

APPLYING FOR FINANCIAL AID

Step 1

Get free information and help from the U.S. Department of Education (ED) at www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov or 1-800-4-FED-AID. Free help is always available any time during the application process. You should never have to pay for help.

Step 2

Get a Federal Student Aid ID (FSA ID) <https://fsaid.ed.gov/>
If you are considered a dependent student, your parent will need to apply for a FSA ID as well. A FSA ID lets you “sign” your online Free Application For Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), make corrections to your application, and more. To start go to www.fafsa.ed.gov

Step 3

You will need to have your income information from the previous year handy, including W-2 forms and income tax return documents. If you are dependent you will need your parents income information. Tax return not completed at the time you apply? Estimate the tax information, submit, and correct information later.

Step 4

The Department of Education will send you your Student Aid Report (SAR)-the result of your FAFSA. Review your SAR and if necessary make corrections or changes to your FAFSA and re-submit . Your complete, correct SAR will contain your Expected Family Contribution (EFC)-the number used to determine your federal student aid eligibility.

Step 5

If you are selected for verification, you and your parent’s (if dependent) may have to submit **tax return transcripts** and other documents as appropriate. You can request **transcripts** online at www.irs.gov/Individuals/Get-Transcript or by phone 1-800-908-9946. You will not be awarded until you complete the verification process.

Step 6

Whether you are selected for verification or not, how fast your application gets processed depends on how fast you respond to your school's financial aid official. You will receive an award notification from the office of financial aid detailing your eligibility for Federal Student Aid.