

# **SOUTHEASTERN ILLINOIS COLLEGE**

## **Financial Aid Office**

### **Guide to FAFSA 2020 - 2021**

3575 College Road  
Harrisburg, IL 62946-4925

Phone: (618) 252-5400  
Ext. 4110

Fax: (618) 252-3062  
E-mail: [fao@sic.edu](mailto:fao@sic.edu)



# Free Application for Federal Student Aid

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**Federal Student Aid**  
An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

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## What is a FAFSA?

It is the first step in the financial aid process. A FAFSA is used to apply for Illinois scholarships and grants, and for federal student financial aid such as grants, loans, and work-study. In addition, postsecondary schools use it to award non-federal financial aid. The application is available to students at *no fee*.

## How to Access the FAFSA

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



# Completing the FAFSA

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## What information is needed to complete a FAFSA?

- ◆ **Social Security Number.** Be sure that it is correct!
- ◆ **Records of income,** such as income earned from work and business, child support paid or received and any other untaxed income. If available, refer to the W-2 Forms and the Federal income Tax Return IRS 1040, 1040A or 1040EZ. Students are highly encouraged to use the IRS Data Retrieval Process.
- ◆ **Information about assets,** such as savings, certificates of deposit, stock options, bonds, 529 plans and other college savings programs; and investment real estate, business and farm.
- ◆ **Driver's license number,** if the student has one.
- ◆ **Alien Registration Number,** if not a U.S. citizen.
- ◆ **SIC School Code:** 001757
- ◆ **FSA ID and Password:** The student (and parent if dependent) must have an FSA ID and Password to electronically sign the FAFSA. Go to [www.fsaaid.ed.gov](http://www.fsaaid.ed.gov) to apply.

# Dependency Status

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## Do I have to use my parent's information on my FAFSA?

In order for a student to be considered independent for financial aid purposes they must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Born before January 1, 1997
- Be married as of the date the FAFSA was filed
- Have already completed a Bachelor's degree
- Currently serving on active duty for the U.S Armed Forces
- Be a veteran of the U.S Armed Forces
- Have children who they support
- Be an orphan or ward of the court\*
- Be an emancipated minor\*
- Be in legal guardianship\*
- Be considered homeless by homeless liaison\*

☆ You are considered dependent if you cannot answer yes to at least one of the questions listed above, even if your parents did not claim you on their taxes, they refuse to provide you with their financial information, or you are self-sufficient.

\* Students must provide adequate documentation of these circumstances.

# Important Dates for 2020-2021

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**FAFSA**

- **October 1, 2019** (First date to submit FAFSA)

**College**

- **Dates vary by college** (Check with each college)

**MAP Grant**

- Awards made until funds are depleted.\*

**Federal Pell Grant**

- **June 30, 2021** (at the end of the academic year)

\* **Note:** *Suspension dates* are subject to the number of eligible applicants and funding made available by the Illinois General Assembly and approved by the Governor

# What's Next?

## Follow-Up to FAFSA

Check Status  
of a Submitted  
FAFSA

Make  
Corrections  
to a Processed  
FAFSA

Add or  
Delete a  
School  
Code

View and  
print a  
Student Aid  
Report

# Student Aid Report (SAR)

## What is a SAR?

The SAR summarizes information that is reported on the FAFSA. It usually contains an *Expected Family Contribution* (EFC), the number used in determining a student's eligibility for federal student aid.

Summarizes  
Data



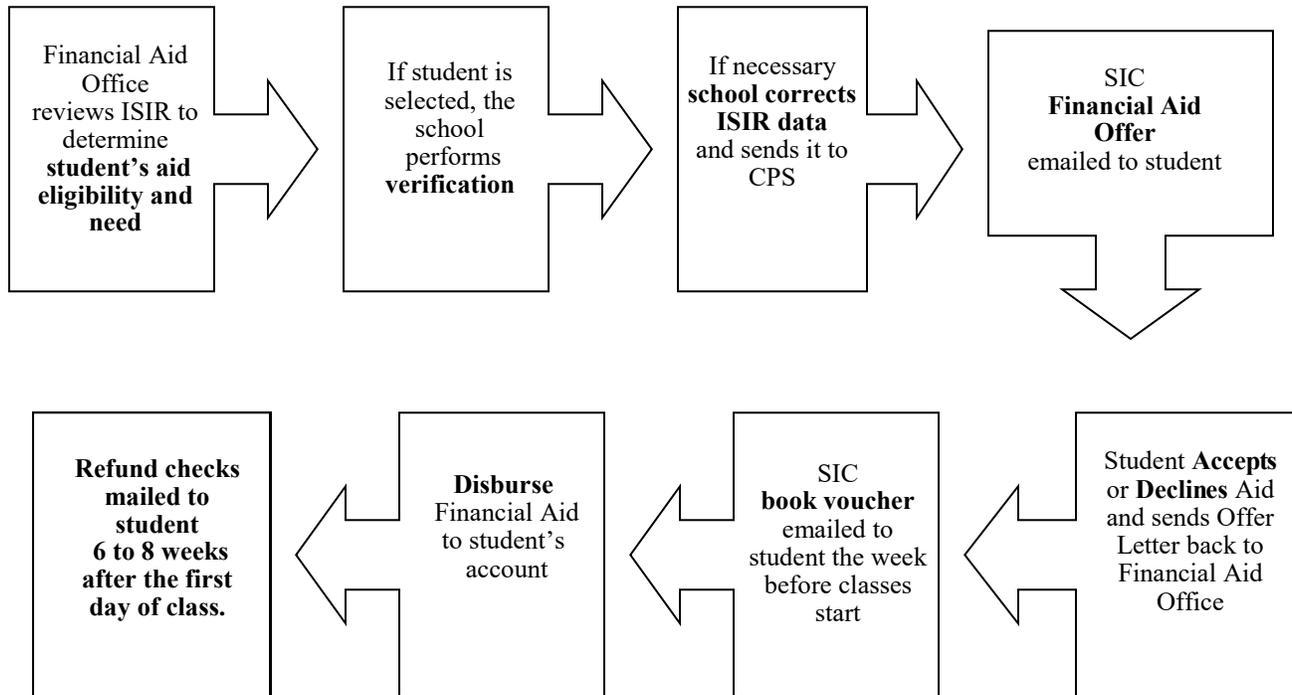
Reports the  
EFC



Allows  
corrections

# The Financial Aid Process

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## Verification

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### What is Verification?

If a student is selected for verification he/she may have to provide additional documents to the Financial Aid Office. Examples of additional documents may include:

- **Custom Verification Form** (Provided by the school)
- **A tax transcript of 2018 Federal Tax Return from the IRS** (If student is dependent, student must provide an IRS tax transcript of both the student's and parent's 2018 Federal Tax Return.)
- **Proof of Illinois Residency** (Examples are a valid IL driver's license issued before August 17, 2019, 2018 Illinois state or federal tax return, utility bills from August 17, 2019 or before. \*\*Note: If a student is dependent the verification must be provided by a parent.)

## **Financial Aid Policies**

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**Satisfactory Academic Progress:** In order to continue receiving financial aid students must maintain at minimum 2.0 GPA, complete at least 67% of attempted credit hours, and not exceed more than 1.5 times the number of credit hours required for the degree/program.

**Return to Title IV (R2T4):** If a student withdraws from classes after the refund period, they must repay the portion of financial aid that they did not earn. For example, if a student withdraws on the 72nd day of a 122 day semester, the student will have only earned 59% of financial aid, therefore, the student must repay the remaining 41% to the school.

**Special Circumstances:** If your financial situation has changed since filing the FAFSA, you may be eligible to complete a Special Circumstance Request. This may include loss of job, significant decrease in resources, divorce, or death of a spouse or parent. You must provide documentation of these claims, as well as complete the verification process.

## **FERPA**

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### **What is FERPA?**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. If a student is over the age of 18, postsecondary schools can no longer provide parents with student's information without written consent of the student.

If a student wishes for their parents to have access to their financial aid information, they must complete a consent form with the financial aid office listing the name of each individual that can request the student's information and what information they may have access to.

