create a financial aid folder to keep all your financial aid documents & info organized.



STEP 2

Set-up a FSA ID for both the student & parent for submitting the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online. Obtain your FSA ID at [FSAID.ed.gov](https://fsaid.ed.gov).



STEP 3

Go to www.FAFSA.gov and complete your FAFSA as soon as possible on or after October 1 for the following year. The FAFSA determines eligibility for federal & state financial aid & eligibility for institutional & private scholarships.



STEP 4

Within 3-5 days of filing your FAFSA, you will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR). Check for accuracy & quickly submit corrections. Submit any additional forms or documentation required.



WHAT'S NEXT

Colleges will begin to send out financial aid award letters in the Spring for the upcoming school year (Fall 2022). You will need to submit the FAFSA EVERY year in October for the following school year.

The completion of the FAFSA (or a waiver) is a mandatory graduation requirement in Illinois.

