

College Planning: 9th/10th Grade

There are some steps you can take as a ninth- and a 10th-grader to make sure you're on the right track for college. This list will help you navigate the college planning process.

9TH GRADE

- ☐ **Create a four-year high school plan.** Think about what you'd like to accomplish in the next four years.
 - Make sure you know which high school courses are required by colleges, and that you're taking the right classes as early as the ninth grade. You can ask your counselor about what those "right" classes are.
 - Get to know the levels of courses offered by your school.
- ☐ **Start thinking about your life after school,** including the types of jobs that might interest you. Of course, these will change — often — but it's good to start thinking about the possibilities.
 - Identify your interests — likes and dislikes — not just in classes but also in every area. This will help you focus on your goals.
 - Talk to other people, such as your school counselor, teachers, recent college graduates who are working, professionals in the community, etc., about careers you might find interesting.
- ☐ **Meet with your high school counselor.** Your counselor knows how to help you get the most out of high school. Be sure to take some time during the school year to discuss post-high-school plans with him or her.
- ☐ **Participate in extracurricular activities.** Academics aren't everything. Explore your interest in a sport, school club, music or drama group, or community volunteer activity.
 - Remember that colleges would rather see real involvement in one activity instead of a loose connection to several.
 - If you're interested in playing sports in college, research the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) eligibility requirements. The NCAA requires completion of certain core courses; you can find the specifics at ncaaclearinghouse.net.
- ☐ **Save for college.** It's not too late to put money aside for college. Every little bit helps! Learning about financial aid early on can also help you down the road.
- ☐ **Explore summer opportunities.** Look for a job, internship, or volunteer position that will help you learn about a field of interest.
- ☐ **Get familiar with the PSAT-related assessments and SAT®.** Most four-year colleges consider applicants' scores on college admission test. Download the free Daily Practice for the New SAT app to get a feel for the kinds of questions you might face on test day.
- ☐ **Take the PSAT™ 8/9.** If your school offers it, sign up to take the first of the College Board assessments to set a baseline. This test will help you build up your skills to take the SAT in 11th or 12th grade.

10TH GRADE

☐ **Meet with your high school counselor — again.**

Be sure to meet with your school counselor to ensure that your course schedule is challenging enough to prepare you for college.

- Check into any prerequisites for advanced-level junior- and senior-year courses.

☐ **Take the PSAT/NMSQT® or PSAT™ 10.** Depending on your school, you might have the opportunity to take the PSAT/NMSQT in October or the PSAT 10 in February or March. It provides valuable feedback on your college readiness and a free, personalized plan to help you start getting ready for the SAT — and for college.

☐ **Ask if the PSAT/NMSQT is offered to 10th-graders.** Although this test is usually given in the 11th grade, it is also often offered in the 10th grade. That's because it provides valuable feedback through the Student Score Report. You can then work on any of your academic weaknesses while there is still plenty of time to make improvements.

☐ **Are you interested in attending a U.S. military academy?** If so, you should request a precandidate questionnaire.

☐ **Along with your family, do some research about how to obtain financial aid.** Many students use financial aid to cover college costs. Find out what financial aid is, where it comes from, and how you can apply for it. Read the U.S. Department of Education's *Funding Your Education* (about federal aid programs).

☐ **Attend college and career fairs.** The fairs often take place in the fall at your school or in your area.

☐ **Participate in school activities or volunteer efforts.** Extracurricular activities can help you develop time-management skills and enrich your high school experience.

☐ **Talk to your counselor** about your plans for life after high school. He or she can help you plan your schedule, search for colleges, and navigate the financial aid process. The more your counselor knows about you, the more he or she can help you along the way.

☐ **Tour college campuses.** If possible, take advantage of vacation or other family travel time to visit colleges and see what they're like. Even if you have no interest in attending the college you are visiting, it will help you learn what to look for in a college.



College Planning: 11th Grade

Junior year marks a turning point. This is because for most students and families, it's when college planning activities kick into high gear. Here are some things you can do this year to stay on track for college.

FALL

- ☐ **Start with you:** Make lists of your abilities, social/cultural preferences, and personal qualities. List things you may want to study and do in college.
- ☐ **Learn about colleges.** Look at their websites and find colleges at bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search. Talk to friends, family members, teachers, and recent grads of your school now in college. List the college features that interest you.
- ☐ **Resource check:** Visit the counseling office and meet the counselors there. Is there a college night for students and families? When will college representatives visit your school? (Put the dates in your calendar.) Examine catalogs and guides.
- ☐ **At school, speak to your counselor about taking the PSAT/NMSQT[®],** which is given in October. If you plan to ask for testing accommodations (because of a disability), be sure the College Board has approved your eligibility.
- ☐ **Make a file to manage your college search, testing, and application data.** If appropriate (for example, if you're interested in drama, music, art, sports, etc.), start to gather material for a portfolio.
- ☐ **Estimate your financial aid need.** Financial aid can help you afford college. Use the College Board's *Getting Financial Aid* and the financial aid calculator at bigfuture.org to estimate how much aid you might receive.

WINTER

- ☐ **Sign up to take the SAT[®] in the spring.** You can register online or through your school. SAT fee waivers are available to eligible students. To prepare for the SAT, you can access free, personalized SAT practice tools at satpractice.org, including thousands of interactive questions, video lessons, practice tests, and more.
- ☐ **Begin a search for financial aid sources.** National sources include the College Board's Scholarship Search and electronic sources. Don't overlook local and state aid sources. (Ask a counselor for help or check your public library.)
- ☐ **With your family, make an appointment with your counselor** to discuss ways to improve your college-preparation and selection processes.
- ☐ **Ask a counselor or teacher about taking the SAT Subject Tests[™] in the spring.** You should take them while course material is still fresh in your mind. You can download *The SAT Subject Tests Student Guide*, which offers test-prep advice, from SATSubjectTests.org.
- ☐ **Explore AP[®].** The Advanced Placement[®] Program helps hundreds of thousands of high school students achieve their college dreams each year. Get the facts at apstudent.collegeboard.org/exploreap. If you're in AP classes, register for the AP Exams given in May.
- ☐ **Opt in to the College Board Opportunity Scholarships** at cb.org/opportunity. You can earn scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$2,000 by completing individual college planning steps. Complete all six steps and you'll be eligible for the \$40,000 scholarship.

SPRING

- ☐ **Contact your counselor** before leaving school for the summer if you are considering military academies or ROTC scholarships. If you want a four-year ROTC scholarship, you should begin the application process the summer before your senior year.
- ☐ **Develop a list of 15 or 20 colleges that are of interest to you.** You can find many colleges at which you'll be happy and get a great education. The college search is about exploring who you are and what you want and then finding colleges that will meet your goals.
- ☐ **Stay open to all the possibilities—don't limit your search.** To find the best college for you, you should apply to colleges of varying selectivity. Selective colleges admit a portion of students who apply. Some colleges are highly selective while others are less selective. Make sure to apply to public, private, in-state, and out-of-state schools so that you have plenty of options from which to choose.
- ☐ **Take the SAT.** The test is typically offered in March, May, and June. Make sure you start preparing for the test several months in advance using the tools available at satpractice.org. And remember, if you're not happy with your scores when you get them, you might want to test again in the fall. Many students take the test a second time as seniors, and they usually do better.
- ☐ **Start to gather documents for financial aid:** Be sure to keep a copy of your tax returns handy. You'll use these to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which opens on Oct. 1.

SUMMER

- ☐ **Register with the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Eligibility Center** if you are an athlete planning to continue playing a sport in college (ncaaclearinghouse.net).
- ☐ **Get your FSA ID:** Before you can fill out your FAFSA, you need to get a username and password (also known as an FSA ID).
- ☐ **Find a full-time or part-time job,** or participate in a summer camp or summer college program.
- ☐ **Visit colleges.** When planning your campus visits, make sure to allow time to explore each college. While you're there, talk to as many people as possible. These can include college admission staff, professors, and students. Take campus tours and, at colleges you're serious about, make appointments to have interviews with admission counselors.
- ☐ **Create a résumé**—a record of your academic accomplishments, extracurricular activities, and work experiences since you started high school.
- ☐ **Download applications.** Go to the website of each college's admission office and either complete the application online or request a paper application from colleges to which you'll apply. Check application dates—large universities may have early dates or rolling admission.
- ☐ **Visit some local colleges**—large, small, public, and private. A visit to a college campus can help you decide if that college is right for you. Make a plan ahead of time to get the most from your visit. Check out the campus checklist at bigfuture.org. Attend college fairs, too.
- ☐ **Scan local newspapers** to see which civic, cultural, and service organizations in your area award financial aid to graduating seniors. Start a file.



College Planning: 12th Grade

Want to know if you're on track in the college application process? This checklist shows you what you should be doing, and when.

When you complete steps marked with * you may be eligible for College Board Opportunity Scholarships. Learn more at: [cb.org/opportunity](https://collegeboard.org/opportunity).

FALL

- ☐ **Strengthen Your College List*:** Meet with a counselor about your college choices and, if you've not yet done so, download college applications and financial aid forms. Make sure you have a balanced list of academic safety, fit, and reach schools. Plan to visit as many of these colleges as possible.
- ☐ **Create a master list or calendar that includes:**
 - Tests you'll take and their fees, dates, and registration deadlines
 - College application due dates
 - Required financial aid application forms and their deadlines (aid applications may be due before college applications)
 - Other materials you'll need (recommendations, transcripts, etc.)
 - Your high school's application processing deadlines
- ☐ **Ask a counselor** to help you request a fee waiver if you can't afford application or test fees.
- ☐ **Improve Your Score*:** Many seniors retake the SAT in the fall. Additional coursework and practice with Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy® since your last test could help you boost your performance. Plus you already know what to expect on test day.
- ☐ **Be sure** to have your SAT scores sent to the colleges to which you are applying.
- ☐ **Complete the FAFSA*:** To apply for most financial aid, you'll need to complete the FAFSA. Oct. 1 is the first day you can file the FAFSA.
- ☐ **Complete the CSS Profile:** CSS Profile™ is an online application used by certain colleges and scholarship programs to determine eligibility for their aid dollars.
- ☐ **Prepare** early decision/early action or rolling admission applications as soon as possible. Nov. 1–15: Colleges may require test scores and applications between these dates for early decision admission.
- ☐ **Ask a counselor or teacher** for recommendations if you need them. Give each teacher or counselor an outline of your academic record and your extracurricular activities. For each recommendation, provide a stamped, addressed envelope and any college forms required.
- ☐ **Write first drafts** and ask teachers and others to read them if you're submitting essays. If you're applying for early decision, finish the essays for that application now.
- ☐ **Apply to College*:** Submit your applications to the schools that you want to attend.
- ☐ **Ask counselors** to send your transcripts to colleges. Give counselors the proper forms at least two weeks before the colleges require them.

WINTER

- ☐ **Keep photocopies** as you finish, and send your applications and essays.
- ☐ **Give the correct form** to your counselor if the college wants to see second-semester grades.
- ☐ **Have your high school send a transcript**—it is sent separately by mail to colleges if you apply online to colleges.

SPRING

- ☐ **Keep active in school.** If you are waitlisted, the college will want to know what you have accomplished between the time you applied and the time you learned of its decision.
- ☐ **Visit your final college before accepting.** You should receive acceptance letters and financial aid offers by mid-April. Notify your counselor of your choice. If you have questions about housing offers, talk to your counselor or call the college.
- ☐ **Inform every college** of your acceptance or rejection of the offer of admission and/or financial aid by May 1. Colleges cannot require your deposit or your commitment to attend before May 1. Talk to your counselor or adviser if you have questions.
- ☐ **Send your deposit** to one college only.
- ☐ **Take any AP® Exams.** Show what you've learned in your AP classes. A successful score could even earn you credit, advanced placement, or both in college.
- ☐ **Waitlisted by a college?** If you intend to enroll if you are accepted, tell the admission director your intent and ask how to strengthen your application. Need financial aid? Ask whether funds will be available if you're accepted.
- ☐ **Work with a counselor** to resolve any admission or financial aid problems.
- ☐ **Ask your high school** to send a final transcript to your college.
- ☐ **Review your financial aid awards:** Not all financial aid awards are the same, so it's important to choose the aid package that's best for you and your family. Be sure to note what you have to do to continue receiving financial aid from year to year, and how your aid might change in future years.



Financial Aid Checklist

College is usually more affordable than many families think, thanks to financial aid. The checklists below offer a step-by-step guide to help you navigate the financial aid process and get the most money possible for college.

FRESHMAN/SOPHOMORE YEAR

- ☐ **Find out how financial aid can help you afford college.** You might be surprised by how affordable a college education can be. Check out [7 Things You Need to Know About Financial Aid](#).
- ☐ **Learn the basics of college costs.** Besides tuition, what expenses do college students have to cover? Find out by reading [Quick Guide: College Costs](#).
- ☐ **Get an idea of what college might really cost you.** Check out [9 Things You Need to Know About Net Price](#) to learn why you may not have to pay the full published price of a college. Then pick a college you're interested in, and go to [College Search](#) to find its profile. Click the Calculate Your Net Price button to see that college's estimated net price for you—the cost of attending a college minus grants and scholarships you might receive. Save the data you enter, when possible, so you can recompute the net price as college gets closer.
- ☐ **Talk to your family about ways to pay for college.** Discuss the options, and share ideas about how your family might pay for it.
- ☐ **Save money for college.** Bank part of your birthday money, your allowance, or your earnings from chores or an after-school job for future college expenses. Even a small amount can be a big help when you're buying textbooks and school supplies later on.
- ☐ **Challenge yourself inside the classroom.** Good grades not only expand your college opportunities but also can help you pay for college. Some grants and scholarships—money you don't have to pay back—are awarded based on academic performance.
- ☐ **Get involved in activities you like.** Your activities outside the classroom—playing sports, volunteering, and participating in clubs—can lead to scholarships that will help you afford college.

Notes:

JUNIOR YEAR: SUMMER/FALL

- ☐ **Take an inventory of your interests and passions.** Scholarships are based not only on academic achievement. Many scholarships award money for college based on a student's activities, talents, background, and intended major.
- ☐ **Research the various types of financial aid.** Find out the difference between a grant and a loan, the way work-study can help with college costs, and more. Read **Financial Aid Can Help You Afford College**.
- ☐ **Continue talking with your family about paying for college.** Start planning your financial strategy. Most families use a combination of savings, current income, and loans to pay their share of tuition and other costs.
- ☐ **Take the PSAT/NMSQT®.** Juniors who take the PSAT/NMSQT, which is given in October, are automatically entered into the National Merit® Scholarship Program. Organizations such as the American Indian Graduate Center, Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund, Hispanic Scholarship Fund, Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, and United Negro College Fund use the

PSAT/NMSQT and PSAT™ 10 to identify students for scholarships.

- ☐ **Learn the difference between sticker price and net price.** A college's sticker price is its full published cost, while the net price is the cost of attending a college minus grants and scholarships you receive. Knowing the difference will help you understand why most students pay less than full price for college. Read **Focus on Net Price, Not Sticker Price** to learn more.
- ☐ **Get perspectives and tips from people who know.** Visit the **Video Gallery** to watch short videos of college students and education professionals talking about paying for college.
- ☐ **Think about getting college credit while you're still in high school.** Consider taking Advanced Placement® Program (AP®) classes and exams, which can count for college credit, placement, or both, and may help you save money. Read **Getting College Credit Before College** to learn more about AP and other college-level courses.

Notes:

JUNIOR YEAR: WINTER/SPRING

- ☐ **Keep looking up colleges' estimated net prices**—net price calculators get updated every year. Pick a college you're interested in, and go to **College Search** to find its profile. Click Calculate Your Net Price to see that college's estimated net price for you—the cost of attending a college minus the grants and scholarships you might receive.
- ☐ **Start researching scholarship opportunities.** Scholarships are free money; that is, unlike student loans, they don't have to be paid back. Use the College Board **Scholarship Search** tool to find scholarships you might qualify for.
- ☐ **Opt in to the College Board Opportunity Scholarships at [cb.org/opportunity](https://collegeboard.org/opportunity).** You can earn scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$2,000 by completing individual college planning steps. Complete all six steps and you'll be eligible for the \$40,000 scholarship.
- ☐ **Get to know the FAFSA.** The Free Application for Federal Student Aid is the key to having access to federal financial

aid. You can find out more about the form at fafsa.ed.gov. You can't fill out the FAFSA until after October 1 of your senior year, but you can create your account and get FSA ID to get a head start.

- ☐ **Go to a financial aid event.** Many schools host financial aid nights, so students and their families can get information and ask questions.
- ☐ **Set aside money from a summer job.** Even a little extra money will help you pay for books and living expenses while in college or enable you to buy some of the things you need to make a smooth transition to college.
- ☐ **Gather the documents you'll need to fill out your financial aid applications.** You and your parents will need to gather tax returns, income statements, and lists of assets to prepare to fill out the FAFSA, the CSS Profile™, and other applications. Read **How to Complete the FAFSA**.

Notes:

SENIOR YEAR: SUMMER/FALL

- ☐ **Research local scholarship opportunities.** Talk to your school counselor, teachers, or other adults in your community about scholarships offered by local organizations. Go to your local library, and ask for help. Ask your parents to see if their employers grant scholarships. And don't forget to check the College Board [Scholarship Search](#).
- ☐ **Look up deadlines.** Don't miss the priority deadlines for your colleges' financial aid applications—meeting these will help you get as much money as possible. You can compare deadlines for different colleges by using the [College Search](#) tool. And be sure to find out the application deadlines of any private scholarships or loans you plan to apply for.
- ☐ **Get an estimate of what the colleges on your final list will actually cost.** Get a better idea of what you'll pay to attend a college by looking at its estimated net price—the cost of attending a college minus grants and scholarships you receive. You can get this figure by going to the net price calculator on the college's website or, for some colleges, by using the College Board's [Net Price Calculator](#).
- ☐ **Find out about different kinds of student loans.** Not all student loans are equal. Loans come from different sources, and some kinds are more expensive than others. Read [Types of College Loans](#) to learn more.
- ☐ **Find out if you need to file a CSS Profile.** A college may require students to complete this application—or the college's own forms—to apply for financial aid awarded by the institution.
- ☐ **Complete the CSS Profile, if required.** If you need to submit the CSS Profile to a college or scholarship program, be sure to find out the priority deadline and submit it by that date. Read [How to Complete the CSS Profile](#).
- ☐ **Complete your FAFSA.** You can submit the FAFSA after October 1—sooner is better to qualify for as much financial aid as possible. Filling out the form online at fafsa.gov is the fastest way to do it.

Notes:

SENIOR YEAR: WINTER/SPRING

- ☐ **Apply for any private scholarships you've found.** Make sure you understand and follow the application requirements and apply by the deadline.
- ☐ **Compare your financial aid awards.** The colleges you apply to will send financial aid award letters to tell you how much and which kinds of aid they're offering you. Use the [Compare Your Aid Awards](#) calculator to make side-by-side comparisons of each college's aid package.
- ☐ **Contact a college's financial aid office, if necessary.** Financial aid officers are there to help you if you have questions. If your financial aid award is not enough, don't be afraid to ask about other options.
- ☐ **Select a financial aid package by the deadline.** Once you've compared the offers, you and your family should discuss which package best meets your needs. Financial aid is limited, so if you don't accept your award on time, it may go to another student. You can, however, ask for an extension if you're waiting to hear from other schools. Each college will decide if it's able to give you an extension.
- ☐ **Complete financial aid paperwork.** If loans are part of your financial aid package, you'll have to complete and submit paperwork to get the money.
- ☐ **Get ready to pay the first college tuition bill.** This usually covers the first semester and is due before you enroll.

Notes:

Visit bigfuture.org for more information.

Published Charges by Sector and by Carnegie Classification, 2019-20

The average published tuition and fee price for full-time in-state students at public four-year colleges and universities is \$10,440 in 2019-20, \$230 (2.3% before adjusting for inflation) higher than it was in 2018-19.

TABLE 1 Average Published Charges (Enrollment-Weighted) for Full-Time Undergraduates, 2018-19 and 2019-20

	Sector					Carnegie Classification					
	Public Two-Year In-District	Public Four-Year In-State	Public Four-Year Out-of-State	Private Nonprofit Four-Year	For-Profit	Public Four-Year			Private Nonprofit Four-Year		
						Doctoral	Master's	Bachelor's	Doctoral	Master's	Bachelor's
Tuition and Fees											
2019-20	\$3,730	\$10,440	\$26,820	\$36,880	—	\$11,380	\$8,990	\$8,730	\$45,380	\$31,140	\$36,360
2018-19	\$3,630	\$10,210	\$26,200	\$35,680	\$14,600	\$11,140	\$8,760	\$8,530	\$43,820	\$30,070	\$35,350
\$ Change	\$100	\$230	\$620	\$1,200	—	\$240	\$230	\$200	\$1,560	\$1,070	\$1,010
% Change	2.8%	2.3%	2.4%	3.4%	—	2.2%	2.6%	2.3%	3.6%	3.6%	2.9%
Room and Board											
2019-20	\$8,990	\$11,510	\$11,510	\$12,990	—	\$11,990	\$10,580	\$10,730	\$14,780	\$12,240	\$12,020
2018-19	\$8,720	\$11,190	\$11,190	\$12,610	—	\$11,650	\$10,290	\$10,370	\$14,320	\$11,920	\$11,640
\$ Change	\$270	\$320	\$320	\$380	—	\$340	\$290	\$360	\$460	\$320	\$380
% Change	3.1%	2.9%	2.9%	3.0%	—	2.9%	2.8%	3.5%	3.2%	2.7%	3.3%
Tuition and Fees and Room and Board											
2019-20	\$12,720	\$21,950	\$38,330	\$49,870	—	\$23,370	\$19,570	\$19,460	\$60,160	\$43,380	\$48,380
2018-19	\$12,350	\$21,400	\$37,390	\$48,290	—	\$22,790	\$19,050	\$18,900	\$58,140	\$41,990	\$46,990
\$ Change	\$370	\$550	\$940	\$1,580	—	\$580	\$520	\$560	\$2,020	\$1,390	\$1,390
% Change	3.0%	2.6%	2.5%	3.3%	—	2.5%	2.7%	3.0%	3.5%	3.3%	3.0%

NOTES: Prices in Table 1 are not adjusted for inflation. Prices reported for 2018-19 have been revised to reflect the most recent information and may differ from those reported in *Trends in College Pricing 2018*. Public two-year room and board charges are estimated based on commuter housing and food costs. Prices for the for-profit sector are from IPEDS and the latest available data are for 2018-19.

SOURCES: College Board, Annual Survey of Colleges; NCES, IPEDS Fall 2017 Enrollment data and IPEDS 2018 Institutional Characteristics data.

Enrollment-weighted tuition values represent the price charged by each institution weighted by the number of full-time undergraduate students enrolled in fall 2017. Public four-year in-state charges are weighted by total fall 2017 full-time undergraduate enrollment in each institution, including both in-state students and out-of-state students. Out-of-state tuition and fees are computed by adding the average in-state price to the out-of-state premium weighted by the number of full-time out-of-state undergraduate students enrolled at each institution. Room and board charges are weighted by the number of undergraduate students residing on campus for four-year institutions and by the number of commuter students for public two-year institutions.

- The 2019-20 increase in published tuition and fees was largest in the private nonprofit sector, where the average price increased by 3.4% (\$1,200) to \$36,880.
- The average published tuition and fee price at public doctoral universities is 27% higher than that at public master's universities (\$11,380 vs. \$8,990). In the private nonprofit sector, this difference is 46% (\$45,380 vs. \$31,140).
- The \$14,600 average tuition and fee price for full-time students enrolled in for-profit institutions in 2018-19 was about four times as high as the average price at public two-year colleges and 1.4 times as high as the average in-state price at public four-year institutions that year.

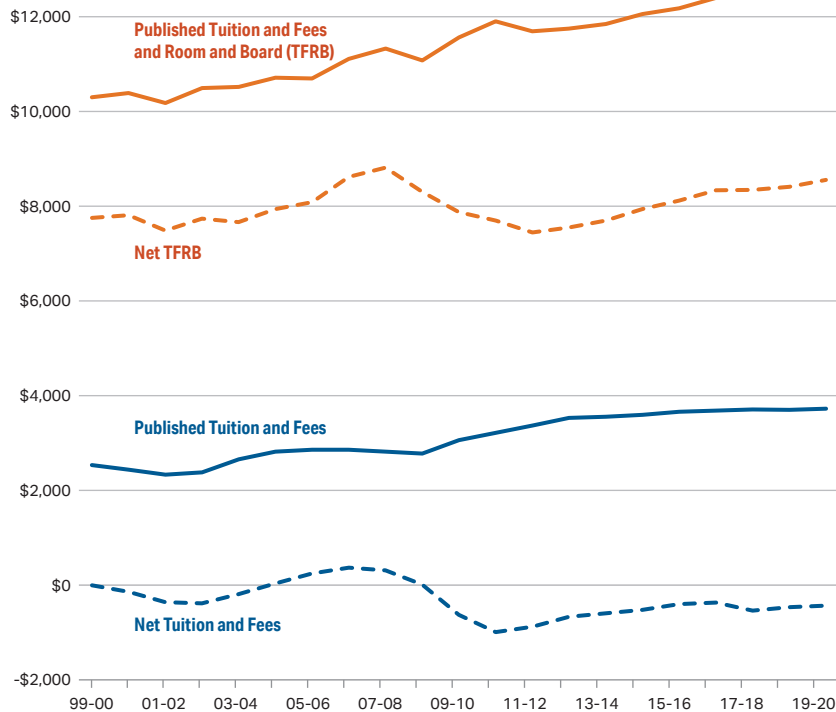
ALSO IMPORTANT:

- The prices shown in Table 1 are published or sticker prices. In 2015-16, about three-quarters of full-time undergraduate students received grants that reduced the actual price of college (NPSAS, 2016). Average institutional grant aid is generally higher at higher-price institutions. In addition, many states and institutions grant tuition waivers to groups such as veterans, teachers, or dependents of employees.
- The prices shown in Table 1 are for one academic year. The total price of a college education depends on how long a student is enrolled before completing a degree—frequently more than four years for a bachelor's degree and more than two years for an associate degree.
- The prices shown in Table 1 are for full-time students. Prices for part-time students are typically less than those for full-time students.
- About 19% of full-time public two-year students are in California, which has the lowest tuition and fee price in that sector. Excluding California raises the average published price of public two-year colleges from \$3,730 to \$4,260.

Average Net Price: Public Two-Year

On average, full-time students at public two-year colleges receive enough grant aid and tax benefits to cover their tuition and fees, but the estimated \$400 they have available to put toward other expenses in 2019-20 is a decline from almost \$1,000 in 2010-11.

FIGURE 8 Average Published and Net Prices in 2019 Dollars, Full-Time In-District Undergraduate Students at Public Two-Year Institutions, 1999-00 to 2019-20



- In 2019-20, full-time students at public two-year colleges must cover an average of about \$8,600 in room and board after grant aid and tax benefits, in addition to paying for books and supplies and other living expenses.
- Between 1999-00 and 2009-10, average grant aid and tax benefits to public two-year college students rose about \$600 more than tuition and fees, reducing net prices.
- Between 2009-10 and 2019-20, the average published tuition and fees at public two-year colleges increased by \$670 in 2019 dollars. Average estimated grant aid and tax benefits increased by less than \$500 over the decade.

ALSO IMPORTANT:

- California, which has the lowest public two-year tuition and fees in the nation, enrolls about 19% of the sector's full-time students. Excluding California would raise both the average published prices and the average estimated net prices.
- The estimated average Pell Grant funding per full-time public two-year college student was about \$390 lower (in 2019 dollars) in 2019-20 than in 2010-11.

Average Published and Net Prices and Average Grant Aid and Tax Benefits per Student in 2019 Dollars, Full-Time In-District Undergraduate Students at Public Two-Year Institutions, 1999-00 to 2019-20, Selected Years

	99-00	04-05	09-10	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20 (preliminary)
Published Tuition and Fees	\$2,540	\$2,820	\$3,060	\$3,600	\$3,660	\$3,690	\$3,710	\$3,700	\$3,730
Published Tuition and Fees and Room and Board (TFRB)	\$10,300	\$10,720	\$11,570	\$12,060	\$12,180	\$12,400	\$12,600	\$12,570	\$12,720
Net Tuition and Fees	\$0	\$40	-\$630	-\$520	-\$400	-\$350	-\$530	-\$460	-\$430
Net TFRB	\$7,760	\$7,940	\$7,880	\$7,940	\$8,120	\$8,360	\$8,360	\$8,410	\$8,560
Grant Aid and Tax Benefits per Student	\$2,540	\$2,780	\$3,690	\$4,120	\$4,060	\$4,040	\$4,240	\$4,160	\$4,160

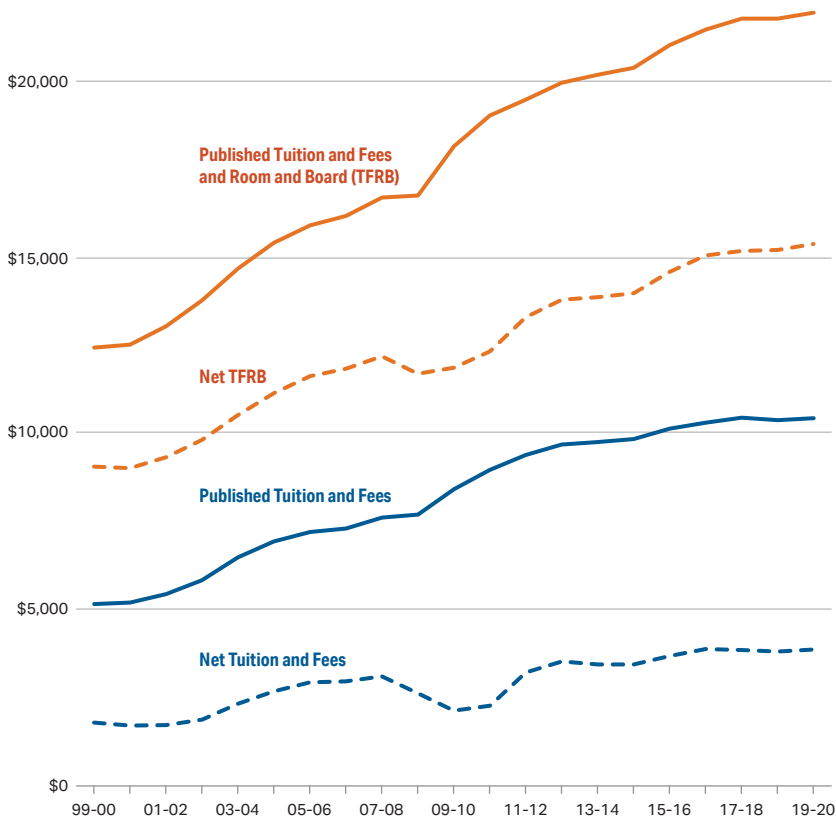
NOTES: Estimates of net price exclude military/veterans' aid, which awards relatively large amounts to a small number of students. Because information on grant aid and education tax benefits for 2019-20 is not yet available, the net price for 2019-20 is estimated based on 2018-19 financial aid data. Room and board expenses are estimated based on housing and food costs for commuter students.

SOURCES: College Board, Annual Survey of Colleges; *Trends in Student Aid 2019*; NCES, IPEDS Fall Enrollment and Student Financial Aid data.

Average Net Price: Public Four-Year

Between 2009-10 and 2019-20, the increase in average grant aid and tax benefits covered only about \$300 (15%) of the \$2,000 increase in published tuition and fees for full-time in-state students at public four-year colleges and universities.

FIGURE 9 Average Published and Net Prices in 2019 Dollars, Full-Time In-State Undergraduate Students at Public Four-Year Institutions, 1999-00 to 2019-20



- Between 1999-00 and 2009-10, the increase in average grant aid and tax benefits covered about \$2,900 (90%) of the \$3,300 tuition and fee increase.
- Financial aid grew slightly more while tuition grew much more slowly between 2014-15 and 2019-20 than over the previous five years. As a result, average net price at public four-year institutions rose by about \$400 (in 2019 dollars) between 2014-15 and 2019-20, compared with about \$1,300 over the first half of the decade.
- In 2019-20, full-time in-state students at public four-year colleges must cover an average of about \$15,400 in tuition and fees and room and board after grant aid and tax benefits, in addition to paying for books and supplies and other living expenses.

ALSO IMPORTANT:

- In 2015-16, 13% of full-time students at public four-year institutions were residents of other states. As reported in Table 1, out-of-state students face much higher tuition prices than in-state students. In 2015-16, full-time out-of-state students received on average \$1,500 more grant aid per student than in-state students. (NPSAS, 2016)
- About 85% of the increase in grant aid per student at public four-year colleges and universities between 2009-10 and 2019-20 came from increases in institutional grant aid.

Average Published and Net Prices and Average Grant Aid and Tax Benefits per Student in 2019 Dollars, Full-Time In-State Undergraduate Students at Public Four-Year Institutions, 1999-00 to 2019-20, Selected Years

	99-00	04-05	09-10	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20 (preliminary)
Published Tuition and Fees	\$5,170	\$6,950	\$8,420	\$9,850	\$10,140	\$10,310	\$10,460	\$10,390	\$10,440
Published Tuition and Fees and Room and Board (TFRB)	\$12,440	\$15,420	\$18,160	\$20,390	\$21,040	\$21,480	\$21,790	\$21,790	\$21,950
Net Tuition and Fees	\$1,800	\$2,690	\$2,140	\$3,450	\$3,690	\$3,950	\$3,880	\$3,820	\$3,870
Net TFRB	\$9,070	\$11,160	\$11,880	\$13,990	\$14,590	\$15,120	\$15,210	\$15,220	\$15,380
Grant Aid and Tax Benefits per Student	\$3,370	\$4,260	\$6,280	\$6,400	\$6,450	\$6,360	\$6,580	\$6,570	\$6,570

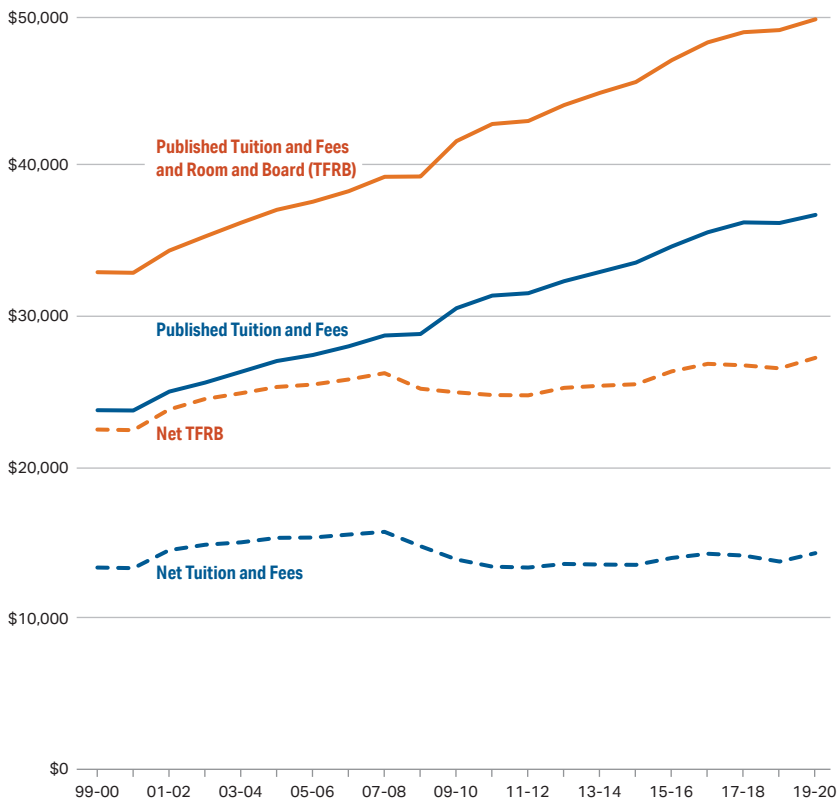
NOTES: Estimates of net price exclude military/veterans' aid, which awards relatively large amounts to a small number of students. Because information on grant aid and education tax benefits for 2019-20 is not yet available, the net price for 2019-20 is estimated based on 2018-19 financial aid data.

SOURCES: College Board, Annual Survey of Colleges; *Trends in Student Aid 2019*; NCES, IPEDS Fall Enrollment and Student Financial Aid data.

Average Net Price: Private Nonprofit Four-Year

The average net tuition and fee price paid by full-time students enrolled in private nonprofit four-year institutions increased from about \$13,400 (in 2019 dollars) in 2011-12 to an estimated \$14,400 in 2019-20; this net price remains below its level from 2001-02 through 2008-09.

FIGURE 10 Average Published and Net Prices in 2019 Dollars, Full-Time Undergraduate Students at Private Nonprofit Four-Year Institutions, 1999-00 to 2019-20



- In 2019-20, full-time students at private nonprofit four-year colleges must cover an average of about \$27,400 in tuition and fees and room and board after grant aid and tax benefits, in addition to paying for books and supplies and other living expenses.
- Between 2009-10 and 2019-20, the average published tuition and fees at private nonprofit four-year colleges and universities increased by \$6,200 in 2019 dollars; average grant aid and tax benefits per student increased by about \$5,800. The average net tuition and fee price declined from about \$14,000 in 2009-10 to \$13,600 in 2014-15 before rising to an estimated \$14,400 in 2019-20.
- The share of tuition and fees covered by average grant aid from all sources and federal education tax benefits rose from 44% in 1999-00 to 54% in 2009-10 and to 61% in 2019-20.

ALSO IMPORTANT:

- In 2019-20, about 70% of the \$22,500 in grant aid and tax benefits per student that lowers net prices for full-time students in the private nonprofit four-year sector comes from colleges and universities in the form of discounts from their published prices.
- In 2015-16, 75% of full-time students at private nonprofit four-year institutions received grant aid from their institutions. Thirty-six percent received federal grant aid and 22% received state grant aid. (NPSAS, 2016)

Average Published and Net Prices and Average Grant Aid and Tax Benefits per Student in 2019 Dollars, Full-Time Undergraduate Students at Private Nonprofit Four-Year Institutions, 1999-00 to 2019-20, Selected Years

	99-00	04-05	09-10	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20 (preliminary)
Published Tuition and Fees	\$23,890	\$27,160	\$30,670	\$33,690	\$34,770	\$35,720	\$36,380	\$36,330	\$36,880
Published Tuition and Fees and Room and Board (TFRB)	\$33,060	\$37,210	\$41,780	\$45,710	\$47,170	\$48,350	\$49,020	\$49,160	\$49,870
Net Tuition and Fees	\$13,430	\$15,390	\$13,960	\$13,600	\$14,070	\$14,400	\$14,250	\$13,830	\$14,380
Net TFRB	\$22,600	\$25,440	\$25,070	\$25,620	\$26,470	\$27,030	\$26,890	\$26,660	\$27,370
Grant Aid and Tax Benefits per Student	\$10,460	\$11,770	\$16,710	\$20,090	\$20,700	\$21,320	\$22,130	\$22,500	\$22,500

NOTES: Estimates of net price exclude military/veterans' aid, which awards relatively large amounts to a small number of students. Because information on grant aid and education tax benefits for 2019-20 is not yet available, the net price for 2019-20 is estimated based on 2018-19 financial aid data.

SOURCES: College Board, Annual Survey of Colleges; *Trends in Student Aid 2019*; NCES, IPEDS Fall Enrollment and Student Financial Aid data.

Quick Guide to Financial Aid

A few weeks after filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), you will receive a copy of your Student Aid Report (SAR) with your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The prospective college(s) will receive your FAFSA information as well. Each school you applied to will send you a Financial Aid Award Letter, breaking down the college costs and summarizing your eligibility for each type of financial aid. The aid offered in the letter will be based on your demonstrated financial need, which is equal to the Cost of Attendance (COA) minus your EFC. To understand the financial aid process better, here are the key terms you need to know:

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA): The FAFSA is a form used to apply for student financial aid from the federal and state government, as well as most colleges and universities. The government uses the information from your FAFSA to determine your expected family contribution (EFC). You can file the FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

FSA ID. The FSA ID is comprised of a username and password and can be used to login to certain Federal Student Aid websites, such as the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Obtain your FSA ID at: <https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm>.

Student Aid Report (SAR): The SAR is the official notification sent to you about a week after filing the FAFSA online. This document includes your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The SAR also provides information about the colleges you are considering, such as the graduation rates.

Expected Family Contribution (EFC): The EFC is a measure of your family's financial strength. It is based on the information you submitted on the FAFSA, including income, assets, family size and the number of children in college. Your EFC represents the amount of money the federal government believes your family can contribute toward one academic year of college. It is a harsh assessment of ability to pay, since it does not consider many types of consumer debt, such as credit card debt, student loan debt and auto loans. The actual amount your family ends up paying could be higher or lower than the EFC figure, depending on the sources of aid available to you.

There are two main formulas for calculating an EFC, the federal methodology (FM) and the institutional methodology (IM). The two formulas differ in the types of assets that are included (e.g., family home, assets of siblings), the assumption of a minimum student contribution, the treatment of paper losses, regional differences in cost of living, allowances for educational savings and emergency funds, the treatment of children of divorced parents and adjustments for more than one child in college at the same time. The FM EFC is used for determining eligibility for federal and state aid and financial aid at most colleges. About 250 colleges use the IM EFC for awarding their own financial aid funds.

Financial Aid Package: The financial aid package is a combination of multiple types and sources of financial aid available to you to help pay for college costs. It may include money from the federal government, state government, the college itself and private sources. It can include scholarships, grants, work-study and loans. The financial aid offered by each college may vary and is summarized in financial aid award letters sent by the prospective colleges.

Financial Aid Award Letter: The financial aid award letter is the list of all the aid from multiple sources that you are eligible to receive through your prospective college, including terms and conditions. You are not required to accept every type of aid found in the letter. For example, you could turn down loans. Turning down loans, however, will not increase the amount of grants and/or scholarships you may receive.

Cost of Attendance (COA): The cost of attendance includes the total price of tuition, fees, room, board, textbooks, supplies, transportation and personal expenses for one year of college. This is also known at some colleges as the "Student Budget." There may be separate student budgets for students who live on campus, off campus or with their parents. Some colleges will adjust the cost of attendance to include the cost of a computer, student health insurance and dependent care.

Net Price: The net price or out-of-pocket cost is the bottom line cost of college. It is the difference between the cost of attendance and grants. It is the amount of money you must pay from savings, income and loans to cover college costs.

Types of Aid

There are many different types of financial aid available from federal and state government, college and private sources. The major types of financial aid include:

Grants are awards typically based on financial need that do not need to be repaid. An example is the Federal Pell Grant. Eligibility often depends on your EFC and/or financial need. For example, the Federal Pell Grant is based on your EFC.

Scholarships are awards usually based on achievement or talent that also do not need to be paid back. You can search for scholarships for free at www.fastweb.com. Fastweb adds and updates scholarships every single day, and will send you email notification when there's a new scholarship that matches your personal background profile. Also, your prospective college(s) may offer scholarships based on academic merit and/or financial need. Call the financial aid office to find out which scholarships are available to you and how you can apply.

Federal Work-Study (FWS) provides part-time jobs for students with financial need. The jobs are usually available on or near campus. A list of available jobs can be found at the college's financial aid office or student employment office. Students who don't qualify for a work-study job may be able to find student employment to help pay for college bills or get a little spending money.

Loans are funds that must be paid back, usually with interest. There are federal student loans, federal parent loans, and private or alternative loans. The good news is that interest rates for education loans are currently at historic lows. However, you must demonstrate financial need for some loans, like the Federal Perkins Loan or the Federal subsidized Stafford Loan. Other loans, such as the Federal unsubsidized Stafford loan and the Federal Parent PLUS loan, do not depend on financial need. Private student loans may depend on your credit history. To find out more about loans, visit www.finaid.org/loans.

Education Tax Benefits are available to you and your parents when you file your federal income tax returns based on amounts you paid for college. The most popular education tax benefits are the Hope Scholarship tax credit, Lifetime Learning tax credit and the student loan interest deduction.

American Opportunity Tax Credit provides a federal income tax credit of up to \$2,500 (40% refundable) per student based on the first \$4,000 in postsecondary tuition, fees and course materials paid by the taxpayer during the tax year. The full \$2,500 credit is available to individuals with modified adjusted gross income of \$80,000 or less and to married couples filing a joint return with modified AGI of \$160,000 or less. For more information about the Hope Scholarship tax credit and other education tax benefits, visit www.finaid.org/otheraid.

Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF). Students who work full-time in a public service job for 10 years may qualify to have their remaining debt forgiven. Public service loan forgiveness works in conjunction with income-based repayment. Public service jobs include public school teachers, police, fire, EMT, members of the military, public defenders, prosecutors and others who work for the city, state and federal government, as well as people working for 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organizations. Public service loan forgiveness is available only for federal student loans. Private student loans and Federal Parent PLUS loans are not eligible. To find out more about public service loan forgiveness, visit www.finaid.org/publicservice.

Key Loan Terms

Federal education loans, including both student loans and parent loans, are available direct from the federal government and are administered by your college. Private student loans, sometimes called alternative loans, are available from a private lender (like a bank) and have interest rates and repayment terms set by the lender and not the government. Here are loan terms you need to know:

Annual Percentage Rate (APR): The APR is the overall cost of borrowing money, expressed as an annual percentage of the loan balance. The APR calculates the combined impact of the interest rate, loan fees, capitalization of interest (the addition of unpaid interest to the principal) and other repayment terms.

Cancellation: Some loan programs provide for cancellation (forgiveness) of the loan under certain circumstances, such as death or total and permanent disability of the borrower.

Capitalization: Capitalization is the practice of adding unpaid interest charges to the principal balance of an education loan, thereby increasing the size and cost of the loan. Interest is then charged on the new balance, including both the unpaid principal and the accrued interest. Interest can be capitalized monthly, quarterly, annually or when the loan enters repayment. Capitalization causes interest to be charged on top of interest.

Consolidation: A consolidation loan combines one or more eligible federal educational loans into a single new loan.

Default: Default is the failure to repay your loan according to the terms. It may lead to legal action to recover the money and can negatively affect your credit rating. Private student loans are considered to be in default after 120 days of nonpayment, while federal education loans are considered to be in default after 360 days of nonpayment.

Deferment: A deferment is a postponement of payment on a federal loan that is allowed under certain conditions and during which the government pays the interest on any subsidized loans. The borrower is responsible for the interest on any unsubsidized loans during a deferment. The economic hardship deferment has a three-year limit. Deferments during the in-school period are unlimited.

Forbearance: A forbearance is a period during which your monthly loan payments are temporarily suspended or reduced. Interest continues to accrue and will be capitalized if unpaid by the borrower. You may qualify for a forbearance if you are willing but unable to make loan payments due to certain types of financial hardships. Federal loans have a five-year limit on forbearances. Private student loans typically have a one-year limit.

Interest: Interest is a periodic fee for borrowing money, expressed as a percentage of the loan balance. Interest rates are either variable (the rate can change) or fixed (the rate will not change). The interest rate on a variable rate loan can reset (change) annually, quarterly or monthly.

Loan Fees: Loan fees are one-time charges to originate or guarantee a loan, expressed as a percentage of the loan balance.

Principal: The principal is the full amount borrowed. During repayment, it refers to the portion of the original loan amount still owed (not including interest or fees).

Promissory Note: A promissory note is a binding legal document you sign when you get a student loan. It contains the loan terms and conditions under which you're borrowing and the terms under which you agree to pay back the loan. It may also mention deferment and cancellation provisions available to the borrower.

Subsidized: The government pays the interest on subsidized loans while the student is in school, during the six-month grace period and during any deferment periods. Subsidized loans are awarded based on demonstrated financial need. Note: The government will not pay interest on subsidized loans awarded in 2012-13 and 2013-14 during the six-month grace period. The government will continue to pay interest on these loans during the in-school and other deferment periods.

Unsubsidized: An unsubsidized loan is a loan for which the government does not pay the interest. The borrower is responsible for the interest on an unsubsidized loan from the date the loan is disbursed, even while the student is still in school. Students may avoid paying the interest while they are in school by capitalizing the interest, which adds the interest to the loan balance. Examples of unsubsidized loans include the unsubsidized Stafford loan and the Parent PLUS loans. These loans are not based on financial need or income and may be used to pay for the family share of college costs.

Understanding Your Financial Aid Award Letter

Use this example as a guide to reading your financial aid award letter. Remember, you can choose to accept or decline any part of your financial aid package. If you decide to decline any type of aid, contact the Financial Aid Office. If you have any questions, make sure to contact your prospective college's aid office immediately.

Expenses (COA*)		Resources (EFC*)	
Tuition:	\$7,334	Parent's Contribution	
Room/Board	\$5,204	From Earnings	\$2,500
Health Fees	\$ 176	From Assets	\$ 112
Books/Supplies	\$1,015	Student's Contribution	\$ 500
Personal	\$2,600	Total Resources	\$3,112
Transportation	\$ 900		
Total Expenses	\$17,239		

*Cost of Attendance (COA): The total expenses (tuition, fees, etc.) of one year's education. Your college may also include indirect costs (books, room and board, transportation, personal expenses, etc.). Our example includes both direct and indirect expenses.

*Expected Family Contribution: Amount your family is expected to contribute determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

The amount you end up actually paying for the academic year, could differ from the EFC, depending on what resources are available at the college you decide to attend.

Sample Award Letter Explained

Dear Student:

The results of your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) indicate that you are eligible for financial assistance for the upcoming academic year. We are pleased to offer you the following financial aid award. Please review each type of award before accepting.

	Federal Pell Grant (free money)		Option to accept or decline each award			
Award	Fall	Spring	Accept	Decline	Total	
Federal Pell Grant	\$ 625	\$ 625	€	€	\$1,250	
Total Direct Loans					\$6,876	
Direct Federal Stafford Loan (Subsidized)	\$1,500	\$1,500	€	€		
Direct Federal Stafford Loan (Unsubsidized)	\$1,938	\$1,938	€	€		
Total Financial Aid Package					\$8,126	

Federal Stafford Loan – Unsubsidized
(Interest accrues immediately after loan is disbursed)

Federal Stafford Loan – Subsidized
(Interest-free until graduation when repayment of interest & principal begins)

What does this mean to you?

Cost of Attendance (COA)	\$17,239
Less Gift Aid (Pell Grant)	- \$1,250
Out-of-Pocket Cost (Net Price)	\$15,989

The out-of-pocket cost (net price) is the difference between the cost of attendance and the gift aid, such as grants and scholarships. It is the amount of money you will have to pay from savings (past income), income and loans (future income). Scholarships and grants will always be the best way to meet the costs of a college education. Search for scholarships at free websites like www.fastweb.com!

2021-22 CSS Profile Student Guide

This guide provides the basic information you need to complete your CSS Profile application at cssprofile.org starting Oct. 1, 2020.

WHAT is the CSS Profile?

The **CSS Profile** is an online application that collects information used by nearly 400 colleges and scholarship programs to award non-federal aid. (For **federal** aid you must complete the **FAFSA**, available Oct. 1 at fafsa.ed.gov.) Some colleges may require the CSS Profile from both biological/adoptive parents in cases of divorce or separation.

WHEN do I complete the CSS Profile?

You may complete the CSS Profile as early as **Oct. 1, 2020**. You should submit no later than two weeks before the EARLIEST priority filing date specified by your colleges.

WHO must complete the CSS Profile?

Check your colleges' information to determine whether they require the CSS Profile. A **list of participating colleges** is also found on the CSS Profile Homepage.

HOW do I complete the CSS Profile?

You submit the CSS Profile at cssprofile.org. Once you sign-in, you will find a list of useful documents, such as your federal tax returns and other financial information that you'll need to have at hand to complete the application. Help is provided within the application and additional help is available by chat, phone, or email by clicking "Contact Us" in the application.

WHAT does the CSS Profile Cost?

The fee for the initial application is **\$25**. Additional reports are **\$16**. Payment may be made via credit or debit card. First-time domestic college applicants may receive CSS Profile fee waivers if the student qualified for an SAT fee waiver, or if the student is an orphan or ward of the court under the age of 24 or based on parental income and family size (e.g. family of 4 would qualify with income of \$45,000 or less).

The Process

1. , **Sign-in** – Use your College Board username and password or sign up for a new account. If you created an account for the SAT or to view your PSAT or AP scores, you should use the same user name and password for your CSS Profile application.
2. , **Complete the Application** – As you answer questions, the system builds an application tailored to your family's situation. The application provides online help and edits to guide you. You do not need to complete the application in one sitting; save your application and return to complete it at any time.
3. , **Submit the Application** – The date and time you submit your completed application will be recorded based on Eastern Time and your reports will be sent to the colleges you selected.
4. , **Review Your Dashboard** – Once you submit your application, your dashboard will include your payment receipt and any next steps, such as submitting documents to the Institutional Documentation Services (IDOC).

You may add a college at any time. Sign in to the CSS Profile and click **Add a College or Program** on your Dashboard. You will be charged \$16 for each college you add. Any unused fee waivers will be automatically applied to your charges.

Questions? Customer Service Representatives are available via email, online chat, and phone. Visit collegeboard.org/contact-us#css for more details.

Top Ten Student Loan Tips

- 1. File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).**
The FAFSA is a prerequisite for federal student and parent loans, plus government grants. The unsubsidized Stafford and PLUS loans do not depend on financial need, so you do not need to be poor to qualify for low-cost federal education loans. File the FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov.
- 2. Minimize debt.** Live like a student while you are in school so you don't have to live like a student after you graduate. Students who borrow more than \$10,000 a year will graduate with more debt than 90% of their peers. Every dollar you borrow will cost you about two dollars by the time you've repaid the debt.
- 3. Plan ahead.** Your total education debt at graduation should be less than your expected starting salary, and ideally a lot less. Otherwise you will have difficulty repaying your student loans and you may be forced to abandon your dreams by the need to repay your debt. You will need to use a longer term repayment plan to afford your monthly loan payments, so you will still be repaying your own student loans by the time your children enroll in college. This will also increase the cost of your loan. Estimate your debt at graduation by multiplying your first year's debt by the number of years in your degree program.
- 4. Borrow federal first.** Federal student loans are cheaper, more available and have better repayment terms than private student loans. The interest rates on federal education loans are fixed, while the interest rates on most private student loans are variable and can increase. Federal student loans are eligible for income-based repayment (www.finaid.org/ibr) and public service loan forgiveness (www.finaid.org/pslf), while private student loans are not. Federal student and parent loans can be obtained through your college's financial aid office.
- 5. Ask about tuition installment plans.** Most colleges offer tuition installment plans which let you spread out the college bill over 9 or 12 equal monthly installments. These plans typically charge an up-front fee of less than \$100 and do not charge interest. This can be a cheaper alternative to borrowing the money through education loans.
- 6. Pay the interest on unsubsidized loans during the in-school and grace periods** to prevent the loan balance from growing larger. Otherwise the interest will be capitalized, increasing the loan balance by 15% to 20% by the time you enter repayment. This is called negative amortization (www.finaid.org/negamort).

Key Student Loan Resources

FinAid's Student Loans Section

www.finaid.org/loans

FinAid's Student Loan Calculators

www.finaid.org/loans/calculators.phtml

Student Loan Checklist

www.finaid.org/studentloanchecklist

Student Loan Borrower Assistance Project

www.studentloanborrowerassistance.org

Project on Student Debt

www.projectonstudentdebt.org

Federal Student Loans

www.studentloans.gov

Federal Direct Consolidation Loan

www.studentaid.ed.gov/sa/repay-loans/consolidation

800-557-7392 or fax 800-557-7396

800-557-7395 TDD

Private Student Loans

www.finaid.org/privatestudentloans

Private Loan Comparison Sites

www.finaid.org/loancomparison

Private Consolidation Loans

www.finaid.org/privateconsolidation

Federal Student Aid Ombudsman

The FSA Ombudsman mediates disputes and helps resolve problems concerning federal student loans.

www.ombudsman.ed.gov

877-557-2575 or fax 202-275-0549

fsaombudsmanoffice@ed.gov

Federal Student Aid Information Center

800-4-FED-AID (800-433-3243) or 319-337-5665

800-730-8913 TDD

studentaid@ed.gov

Forgot Your Lender? Ask your college's financial aid administrator or visit www.finaid.org/lostlender

National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS)

www.nsls.ed.gov

7. **Apply for private student loans with a creditworthy cosigner.** Not only will this increase your chances of getting the loan, but it may result in a lower interest rate since eligibility, interest rates and fees are based on the higher of the two credit scores. But beware, a cosigner is a co-borrower, equally obligated to repay the debt. Late payments and defaults are reported on the cosigner's credit history too.
8. **Get organized.** Create a student loan checklist that lists all of your student loans. A blank student loan checklist is available at www.finaid.org/studentloanchecklist. Put all of your paperwork for each loan in its own file folder labeled with the lender name, date borrowed, original loan balance and loan id. Put a note on your calendar at least a week before your first payment is due. Tell the lender about your new address whenever you move.
9. **Sign up for auto-debit with electronic billing,** where the monthly loan payments are automatically debited from your bank account. Borrowers with auto-debit are much less likely to miss a payment. Many lenders offer discounts for borrowers who set up auto-debit with electronic billing.
10. **Claim the student loan interest deduction on your federal income tax return.** Up to \$2,500 in student loan interest on federal and private student loans can be deducted on your federal income tax return each year. This deduction is taken as an above-the-line exclusion from income, letting you claim the deduction even if you don't itemize. Visit www.finaid.org/interestdeduction for additional details.

Criteria for Choosing a Student Loan

When evaluating an education loan, most families focus first on cash flow considerations:

- *How much money can you get to pay for college costs and/or living expenses?*
- *How much are the monthly payments?*
- *When do the payments start and when do they end?*
- *What is the total cost of the loan (the total payments over the life of the loan)?*
- *Who is responsible for paying back the loan?*

The interest rate has the biggest impact on loan costs. Generally, families should prefer loans with the lowest after-tax interest rate, such as federal education loans.

The most important differences among student loans include: interest rate (fixed or variable), fees (4% in fees equals up to about a 1% increase in the interest rate), subsidized (who pays

the interest during the in-school and grace periods), interest capitalization (compounding can increase costs), loan discounts, student loan interest deduction, who is responsible for repaying the loan, eligibility (e.g., minimum GPA, good credit scores, debt-to-income ratios), eligible expenses, annual and cumulative loan limits, deferments and forbearances, repayment plans, prepayment penalties (none on student loans, see www.finaid.org/prepay), cancellation, forgiveness and the quality of customer service.

Be sure to read the fine print in the promissory note before signing it. Details matter, especially since you will be in repayment for a decade or longer. The promissory note is a binding legal agreement between you and the lender.

Calculating Monthly Loan Payments (Loan Amortization)

The following table shows the monthly payments on a \$25,000 loan for various repayment terms and interest rates.

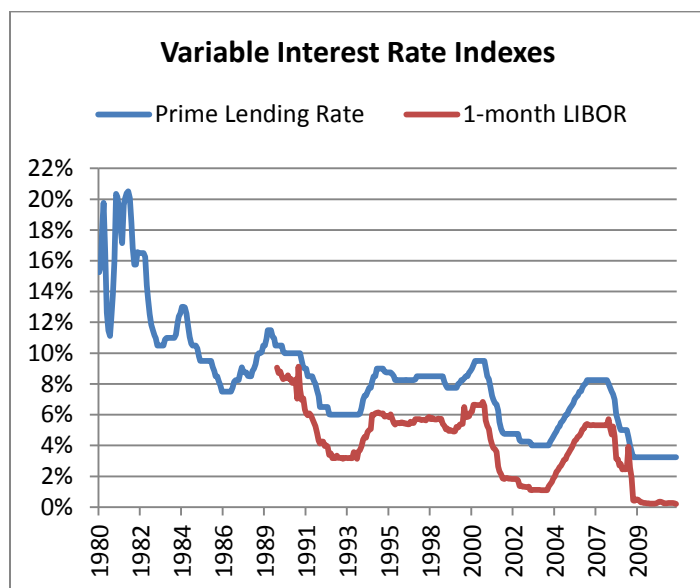
Monthly Loan Payment on a \$25,000 Loan							
Loan Term	3.4%	4.5%	5.0%	5.6%	6.0%	6.8%	7.9%
10 Years	\$246	\$259	\$265	\$273	\$278	\$288	\$302
12 Years	\$212	\$225	\$231	\$239	\$244	\$254	\$269
15 Years	\$177	\$191	\$198	\$206	\$211	\$222	\$237
20 Years	\$144	\$158	\$165	\$173	\$179	\$191	\$208
25 Years	\$124	\$139	\$146	\$155	\$161	\$174	\$191
30 Years	\$111	\$127	\$134	\$144	\$150	\$163	\$182

This table shows the maximum cumulative debt for a given monthly payment. Multiply the monthly payment by 100 to calculate the minimum annual salary needed to repay the debt.

Loan Term	Monthly Payment	Maximum Cumulative Debt				
		3.4%	5.0%	6.8%	7.9%	
10 Years	\$50	\$5,100	\$4,700	\$4,300	\$4,100	
10 Years	\$100	\$10,200	\$9,400	\$8,700	\$8,300	
10 Years	\$250	\$25,400	\$23,600	\$21,700	\$20,700	
10 Years	\$500	\$50,800	\$47,100	\$43,400	\$41,400	
10 Years	\$1,000	\$101,600	\$94,300	\$86,900	\$82,800	
20 Years	\$50	\$8,700	\$7,600	\$6,600	\$6,000	
20 Years	\$100	\$17,400	\$15,200	\$13,100	\$12,000	
20 Years	\$250	\$43,500	\$37,900	\$32,800	\$30,100	
20 Years	\$500	\$87,000	\$75,800	\$65,500	\$60,200	
20 Years	\$1,000	\$174,000	\$151,500	\$131,000	\$120,400	
30 Years	\$50	\$11,300	\$9,300	\$7,700	\$6,900	
30 Years	\$100	\$22,500	\$18,600	\$15,300	\$13,800	
30 Years	\$250	\$56,400	\$46,600	\$38,300	\$34,400	
30 Years	\$500	\$112,700	\$93,100	\$76,700	\$68,800	
30 Years	\$1,000	\$225,500	\$186,300	\$153,400	\$137,600	

Impact of Variable Interest Rates

Most private student loans have variable interest rates. Since interest rates are unusually low right now, these interest rates are likely to increase over the term of the loan. The following chart shows how the two major variable rate indexes have changed over time. Given that these rates dropped by about 5.5% during the credit crisis, they can just as easily increase by a similar amount during the economic recovery.



This graph also shows that the spread between the Prime Lending Rate and the LIBOR index is about 3%. The spread rises gradually by about 0.19% every 10 years, so borrowers should prefer variable rate loans that are pegged to the LIBOR index.

An increase in a loan's interest rate can significantly affect the monthly loan payment, as demonstrated by the following table. For example, a 5% increase in the LIBOR index will increase monthly loan payments by about a quarter for a 10-year term, by almost half for a 20-year term and by about three-fifths for a 30-year term. Each 1% increase in the interest rate yields about a 5% increase in the monthly loan payment for a 10-year term, about a 9% increase for a 20-year term and about a 12% increase for a 30-year term.

Increase in Monthly Loan Payment Per 1% Increase in the Interest Rate	
Loan Term	Increase
10 years	4.9% ± 0.2%
15 years	7.1% ± 0.5%
20 years	9.0% ± 0.7%
25 years	10.8% ± 1.1%
30 years	12.2% ± 1.4%

Warning about Borrowing Too Much Money

Education debt might be considered by some to be good debt, because it is used to invest in your future. Yet too much of a good thing can be harmful. Borrowing excessively can be like having a mortgage without owning a home.

You can't get away from this debt, as student loans are almost impossible to discharge in bankruptcy and there is no statute of limitations on federal education loans. A successful discharge requires demonstrating undue hardship in an adversarial proceeding, a very harsh standard. Of roughly 72,000 borrowers in bankruptcy in 2008, only 29 had all or part of their federal student loans discharged. That's 0.04%. You are more likely to get cancer or die in a car crash than to have your student loans discharged in bankruptcy.

The federal government has very strong powers to compel repayment of defaulted federal education loans. The federal government can garnish up to 15% of your wages and intercept your income tax refunds without a court order. They can even garnish Social Security benefits and take your lottery winnings. A student loan default on your credit history will make it more difficult to get credit cards, auto loans, home mortgages. It can even affect your ability to get a job or rent an apartment.

Federal Education Loans

The **Federal Perkins Loan** is based on financial need and has a fixed 5% interest rate with no fees. The interest is subsidized, meaning that the federal government pays the interest during the in-school and grace periods. Repayment begins 9 months after graduation or dropping below half-time enrollment status.

Perkins Loan Limits Year in School	Annual Loan Limit	Aggregate Loan Limit	Average Loan
Undergraduate Students	\$5,500	\$27,500	\$2,000
Graduate and Professional Students	\$8,000	\$60,000	\$3,650

The **Federal Stafford Loan** has two versions, subsidized and unsubsidized. Subsidized Stafford loans are awarded based on financial need. Unsubsidized Stafford loans are not based on financial need. Since July 1, 2010, all new Stafford and PLUS loans have been made through the Direct Loan program, with money provided by the US Department of Education through eligible colleges and universities. Repayment begins 6 months after graduation or dropping below half-time enrollment status. The standard repayment term is 10 years (up to 25 years with income-based repayment), but borrowers can obtain longer repayment terms by consolidating their Stafford loans.

The Stafford loan has fixed interest rates.

The 1% default fee is deducted from the disbursement check.

The interest rate on the unsubsidized

Stafford loan is 6.8% for all students. The

interest rate on the subsidized Stafford loan for undergraduate students depends on the academic year, as illustrated in this table, and is 6.8% for graduate and professional students.

Year	Undergraduate Students Stafford Loan Interest Rate	
	Subsidized	Unsubsidized
2007-08	6.8%	6.8%
2008-09	6.0%	6.8%
2009-10	5.6%	6.8%
2010-11	4.5%	6.8%
2011-12	3.4%	6.8%
2012-13	6.8%	6.8%

The limits on the Stafford loan depend on whether the loan is subsidized or unsubsidized, on the borrower's dependency status and on the borrower's year in school. Dependent students whose parents are denied a Parent PLUS loan are eligible to borrow at the independent student limits, which are \$4,000/year higher during the freshman and sophomore years and \$5,000/year higher during the junior and senior years. Students can borrow unsubsidized Stafford loans up to the overall limit minus any amounts received as subsidized Stafford loans. The subsidized Stafford loan limits are the same for dependent and independent students.

Annual Loan Limits Year in School	Subsidized Stafford	Unsubsidized Stafford Loan	
		Dependent	Independent
Freshman	\$3,500	\$5,500	\$9,500
Sophomore	\$4,500	\$6,500	\$10,500
Junior	\$5,500	\$7,500	\$12,500
Senior	\$5,500	\$7,500	\$12,500
Preparatory Coursework Undergraduate Programs	\$2,625	\$2,625	\$8,625
Preparatory Coursework Graduate Programs	\$5,500	\$5,500	\$12,500
Teacher Certification	\$5,500	\$5,500	\$12,500
Graduate and Professional Students	\$8,500	NA	\$20,500
Medical School Students	\$8,500	NA	\$40,500

Aggregate Loan Limits Year in School	Subsidized Stafford	Unsubsidized Stafford Loan	
		Dependent	Independent
Undergraduate Students	\$23,000	\$31,000	\$57,500
Graduate and Professional Students	\$65,500	NA	\$138,500
Medical School Students	\$65,500	NA	\$224,000

The **Federal PLUS Loan** has two versions, one for parents of dependent undergraduate students (Parent PLUS Loan) and one for graduate and professional students (Grad PLUS Loan). The terms of the loans are identical. Independent undergraduate students are not eligible to have their parents borrow from the Parent PLUS loan program.

The PLUS loan has a fixed 7.9% interest rate with 4% fees. The PLUS loan is an unsubsidized loan, with interest accruing during in-school, grace and deferment periods.

Grad PLUS loan borrowers may defer repayment during the in-school period, but there is no grace period after the student graduates or drops below half-time enrollment. Parent PLUS loan borrowers may defer repayment while the student is in school and during a 6-month grace period after the student graduates or drops below half-time enrollment status.

The PLUS loan is the only federal education loan that considers the borrower's credit history. Eligibility does not depend on credit scores, but rather on whether the borrower has an adverse credit history. An adverse credit history is defined as having a derogatory event within the last 5 years (e.g., tax lien, bankruptcy, foreclosure, repossession, wage garnishment or default determination) or a current delinquency on any debt of 90 or more days. Borrowers with an adverse credit history may still obtain the PLUS loan with a creditworthy endorser (cosigner) who cannot be the student.

The annual loan limit on the PLUS loan is up to the full cost of attendance minus other aid received. There is no aggregate loan limit.

The **Federal Consolidation Loan** is used to combine several federal education loans into a single loan. This will streamline repayment but does not save money.

Consolidation also provides access to alternate repayment plans that reduce the monthly payment by increasing the term of the loan. For example, increasing the repayment term on an unsubsidized Stafford loan from 10 years to 20 years cuts the monthly payment by a third, but also doubles the total interest paid over the life of the loan (a factor of 2.18 increase).

\$25,000 @ 6.8% Loan Term	Monthly Payment	Total Interest	Total Payments
10 Years	\$288	\$9,524	\$34,524
20 Years	\$191	\$20,802	\$45,802
Difference	- \$97	\$11,278	\$11,278
Change	- 33.7%	x 2.18	+ 32.7%

The interest rate on a federal consolidation loan is a fixed interest rate that is the weighted average of the interest rates on the loans being consolidated, rounded up to the nearest 1/8th of a percentage point and capped at 8.25%. The weighted average preserves the overall cost of the consolidated loans and will always be between the highest and lowest interest rates.

FEDERAL STUDENT AID AT A GLANCE

WHAT is federal student aid?

Federal student aid comes from the federal government—specifically, the U.S. Department of Education. It's money that helps a student pay for higher education expenses (i.e., college, career school, or graduate school expenses).

Federal student aid covers such expenses as tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, and transportation.

There are three main categories of federal student aid: grants, work-study funds, and loans. Check with your school's financial aid office to find out which programs the school participates in.

WHO gets federal student aid?

Some of the most basic eligibility requirements for students are that you must

- demonstrate financial need (for most programs—to learn more about financial need, visit **StudentAid.gov/how-calculated**);
- be a U.S. citizen or an eligible noncitizen;
- have a valid Social Security number;
- be registered with Selective Service, if you're a male (you must register between the ages of 18 and 25);
- be enrolled or accepted for enrollment in an eligible degree or certificate program;
- be enrolled at least half-time (for most programs);
- maintain satisfactory academic progress in college, career school, or graduate school; and
- show you're qualified to obtain a college or career school education by
 - having a high school diploma or a state-recognized equivalent (for example, the General Educational Development [GED] certificate);
 - completing a high school education in a home-school setting approved under state law; or
 - enrolling in an eligible career pathways program.

See the full list of eligibility requirements at **StudentAid.gov/eligibility**.

HOW do you apply for federal student aid?

1. **To apply for federal student aid, you must complete the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®)* form at fafsa.gov.** The FAFSA® form is available every Oct. 1 for the next school year. If you plan to attend college from July 1, 2020–June 30, 2021, submit a 2020–21 FAFSA® form. Fill it out as soon as possible to meet school and state deadlines. Schools and states often use FAFSA® information to award nonfederal aid, but their deadlines vary. Check with the schools that you're interested in for their deadlines, and find state and federal FAFSA® deadlines at **StudentAid.gov/fafsa#deadlines**.
2. **Students and parents are required to use an FSA ID (a username and password combination) to sign their FAFSA® form online and to access information about their financial aid on U.S. Department of Education websites.** Your FSA ID is used to confirm your identity and electronically sign your federal student aid documents. Your FSA ID has the same legal status as a written signature. Don't give your FSA ID to anyone or allow anyone to create an FSA ID for you. To create an FSA ID, visit **StudentAid.gov/fsaid**.
3. **After you apply, you'll receive a *Student Aid Report*, or SAR.** Your SAR contains the information reported on your FAFSA form and usually includes your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The EFC is a number (not a dollar amount) used to determine your eligibility for federal student aid. Review your SAR information to make sure it's correct. The school(s) you list on your FAFSA® form will get your SAR data electronically.
4. **Contact the schools you might attend.** Make sure the financial aid office at each school you're interested in has all the information needed to determine your eligibility. If you're eligible, each school's financial aid office will send you an aid offer showing the amount and types of aid (from all sources) the school will offer you. You can compare the aid offers you received and see which school is the most affordable once financial aid is taken into account.

Completing and submitting the FAFSA® form is free and quick, and it gives you access to the largest sources of financial aid to pay for college or career school—federal, state, and school sources. If you need a print-out of the FAFSA® PDF, call 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243) or 334-523-2691 (TTY for the deaf or hard of hearing 1-800-730-8913).

Federal
Student
Aid

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HAVE QUESTIONS?

Contact or visit the following:

- StudentAid.gov
- a college financial aid office
- studentaid@ed.gov
- 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243) toll-free
- 1-800-730-8913 (toll-free TTY for the deaf or hard of hearing)

FEDERAL STUDENT AID AT A GLANCE

Program and Type of Aid	Program Information	Annual Award Amount (subject to change)
Federal Pell Grant Grant: does not have to be repaid	For undergraduates with financial need who have not earned bachelor's or professional degrees. For details and updates, visit StudentAid.gov/pell-grant .	Amounts can change annually. For 2019–20 (July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2020), the award amount is up to \$6,195.
Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) Grant: does not have to be repaid	For undergraduates with exceptional financial need; Federal Pell Grant recipients take priority; funds depend on availability at school. For details and updates, visit StudentAid.gov/fseog .	Up to \$4,000.
Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant Grant: does not have to be repaid unless converted to a Direct Unsubsidized Loan for failure to carry out teaching service obligation as promised	For undergraduate, postbaccalaureate, and graduate students who are completing or plan to complete course work needed to begin a career in teaching. To receive a TEACH Grant, a student must agree to teach for four years in a high-need field at an elementary school, secondary school, or educational service agency that serves low-income families. If a student doesn't complete the teaching service requirement, all TEACH Grants the student received will be converted to a Direct Unsubsidized Loan that must be repaid, with interest. For details and updates, visit StudentAid.gov/teach .	Up to \$4,000.
Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant Grant: does not have to be repaid	For undergraduate students who are not Pell-eligible and whose parent or guardian died as a result of military service in Iraq or Afghanistan after the events of 9/11. For details and updates, visit StudentAid.gov/iraq-afghanistan .	The grant award can be equal to the maximum Federal Pell Grant amount (see above) but cannot exceed your cost of attending school.
Federal Work-Study Work-Study: money is earned through a job and doesn't have to be repaid	For undergraduate and graduate students; part-time jobs can be on campus or off campus. Money is earned while attending school. Your total work-study award depends on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • when you apply, • your level of financial need, and • your school's funding level. For details and updates, visit StudentAid.gov/workstudy .	No annual minimum or maximum amounts.
Direct Subsidized Loan Loan: must be repaid with interest	For undergraduate students who have financial need; U.S. Department of Education generally pays interest while the student is in school and during certain other periods; a student must be enrolled at least half-time. Interest rates for new Direct Subsidized Loans can change every year. Loans made to undergraduate students during the 2019–20 award year have the rate fixed at 4.53% for the life of the loan.	Up to \$5,500 depending on grade level and dependency status. For details and updates, visit StudentAid.gov/sub-unsub .
Direct Unsubsidized Loan Loan: must be repaid with interest	For undergraduate and graduate or professional students; the borrower is responsible for interest during all periods; a student must be enrolled at least half-time; financial need is not required. For undergraduate students: Interest rates for new Direct Unsubsidized Loans can change every year. Loans made to undergraduate students during the 2019–20 award year have the rate fixed at 4.53% for the life of the loan. For graduate or professional students: Interest rates for new Direct Unsubsidized Loans can change every year. Loans made to graduate or professional students during the 2019–20 award year have the rate fixed at 6.08% for the life of the loan.	Up to \$20,500 (less any subsidized amounts received for same period), depending on grade level and dependency status. For details and updates, visit StudentAid.gov/sub-unsub .
Direct PLUS Loan Loan: must be repaid with interest	For parents of dependent undergraduate students and for graduate or professional students; the borrower is responsible for interest during all periods; a student must be enrolled at least half-time; financial need is not required; the borrower must not have an adverse credit history. Interest rates for new Direct PLUS Loans can change every year. Loans made during the 2019–20 award year have the rate fixed at 7.08% for the life of the loan.	Maximum amount is the cost of attendance minus any other financial aid received. For details and updates, visit StudentAid.gov/plus .



FREE APPLICATION for FEDERAL STUDENT AID

Use this form to apply free for federal and state student grants, work-study, and loans.

Or apply free online at fafsa.gov.

Apply by the Deadlines

For federal aid, submit your application as early as possible, but no earlier than October 1, 2019. We must receive your application no later than June 30, 2021. Your college must have your correct, complete information by your last day of enrollment in the 2020-2021 school year.

For state or college aid, the deadline may be as early as October 2019. See the table to the right for state deadlines. You may also need to complete additional forms.

Check with your high school counselor or a financial aid administrator at your college about state and college sources of student aid and deadlines.

If you are filing close to one of these deadlines, we recommend you file either online at fafsa.gov or via the myStudentAid mobile app. These are the fastest and easiest ways to apply for aid.

Use Your Tax Return

We recommend that you complete and submit your FAFSA form as soon as possible on or after October 1, 2019. The easiest way to complete or correct your FAFSA form with accurate tax information is by using the IRS Data Retrieval Tool either through fafsa.gov or the myStudentAid mobile app. In a few simple steps, most students and parents who filed a 2018 tax return can transfer their tax return information directly into their FAFSA form.

If you (or your parents) have missed the 2018 tax filing deadline of April 2019, and still need to file a 2018 income tax return with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), you should submit your FAFSA form now using estimated tax information, and then you **must correct** that information **after you file** your return.

Note: Both parents or both the student and spouse may need to report income information on the FAFSA form if they did not file a joint tax return for 2018. For assistance with answering the income information questions in this situation, call 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243).

Fill Out the FAFSA® Form

If you or your family experienced significant changes to your financial situation (such as loss of employment), or other unusual circumstances (such as tuition expenses at an elementary or secondary school or high unreimbursed medical or dental expenses), complete this form to the extent you can and submit it as instructed. Consult with the financial aid office at the college(s) you applied to or plan to attend.

For help in filling out the FAFSA form, go to StudentAid.gov/completestafsa or call 1-800-433-3243. TTY users (for the hearing impaired) may call 1-800-730-8913.

Fill the answer fields directly on your screen or print the form and complete it by hand. Your answers will be read electronically; therefore, if you complete the form by hand:

- use black ink and fill in circles completely:
- print clearly in CAPITAL letters and skip a box between words:
- report dollar amounts (such as \$12,356.41) like this:

Correct ☒ Incorrect ☐

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Orange is for student information and purple is for parent information.

Mail Your FAFSA® Form

After you complete this application, make a copy of pages 3 through 8 for your records. Then mail the original of pages 3 through 8 to:

Federal Student Aid Programs, P.O. Box 7650, London, KY 40742-7650.

After your application is processed, you will receive a summary of your information in your *Student Aid Report* (SAR). If you provide an e-mail address, your SAR will be sent by e-mail within three to five days. If you do not provide an e-mail address, your SAR will be mailed to you within three weeks. If you would like to check the status of your application, go to fafsa.gov or call 1-800-433-3243.

Let's Get Started!

Now go to page 3 of the FAFSA form and begin filling it out. Refer to the notes on pages 9 and 10 as instructed.

July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

Federal Student Aid

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Pay attention to any symbols listed after your state deadline.

States and territories not included in the main listing below:
AL*, AS*, AZ*, CO*, FM*, GA*, GU*, HI*, KY*, NC*, ND*, NE*, NH*, NM*, OK*, PR*, PW*, RI*, SD*, UT*, VA*, VI*, VT*, WA*, WI* and WY*.

State Deadline	
AK	Alaska Performance Scholarship – June 30, 2020 # \$ Alaska Education Grant ^ \$
AR	Academic Challenge – June 1, 2020 (date received) Workforce Grant * Higher Education Opportunity Grant – June 1, 2020 (date received)
CA	For many state financial aid programs – March 2, 2020 (date postmarked) + * For additional community college Cal Grants – September 2, 2020 (date postmarked) + * Contact the California Student Aid Commission or your financial aid administrator for more information.
CT	February 15, 2020 (date received) # * *
DC	FAFSA form completed by May 1, 2020 # For DCTAG, complete the DC OneApp and submit supporting documents by May 31, 2020. #
DE	April 15, 2020 (date received)
FL	May 15, 2020 (date processed)
IA	July 1, 2020 (date received) – Earlier priority deadlines may exist for certain programs. *
ID	Opportunity Grant – March 1, 2020 (date received) # *
IL	Refer to the Illinois Student Assistance Commission's web site for the Monetary Award Program (MAP) renewal deadline. ^ \$
IN	Frank O'Bannon Grant – April 15, 2020 (date received) 21st Century Scholarship – April 15, 2020 (date received) Adult Student Grant ^ \$ – New applicants must submit additional form. Workforce Ready Grant ^
KS	April 1, 2020 (date received) # * *
LA	July 1, 2021 (July 1, 2020 recommended)
MA	May 1, 2020 (date received) #
MD	March 1, 2020 (date received)
ME	May 1, 2020 (date received)
MI	March 1, 2020 (date received)
MN	30 days after term starts (date received)
MO	February 3, 2020 # Applications accepted through April 1, 2020 (date received).
MP	April 30, 2020 (date received) # *
MS	June 1, 2020 (date received)
MT	December 1, 2019 # * *
NJ	2019-2020 Tuition Aid Grant recipients – April 15, 2020 (date received) All other applicants: - Fall and spring terms – September 15, 2020 (date received) - Spring term only – February 15, 2021 (date received)
NV	Nevada Promise Scholarship – April 1, 2020 * \$ Silver State Opportunity Grant ^ \$ All other aid * *
NY	June 30, 2021 (date received) *
OH	October 1, 2020 (date received)
OR	OSAC Private Scholarships – March 1, 2020 * Oregon Promise Grant – Contact state agency. * Oregon Opportunity Grant ^ \$
PA	All first-time applicants enrolled in a: community college; business/trade/technical school; hospital school of nursing; designated Pennsylvania Open-Admission institution; or non-transferable two-year program – August 1, 2020 (date received) All other applicants – May 1, 2020 (date received) *
SC	Tuition Grants – June 30, 2020 (date received) SC Commission on Higher Education Need-based Grants ^ \$
TN	State Grant – Prior-year recipients receive award if eligible and apply by February 1, 2020. All other awards made to neediest applicants. \$ Tennessee Promise – February 1, 2020 (date received) State Lottery – Fall term, September 1, 2020 (date received); spring and summer terms, February 1, 2021 (date received)
TX	January 15, 2020 # * Private and two-year institutions may have different deadlines. *
WV	PROMISE Scholarship – March 1, 2020. New applicants must submit additional form. Contact your financial aid administrator or state agency. WV Higher Education Grant Program – April 15, 2020

* Additional forms may be required.

^ As soon as possible after October 1, 2019.

* Check with your financial aid administrator.

For priority consideration, submit by date specified.

\$ Awards made until funds are depleted.

+ Applicants encouraged to obtain proof of mailing.

STATE AID DEADLINES

What is the FAFSA® form?

Why fill out a FAFSA form?

The **Free Application for Federal Student Aid** (FAFSA) is the first step in the financial aid process. You use the FAFSA form to apply for federal student aid, such as grants, work-study, and loans. In addition, most states and colleges use information from the FAFSA form to award nonfederal aid.

Why all the questions?

Most of the questions on the FAFSA form are required to calculate your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The EFC measures your family's financial strength and is used to determine your eligibility for federal student aid. Your state and the colleges you list may also use some of your responses. They will determine if you may be eligible for school or state aid, in addition to federal aid.

How do I find out what my Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is?

Your EFC will be listed on your *Student Aid Report* (SAR). Your SAR summarizes the information you submitted on your FAFSA form. It is important to review your SAR to make sure all of your information is correct and complete. Make corrections or provide additional information, as necessary.

How much student financial aid will I receive?

Using the information on your FAFSA form and your EFC, the financial aid office at your college will determine the amount of aid you will receive. The college will use your EFC to prepare a financial aid package to help you meet your financial need. Financial need is the difference between the cost of attendance (which can include living expenses), as determined by your college, and your EFC. If you are eligible for a Federal Pell Grant, you may receive it from only one college for the same period of enrollment. If you or your family have unusual circumstances that should be taken into account, contact your college's financial aid office. Some examples of unusual circumstances are: unusual medical or dental expenses or a large change in income from 2018 to this year.

When will I receive the student financial aid?

Any financial aid you are eligible to receive will be paid to you through your college. Typically, your college will first use the aid to pay tuition, fees and room and board (if provided by the college). Any remaining aid is paid to you for your other educational expenses.

How can I have more colleges receive my FAFSA form information?

If you are completing a paper FAFSA form, you can only list four colleges in the school code step. You may add more colleges by doing one of the following:

- After your FAFSA form has been processed, go to **fafsa.gov**, log in to the site, and follow the instructions for correcting your FAFSA form.
- Use the *Student Aid Report* (SAR), which you will receive after your FAFSA form is processed. Your Data Release Number (DRN) verifies your identity and will be listed on the first page of your SAR. You can call 1-800-433-3243 and provide your DRN to a customer service representative, who will add more school codes for you.
- Provide your DRN to the financial aid administrator at the college you want added, and he or she can add their school code to your FAFSA form.

Note: Your FAFSA record can only list up to ten school codes. If there are ten school codes on your record, each new code will need to replace one of the school codes listed.

Where can I receive more information on student financial aid?

The best place for information about student financial aid is the financial aid office at the college you plan to attend. The financial aid administrator can tell you about student aid available from your state, the college itself and other sources.

- You can also visit our web site **StudentAid.gov**.
- For information by phone you can call our Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-433-3243. TTY users (for the hearing impaired) may call 1-800-730-8913.
- You can also check with your high school counselor, your state aid agency or your local library's reference section.

Information about other nonfederal assistance may be available from foundations, faith-based organizations, community organizations and civic groups, as well as organizations related to your field of interest, such as the American Medical Association or American Bar Association. Check with your parents' employers or unions to see if they award scholarships or have tuition assistance plans.

Information on the Privacy Act and use of your Social Security Number

We use the information that you provide on this form to determine if you are eligible to receive federal student financial aid and the amount that you are eligible to receive. Sections 483 and 484 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, give us the authority to ask you and your parents these questions, and to collect the Social Security Numbers of you and your parents. We use your Social Security Number to verify your identity and retrieve your records, and we may request your Social Security Number again for those purposes.

State and institutional student financial aid programs may also use the information that you provide on this form to determine if you are eligible to receive state and institutional aid and the need that you have for such aid. Therefore, we will disclose the information that you provide on this form to each institution you list in questions 101a - 101h, state agencies in your state of legal residence and the state agencies of the states in which the colleges that you list in questions 101a - 101h are located.

If you are applying solely for federal aid, you must answer all of the following questions that apply to you: 1-9, 14-16, 18, 21-23, 26, 28-29, 32-58, 60-67, 69, 72-100, 102, and 103. If you do not answer these questions, you will not receive federal aid.

Without your consent, we may disclose information that you provide to entities under a published "routine use." Under such a routine use, we may disclose information to third parties that we have authorized to assist us in administering the above programs; to other federal agencies under computer matching programs, such as those with the Internal Revenue Service, Social Security Administration, Selective Service System, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Justice and Veterans Affairs; to your parents or spouse; and to members of Congress if you ask them to help you with student aid questions.

If the federal government, the U.S. Department of Education, or an employee of the U.S. Department of Education is involved in litigation, we may send information to the Department of Justice, or a court or adjudicative body, if the disclosure is related to financial aid and certain conditions are met. In addition, we may send your information to a foreign, federal, state, or local enforcement agency if the information that you submitted indicates a violation or potential violation of law, for which that agency has jurisdiction for investigation or prosecution. Finally, we may send information regarding a claim that is determined to be valid and overdue to a consumer reporting agency. This information includes identifiers from the record; the amount, status and history of the claim; and the program under which the claim arose.

State Certification

By submitting this application, you are giving your state financial aid agency permission to verify any statement on this form and to obtain income tax information for all persons required to report income on this form.

The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1845-0001. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average one and a half hours per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The obligation to respond to this collection is voluntary. If you have comments or concerns regarding the status of your individual submission of this form, please contact the Federal Student Aid Information Center, P.O. Box 84, Washington, D.C. 20044 directly. [Note: Please do not return the completed form to this address.]

We may request additional information from you to process your application more efficiently. We will collect this additional information only as needed and on a voluntary basis.

Step One (Student): For questions 1-31, leave any questions that do not apply to you (the student) blank. OMB # 1845-0001Your full name (**exactly as it appears on your Social Security card**) If your name has a suffix, such as Jr. or III, include a space between your last name and suffix.

1. Last name		2. First name		3. Middle initial	
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Your permanent mailing address

4. Number and street (include apt. number)																	
5. City (and country if not U.S.)											6. State			7. ZIP code			

8. Your Social Security Number See Notes page 9.	9. Your date of birth		MONTH		DAY		YEAR		10. Your telephone number	
									() - -	

Your driver's license number and driver's license state (if you have one)

11. Driver's license number																12. Driver's license state		
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13. Your e-mail address. If you provide your e-mail address, we will communicate with you electronically. For example, when your FAFSA form has been processed, you will be notified by e-mail. Your e-mail address will also be shared with your state and the colleges listed on your FAFSA form to allow them to communicate with you. If you do not have an e-mail address, leave this field blank.

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14. Are you a U.S. citizen? Mark only one. See Notes page 9.	Yes, I am a U.S. citizen (U.S. national). Skip to question 16. <input type="radio"/> 1	15. Alien Registration Number
No, but I am an eligible noncitizen. Fill in question 15. <input type="radio"/> 2		
No, I am not a citizen or eligible noncitizen. Skip to question 16. <input type="radio"/> 3		A

16. What is your marital status as of today? See Notes page 9.	I am single <input type="radio"/> 1	I am separated <input type="radio"/> 3	17. Month and year you were married, remarried, separated, divorced or widowed. See Notes page 9.
I am married/remarried <input type="radio"/> 2	I am divorced or widowed <input type="radio"/> 4		MONTH YEAR

18. What is your state of legal residence?	STATE	19. Did you become a legal resident of this state before January 1, 2015?	Yes <input type="radio"/> 1	20. If the answer to question 19 is "No," give month and year you became a legal resident of that state.
		No <input type="radio"/> 2		MONTH YEAR

21. Are you male or female? See Notes page 9.	Male <input type="radio"/> 1	22. If female, skip to question 23. Most male students must register with the Selective Service System to receive federal aid. If you are male, are age 18-25, and have not registered, fill in the circle and we will register you. See Notes page 9.	Register me <input type="radio"/> 1
Female <input type="radio"/> 2			

23. Have you been convicted for the possession or sale of illegal drugs for an offense that occurred while you were receiving federal student aid (such as grants, work-study, or loans)? Answer "No" if you have never received federal student aid or if you have never had a drug conviction for an offense that occurred while receiving federal student aid. If you have a drug conviction for an offense that occurred while you were receiving federal student aid, answer "Yes," but complete and submit this application, and we will mail you a worksheet to help you determine if your conviction affects your eligibility for aid. If you are unsure how to answer this question, call 1-800-433-3243 for help.	No <input type="radio"/> 1
	Yes <input type="radio"/> 3

Some states and colleges offer aid based on the level of schooling your parents completed.

24. Highest school completed by Parent 1	Middle school/Jr. high <input type="radio"/> 1	High school <input type="radio"/> 2	College or beyond <input type="radio"/> 3	Other/unknown <input type="radio"/> 4
25. Highest school completed by Parent 2	Middle school/Jr. high <input type="radio"/> 1	High school <input type="radio"/> 2	College or beyond <input type="radio"/> 3	Other/unknown <input type="radio"/> 4

26. What will your high school completion status be when you begin college in the 2020-2021 school year?

High school diploma. Answer question 27. <input type="radio"/> 1	Homeschooled. Skip to question 28. <input type="radio"/> 3
General Educational Development (GED) certificate or state certificate. Skip to question 28. <input type="radio"/> 2	None of the above. Skip to question 28. <input type="radio"/> 4

27. What is the name of the high school where you received or will receive your high school diploma?
Enter the complete high school name, and the city and state where the high school is located.

High School Name

High School City

STATE

28. Will you have your first bachelor's degree before you begin the 2020-2021 school year?

Yes ☐ 1 No ☐ 2

29. What will your college grade level be when you begin the 2020-2021 school year?

- Never attended college and 1st year undergraduate ☐ 0
- Attended college before and 1st year undergraduate ☐ 1
- 2nd year undergraduate/sophomore ☐ 2
- 3rd year undergraduate/junior ☐ 3
- 4th year undergraduate/senior ☐ 4
- 5th year/other undergraduate ☐ 5
- 1st year college graduate/professional (MBA, MD, PhD, etc.) ☐ 6
- Continuing graduate/professional or beyond (MBA, MD, PhD, etc.) .. ☐ 7

30. What college degree or certificate will you be working on when you begin the 2020-2021 school year?

- 1st bachelor's degree ☐ 1
- 2nd bachelor's degree ☐ 2
- Associate degree (occupational or technical program) ☐ 3
- Associate degree (general education or transfer program) ☐ 4
- Certificate or diploma (occupational, technical or education program of less than two years) ☐ 5
- Certificate or diploma (occupational, technical or education program of two or more years) ☐ 6
- Teaching credential (nondegree program) ☐ 7
- College graduate or professional degree (MBA, MD, PhD, etc.) ☐ 8
- Other/undecided ☐ 9

31. Are you interested in being considered for work-study?

Yes ☐ 1 No ☐ 2 Don't know ☐ 3

Step Two (Student):

Answer questions 32–57 about yourself (the student). If you were never married, or are separated, divorced or widowed and are not remarried, answer only about yourself. If you are married or remarried as of today, include information about your spouse.

32. For 2018, have you (the student) completed your IRS income tax return or another tax return listed in question 33?

- I have already completed my return ☐ 1
- I will file but have not yet completed my return ☐ 2
- I'm not going to file. **Skip to question 38.** ☐ 3

33. What income tax return did you file or will you file for 2018?

- IRS 1040 ☐ 1
- A foreign tax return, IRS 1040NR or IRS 1040NR-EZ. **See Notes page 9.** ☐ 3
- A tax return with Puerto Rico, another U.S. territory, or Freely Associated State. **See Notes page 9.** ☐ 4

34. For 2018, what is or will be your tax filing status according to your tax return?

- Single ☐ 1
- Head of household ☐ 4
- Married—filed joint return ☐ 2
- Married—filed separate return ☐ 3
- Qualifying widow(er) ☐ 5
- Don't know ☐ 6

35. Did (or will) you file a Schedule 1 with your 2018 tax return? Answer "**No**" if you did not file a Schedule 1 or only filed a Schedule 1 to report an Alaska Permanent Fund dividend or one of the other exceptions listed in the **Notes on page 9**.

Yes ☐ 2 No ☐ 1 Don't know ☐ 3

For questions 36–44, if the answer is zero or the question does not apply to you, enter 0. Report whole dollar amounts with no cents.

36. What was your (and spouse's) adjusted gross income for 2018? Adjusted gross income is on IRS Form 1040—line 7.

\$

37. Enter your (and spouse's) income tax for 2018. Income tax amount is the total of IRS Form 1040—line 13 minus Schedule 2—line 46. If negative, enter a zero here.

\$

Questions 38 and 39 ask about earnings (wages, salaries, tips, etc.) in 2018. Answer the questions whether or not a tax return was filed. This information may be on the W-2 forms or on the tax return selected in question 33: IRS Form 1040—line 1 + Schedule 1—lines 12 + 18 + Schedule K-1 (IRS Form 1065)—Box 14 (Code A). If any individual earning item is negative, do not include that item in your calculation.

38. How much did you earn from working in 2018?

\$

39. How much did your spouse earn from working in 2018?

\$

40. As of today, what is your (and spouse's) total current balance of cash, savings, and checking accounts? **Don't include** student financial aid.

\$

41. As of today, what is the net worth of your (and spouse's) investments, including real estate? **Don't include** the home you live in. **See Notes page 9.**

\$

42. As of today, what is the net worth of your (and spouse's) current businesses and/or investment farms? **Don't include** a family farm or family business with 100 or fewer full-time or full-time equivalent employees. **See Notes page 9.**

\$

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See Notes page 9.

Step Three (Student): Answer the questions in this step to determine if you will need to provide parental information. Once you answer **"Yes" to any** of the questions in this step, skip Step Four and go to Step Five on page 8.

- | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 45. Were you born before January 1, 1997? | Yes <input type="radio"/> 1 | No <input type="radio"/> 2 |
| 46. As of today, are you married? (Also answer "Yes" if you are separated but not divorced.) | Yes <input type="radio"/> 1 | No <input type="radio"/> 2 |
| 47. At the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year, will you be working on a master's or doctorate program (such as an MA, MBA, MD, JD, PhD, EdD, graduate certificate, etc.)? | Yes <input type="radio"/> 1 | No <input type="radio"/> 2 |
| 48. Are you currently serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces for purposes other than training? See Notes page 9. | Yes <input type="radio"/> 1 | No <input type="radio"/> 2 |
| 49. Are you a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces? See Notes page 9. | Yes <input type="radio"/> 1 | No <input type="radio"/> 2 |
| 50. Do you now have or will you have children who will receive more than half of their support from you between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021? | Yes <input type="radio"/> 1 | No <input type="radio"/> 2 |
| 51. Do you have dependents (other than your children or spouse) who live with you and who receive more than half of their support from you, now and through June 30, 2021? | Yes <input type="radio"/> 1 | No <input type="radio"/> 2 |
| 52. At any time since you turned age 13, were both your parents deceased, were you in foster care or were you a dependent or ward of the court? See Notes page 10. | Yes <input type="radio"/> 1 | No <input type="radio"/> 2 |
| 53. As determined by a court in your state of legal residence, are you or were you an emancipated minor? See Notes page 10. .. | Yes <input type="radio"/> 1 | No <input type="radio"/> 2 |
| 54. Does someone other than your parent or stepparent have legal guardianship of you, as determined by a court in your state of legal residence? See Notes page 10. | Yes <input type="radio"/> 1 | No <input type="radio"/> 2 |
| 55. At any time on or after July 1, 2019, did your high school or school district homeless liaison determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless? See Notes page 10. | Yes <input type="radio"/> 1 | No <input type="radio"/> 2 |
| 56. At any time on or after July 1, 2019, did the director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless? See Notes page 10. | Yes <input type="radio"/> 1 | No <input type="radio"/> 2 |
| 57. At any time on or after July 1, 2019, did the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless? See Notes page 10. | Yes <input type="radio"/> 1 | No <input type="radio"/> 2 |

Answer all the questions in Step Four even if you do not live with your legal parents (biological, adoptive, or as determined by the state [for example, if the parent is listed on the birth certificate]). Grandparents, foster parents, legal guardians, widowed stepparents, aunts, uncles, and siblings are not considered parents on this form unless they have legally adopted you. If your legal parents are married to each other, or are not married to each other and **live together**, answer the questions about both of them. If your parent was never married or is remarried, divorced, separated or widowed, see StudentAid.gov/fafsa-parent and/or **Notes page 10** for additional instructions.

Never married. ☐ 2 Married or remarried. ☐ 1

Unmarried and both legal parents living together. ☐ 5 Divorced or separated. ☐ 3

Widowed. ☐ 4

MONTH YEAR

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$$\boxed{} \boxed{} \boxed{} - \boxed{} \boxed{} - \boxed{} \boxed{} \boxed{} \boxed{}$$

[illegible]

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[illegible]

10

[illegible][illegible]

STATE

Yes ☐ 1

No ☐ 2

MONTH YEAR

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- yourself, even if you don't live with your parents,
- your parents,
- your parents' other children (even if they do not live with your parents) if (a) your parents will provide more than half of their support between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021, or (b) the children could answer "No" to every question in Step Three on page 5 of this form, and
- other people if they now live with your parents, your parents provide more than half of their support and your parents will continue to provide more than half of their support between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021.

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74. Medicaid or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) ☐

75. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) ☐

76. Free or Reduced Price School Lunch ☐

77. Temporary Assistance
for Needy Families (TANF) ☐

78. Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) ☐

My parents have already completed their return. ☐ 1

My parents will file but have not yet completed their return. ☐ 2

My parents are not going to file. ☐ 3

Skip to question 86.

IRS 1040 1

A foreign tax return, IRS 1040NR or IRS 1040NR-EZ. **See Notes page 9.** 3

A tax return with Puerto Rico, another U.S. territory or Freely Associated State. **See Notes page 9.** 4

Single 1

Head of household 4

Married—filed joint return 2

Married—filed separate return 3

Qualifying widow(er) 5

Don't know 6

Yes ☐ 2

No ☐ 1

Don't know ☐ 3

Yes ☐ 1

No ☐ 2

Don't know ☐ 3

For questions 84–92, if the answer is zero or the question does not apply, enter 0. Report whole dollar amounts with no cents.

84. What was your parents' adjusted gross income for 2018? Adjusted gross income is on IRS Form 1040—line 7.

\$

85. Enter your parents' income tax for 2018. Income tax amount is the total of IRS Form 1040—line 13 minus Schedule 2—line 46. If negative, enter a zero here.

\$

Questions 86 and 87 ask about earnings (wages, salaries, tips, etc.) in 2018. Answer the questions whether or not a tax return was filed. This information may be on the W-2 forms or on the tax return selected in question 80: IRS Form 1040—line 1 + Schedule 1—lines 12 + 18 + Schedule K-1 (IRS Form 1065)—Box 14 (Code A). If any individual earning item is negative, do not include that item in your calculation. Report the information for the parent listed in questions 60-63 in question 86 and the information for the parent listed in questions 64-67 in question 87.

86. How much did Parent 1 (father/mother/stepparent) earn from working in 2018?

\$

87. How much did Parent 2 (father/mother/stepparent) earn from working in 2018?

\$

88. As of today, what is your parents' total current balance of cash, savings, and checking accounts? **Don't include** student financial aid.

\$

89. As of today, what is the net worth of your parents' investments, including real estate? **Don't include** the home in which your parents live. **See Notes page 9.**

\$

90. As of today, what is the net worth of your parents' current businesses and/or investment farms? **Don't include** a family farm or family business with 100 or fewer full-time or full-time equivalent employees. **See Notes page 9.**

\$

91. Parents' 2018 Additional Financial Information (Enter the amounts for your parent[s].)

a. Education credits (American Opportunity Tax Credit and Lifetime Learning Tax Credit) from IRS Form 1040 Schedule 3—line 50.

\$

b. Child support paid because of divorce or separation or as a result of a legal requirement. **Don't include** support for children in your parents' household, as reported in question 72.

\$

c. Your parents' taxable earnings from need-based employment programs, such as Federal Work-Study and need-based employment portions of fellowships and assistantships.

\$

d. Your parents' taxable college grant and scholarship aid **reported to the IRS as income**. Includes AmeriCorps benefits (awards, living allowances and interest accrual payments), as well as grant and scholarship portions of fellowships and assistantships.

\$

e. Combat pay or special combat pay. Only enter the amount that was taxable and included in your parents' adjusted gross income. **Don't include** untaxed combat pay.

\$

f. Earnings from work under a cooperative education program offered by a college.

\$

92. Parents' 2018 Untaxed Income (Enter the amounts for your parent[s].)

a. Payments to tax-deferred pension and retirement savings plans (paid directly or withheld from earnings), including, but not limited to, amounts reported on the W-2 forms in Boxes 12a through 12d, codes D, E, F, G, H and S. **Don't include** amounts reported in code DD (employer contributions toward employee health benefits).

\$

b. IRA deductions and payments to self-employed SEP, SIMPLE, Keogh and other qualified plans from IRS Form 1040 Schedule 1—total of lines 28 + 32.

\$

c. Child support received for any of your parents' children. **Don't include** foster care or adoption payments.

\$

d. Tax exempt interest income from IRS Form 1040—line 2a.

\$

e. Untaxed portions of IRA distributions and pensions from IRS Form 1040—line 4a minus line 4b. **Exclude rollovers**. If negative, enter a zero here.

\$

f. Housing, food and other living allowances paid to members of the military, clergy and others (including cash payments and cash value of benefits). **Don't include** the value of on-base military housing or the value of a basic military allowance for housing.

\$

g. Veterans noneducation benefits, such as Disability, Death Pension, or Dependency & Indemnity Compensation (DIC) and/or VA Educational Work-Study allowances.

\$

h. Other untaxed income not reported in items 92a through 92g, such as workers' compensation, disability benefits, untaxed foreign income, etc. Also include the untaxed portions of health savings accounts from IRS Form 1040 Schedule 1—line 25. **Don't include** extended foster care benefits, student aid, earned income credit, additional child tax credit, welfare payments, untaxed Social Security benefits, Supplemental Security Income, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act educational benefits, on-base military housing or a military housing allowance, combat pay, benefits from flexible spending arrangements (e.g., cafeteria plans), foreign income exclusion or credit for federal tax on special fuels.

\$

Step Five (Student): Complete this step only if you (the student) answered "Yes" to any questions in Step Three.

93. How many people are in your household?

Include:

- yourself (and your spouse),
- your children, if you will provide more than half of their support between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021, even if they do not live with you, and
- other people if they now live with you, you provide more than half of their support and you will continue to provide more than half of their support between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021.

--	--

94. How many people in your (and your spouse's) household (from question 93) will be college students between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021? Always count yourself as a college student. Do not include family members who are in U.S. military service academies. Include others only if they will attend, at least half-time in 2020-2021, a program that leads to a college degree or certificate.

--

At any time during 2018 or 2019, did you (or your spouse) or anyone in your household (from question 93) receive benefits from any of the federal programs listed? Mark all that apply. Answering these questions will NOT reduce eligibility for student aid or these programs. TANF has different names in many states. Call 1-800-433-3243 to find out the name of your state's program. If you (or your spouse) or anyone in your household receives any of these benefits after filing the FAFSA form but before December 31, 2019, you must update your response by logging in to **fafsa.gov** and selecting "Make FAFSA Corrections."

95. Medicaid or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) ☐ 96. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) ☐ 97. Free or Reduced Price School Lunch ☐ 98. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) ☐ 99. Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) ☐

100. As of today, are you (or your spouse) a dislocated worker? **See Notes page 10.**Yes ☐ ¹ No ☐ ² Don't know ☐ ³**Step Six (Student):** Indicate which colleges you want to receive your FAFSA information.

Enter the six-digit federal school code and your housing plans for each college or school you want to receive your FAFSA information. You can find the school codes at **fafsa.gov/schoolsearch** or by calling 1-800-433-3243. If you cannot obtain a code, write in the complete name, address, city and state of the college. If you want more schools to receive your FAFSA information, read **What is the FAFSA form?** on page 2. All of the information you included on your FAFSA form, *with the exception of the list of colleges*, will be sent to each of the colleges you listed. In addition, all of your FAFSA information, *including the list of colleges*, will be sent to your state grant agency. For federal student aid purposes, it does not matter in what order you list your selected schools. However, the order in which you list schools may affect your eligibility for state aid. Consult your state agency or **StudentAid.gov/order** for details.

1ST FEDERAL SCHOOL CODE		OR	NAME OF COLLEGE		STATE	HOUSING PLANS	
101.a			ADDRESS AND CITY		101.b	on campus <input type="radio"/> ¹ with parent <input type="radio"/> ² off campus <input type="radio"/> ³	
2ND FEDERAL SCHOOL CODE		OR	NAME OF COLLEGE		STATE	101.d on campus <input type="radio"/> ¹ with parent <input type="radio"/> ² off campus <input type="radio"/> ³	
101.c			ADDRESS AND CITY				
3RD FEDERAL SCHOOL CODE		OR	NAME OF COLLEGE		STATE	101.f on campus <input type="radio"/> ¹ with parent <input type="radio"/> ² off campus <input type="radio"/> ³	
101.e			ADDRESS AND CITY				
4TH FEDERAL SCHOOL CODE		OR	NAME OF COLLEGE		STATE	101.h on campus <input type="radio"/> ¹ with parent <input type="radio"/> ² off campus <input type="radio"/> ³	
101.g			ADDRESS AND CITY				

Step Seven (Student and Parent): Read, sign and date.

If you are the student, by signing this application you certify that you (1) will use federal and/or state student financial aid only to pay the cost of attending an institution of higher education, (2) are not in default on a federal student loan or have made satisfactory arrangements to repay it, (3) do not owe money back on a federal student grant or have made satisfactory arrangements to repay it, (4) will notify your college if you default on a federal student loan and (5) will not receive a Federal Pell Grant from more than one college for the same period of time.

If you are the parent or the student, by signing this application you certify that all of the information you provided is true and complete to the best of your knowledge and you agree, if asked, to provide information that will verify the accuracy of your completed form. This information may include U.S. or state income tax forms that you filed or are required to file. Also, you certify that you understand that **the Secretary of Education has the authority to verify information reported on this application with the Internal Revenue Service and other federal agencies.** If you electronically sign any document related to the federal student aid programs using an FSA ID (username and password) and/or any other credential, you certify that you are the person identified by that username and password and/or other credential, and have not disclosed that username and password and/or other credential to anyone else. If you purposely give false or misleading information, you may be fined up to \$20,000, sent to prison, or both.

102. Date this form was completed

MONTH	DAY	2019 <input type="radio"/>				
<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td></tr></table>			<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td></tr></table>			2020 <input type="radio"/>
		2021 <input type="radio"/>				

103. Student (Sign below)

1

Parent (A parent from Step Four sign below.)

2

If a fee was paid to someone for advice or for completing this form, that person must complete this section.

Preparer's name, firm and address

104. Preparer's Social Security Number (or 105)

<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>				-	<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>				-	<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>					

105. Employer ID number (or 104)

<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td></tr></table>			-	<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>						

106. Preparer's signature and date

1

COLLEGE USE ONLY

D/O ☐ ¹ Homeless Youth Determination ☐ ⁴

FAA Signature

1

DATA ENTRY USE ONLY: ☐ P ☐ * ☐ L ☐ E

Notes for question 8 (page 3)

Enter your Social Security Number (SSN) as it appears on your Social Security card. If you are a resident of one of the Freely Associated States (i.e., the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, or the Federated States of Micronesia) and were issued an identification number beginning with “666” when submitting a FAFSA form previously, enter that number here. If you are a first-time applicant from one of the Freely Associated States, enter “666” in the first three boxes of the Social Security Number field and leave the remaining six positions blank, and we will create an identification number to be used for federal student aid purposes. Do not enter an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) in the Social Security Number field.

Notes for questions 14 and 15 (page 3)

If you are an eligible noncitizen, write in your eight- or nine-digit Alien Registration Number. Generally, you are an eligible noncitizen if you are (1) a permanent U.S. resident with a Permanent Resident Card (I-551); (2) a conditional permanent resident with a Conditional Green Card (I-551C); (3) the holder of an Arrival-Departure Record (I-94) from the Department of Homeland Security showing any one of the following designations: “Refugee,” “Asylum Granted,” “Parolee” (I-94 confirms that you were paroled for a minimum of one year and status has not expired), T-Visa holder (T-1, T-2, T-3, etc.) or “Cuban-Haitian Entrant;” or (4) the holder of a valid certification or eligibility letter from the Department of Health and Human Services showing a designation of “Victim of human trafficking.”

If you are in the U.S. and have been granted Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), an F1 or F2 student visa, a J1 or J2 exchange visitor visa, or a G series visa (pertaining to international organizations), select “No, I am not a citizen or eligible noncitizen.” You will not be eligible for federal student aid. If you have a Social Security Number but are not a citizen or an eligible noncitizen, including if you have been granted DACA, you should still complete the FAFSA form because you may be eligible for state or college aid.

Notes for questions 16 and 17 (page 3)

Report your marital status as of the date you sign your FAFSA form. If your marital status changes after you sign your FAFSA form, check with the **financial aid office at the college**.

Notes for questions 21 and 22 (page 3)

To be eligible for federal student aid, male citizens and male immigrants residing in the U.S. aged 18 through 25 are required to register with the Selective Service System, with limited exceptions. The Selective Service System and the registration requirement applies to any person assigned the sex of male at birth (see www.sss.gov/Registration-Info/Who-Registration). The Selective Service System and the registration requirement for males preserves America's ability to provide resources in an emergency to the U.S. Armed Forces. For more information about the Selective Service System, visit sss.gov. Forms are available at your local U.S. Post Office.

Notes for questions 33 (page 4) and 80 (page 6)

If you filed or will file a foreign tax return, IRS 1040NR or IRS 1040NR-EZ, or a tax return with Puerto Rico, another U.S. territory (e.g., Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Swain's Island or the Northern Marianas Islands) or one of the Freely Associated States, use the information from that return to fill out this form. If you filed a foreign return, convert all monetary units to U.S. dollars, using the published exchange rate in effect for the date nearest to today's date. To view the daily exchange rates, go to federalreserve.gov/releases/h10/current.

Notes for questions 35 (page 4) and 82 (page 6)

Answer “No” if you (and if married, your spouse) did not file a Schedule 1. Answer “No” if you (and if married, your spouse) did or will file a Schedule 1 to report **only one or more** of the following items:

1. Capital gain (line 13 – may not be a negative value)
2. Unemployment compensation (line 19)
3. Other income to report an Alaska Permanent Fund dividend (line 21 – may not be a negative value)
4. Educator expenses (line 23)
5. IRA deduction (line 32)
6. Student loan interest deduction (line 33)

Answer “Yes” if you (or if married, your spouse) filed or will file a Schedule 1 and reported additional income or adjustments to income on any lines **other than or in addition to** the six exceptions listed above.

If you do not know if you filed or will file a Schedule 1, select “Don't know.”

Notes for questions 41 and 42 (page 4), 44i (page 5), and 89 and 90 (page 7)

Net worth means the current value, as of today, of investments, businesses, and/or investment farms, minus debts related to those same investments, businesses, and/or investment farms. When calculating net worth, use 0 for investments or properties with a negative value.

Investments include real estate (do not include the home in which you live), rental property (includes a unit within a family home that has its own entrance, kitchen, and bath rented to someone other than a family member), trust funds, UGMA and UTMA accounts, money market funds, mutual funds, certificates of deposit, stocks, stock options, bonds, other securities, installment and land sale contracts (including mortgages held), commodities, etc.

Investments also include qualified educational benefits or education savings accounts (e.g., Coverdell savings accounts, 529 college savings plans and the refund value of 529 prepaid tuition plans). For a student who does not report parental information, the accounts owned by the student (and/or the student's spouse) are reported as student investments in question 41. For a student who must report parental information, the accounts are reported as parental investments in question 89, including all accounts owned by the student and all accounts owned by the parents for any member of the household.

Money received, or paid on your behalf, also includes distributions to you (the student beneficiary) from a 529 plan that is owned by someone other than you or your parents (such as your grandparents, aunts, uncles, and non-custodial parents). You must include these distribution amounts in question 44i.

Investments do not include the home you live in, the value of life insurance, ABLE accounts, retirement plans (401[k] plans, pension funds, annuities, non-education IRAs, Keogh plans, etc.) or cash, savings and checking accounts already reported in questions 40 and 88.

Investments also do not include UGMA and UTMA accounts for which you are the custodian, but not the owner.

Investment value means the current balance or market value of these investments as of today. Investment debt means only those debts that are related to the investments.

Business and/or investment farm value includes the market value of land, buildings, machinery, equipment, inventory, etc. Business and/or investment farm debt means only those debts for which the business or investment farm was used as collateral.

Business value does not include the value of a small business if your family owns and controls more than 50 percent of the business and the business has 100 or fewer full-time or full-time equivalent employees. For small business value, your family includes (1) persons directly related to you, such as a parent, sister or cousin, or (2) persons who are or were related to you by marriage, such as a spouse, stepparent or sister-in-law.

Investment farm value does not include the value of a family farm that you (your spouse and/or your parents) live on and operate.

Notes for question 48 (page 5)

Answer “Yes” if you are currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces or are a National Guard or Reserves enlistee who is on active duty for other than state or training purposes.

Answer “No” if you are a National Guard or Reserves enlistee who is on active duty for state or training purposes.

Notes for question 49 (page 5)

Answer “Yes” (you are a veteran) if you (1) have engaged in active duty (including basic training) in the U.S. Armed Forces, or are a National Guard or Reserves enlistee who was called to active duty for other than state or training purposes, or were a cadet or midshipman at one of the service academies, **and** (2) were released under a condition other than dishonorable. Also answer “Yes” if you are not a veteran now but will be one by June 30, 2021.

Answer “No” (you are not a veteran) if you (1) have never engaged in active duty (including basic training) in the U.S. Armed Forces, (2) are currently an ROTC student or a cadet or midshipman at a service academy, (3) are a National Guard or Reserves enlistee activated only for state or training purposes, or (4) were engaged in active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces but released under dishonorable conditions.

Also answer “No” if you are currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces and will continue to serve through June 30, 2021.

Notes for question 52 (page 5)

Answer **"Yes"** if at any time since you turned age 13:

- You had no living parent, even if you are now adopted; or
- You were in foster care, even if you are no longer in foster care today; or
- You were a dependent or ward of the court, even if you are no longer a dependent or ward of the court today. For federal student aid purposes, someone who is incarcerated is not considered a ward of the court.

If you are not sure if you were in foster care, check with your state child welfare agency. You can find that agency's contact information at childwelfare.gov/nfcad.

The financial aid administrator at your school may require you to provide proof that you were in foster care or a dependent or ward of the court.

Notes for questions 53 and 54 (page 5)

The definition of legal guardianship does not include your parents, even if they were appointed by a court to be your guardians. You are also not considered a legal guardian of yourself.

Answer **"Yes"** if you can provide a copy of a court's decision that as of today you are an emancipated minor or are in legal guardianship. Also answer **"Yes"** if you can provide a copy of a court's decision that you were an emancipated minor or were in legal guardianship immediately before you reached the age of being an adult in your state. The court must be located in your state of legal residence at the time the court's decision was issued.

Answer **"No"** if you are still a minor and the court decision is no longer in effect or the court decision was not in effect at the time you became an adult. Also answer **"No"** and contact your school if custody was awarded by the courts and the court papers say "custody" (not "guardianship").

The financial aid administrator at your college may require you to provide proof that you were an emancipated minor or in legal guardianship.

Notes for questions 55–57 (page 5)

Answer **"Yes"** if you received a determination at any time on or after July 1, 2019, that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or at risk of being homeless.

- **"Homeless"** means lacking fixed, regular and adequate housing. You may be homeless if you are living in shelters, parks, motels, hotels, public spaces, camping grounds, cars, abandoned buildings, or temporarily living with other people because you have nowhere else to go. Also, if you are living in any of these situations and fleeing an abusive parent, you may be considered homeless even if your parent would otherwise provide a place to live.
- **"Unaccompanied"** means you are not living in the physical custody of your parent or guardian.

Answer **"No"** if you are not homeless or at risk of being homeless, or do not have a determination. However, even if you answer **"No"** to each of questions 55, 56, and 57, you should contact the financial aid administrator at the college you plan to attend if you are either (1) homeless and unaccompanied or (2) at risk of being homeless, unaccompanied, and providing for your own living expenses - as your college financial aid office can determine that you are "homeless" and are not required to provide parental information.

The financial aid administrator at your college may require you to provide a copy of the determination if you answered **"Yes"** to any of these questions.

Notes for students unable to provide parental information on pages 6 and 7

Under very limited circumstances (for example, your parents are incarcerated; you have left home due to an abusive family environment; or you do not know where your parents are and are unable to contact them), you may be able to submit your FAFSA form without parental information. **If you are unable to provide parental information**, skip Steps Four and Five, and go to Step Six. Once you submit your FAFSA form without parental data, **you must follow up with the financial aid office at the college you plan to attend**, in order to complete your FAFSA form.

Notes for Step Four, questions 58–92 (pages 6 and 7)

Review all instructions below to determine who is considered a parent on this form:

- If your parent was never married and does not live with your other legal parent, or if your parent is widowed and not remarried, answer the questions about that parent.
- If your legal parents (biological, adoptive, or as determined by the state [for example, if the parent is listed on the birth certificate]) are not married to each other and **live together**, select "Unmarried and both legal parents living together" and provide information about both of them regardless of their gender. Do not include any person who is not married to your parent and who is not a legal or biological parent. Contact 1-800-433-3243 for assistance in completing questions 79-92, or visit StudentAid.gov/fafsa-parent.
- If your legal parents are married, select "Married or remarried." If your legal parents are divorced but living together, select "Unmarried and both legal parents living together." If your legal parents are separated but living together, select "Married or remarried," not "Divorced or separated."
- If your parents are divorced or separated, answer the questions about the parent you lived with more during the past 12 months. (If you did not live with one parent more than the other, give answers about the parent who provided more financial support during the past 12 months or during the most recent year that you actually received support from a parent.) **If this parent is remarried as of today, answer the questions about that parent and your stepparent.**
- If your widowed parent is remarried as of today, answer the questions about that parent and your stepparent.

Notes for questions 83 (page 6) and 100 (page 8)

In general, a person may be considered a dislocated worker if he or she:

- is receiving unemployment benefits due to being laid off or losing a job and is unlikely to return to a previous occupation;
- has been laid off or received a lay-off notice from a job;
- was self-employed but is now unemployed due to economic conditions or natural disaster; or
- is the spouse of an active duty member of the Armed Forces and has experienced a loss of employment because of relocating due to permanent change in duty station; or
- is the spouse of an active duty member of the Armed Forces and is unemployed or underemployed, and is experiencing difficulty in obtaining or upgrading employment; or
- is a displaced homemaker. A displaced homemaker is generally a person who previously provided unpaid services to the family (e.g., a stay-at-home mom or dad), is no longer supported by the spouse, is unemployed or underemployed, and is having trouble finding or upgrading employment.

Except for the spouse of an active duty member of the Armed Forces, if a person quits work, generally he or she is not considered a dislocated worker even if, for example, the person is receiving unemployment benefits.

Answer **"Yes"** to question 83 if your parent is a dislocated worker. Answer **"Yes"** to question 100 if you or your spouse is a dislocated worker.

Answer **"No"** to question 83 if your parent is not a dislocated worker. Answer **"No"** to question 100 if neither you nor your spouse is a dislocated worker.

Answer **"Don't know"** to question 83 if you are not sure whether your parent is a dislocated worker. Answer **"Don't know"** to question 100 if you are not sure whether you or your spouse is a dislocated worker. You can contact your financial aid office for assistance in answering these questions.

The financial aid administrator at your college may require you to provide proof that your parent is a dislocated worker, if you answered **"Yes"** to question 83, or that you or your spouse is a dislocated worker, if you answered **"Yes"** to question 100.

Twenty questions to ask about financing college

1. What's the average total cost of attendance (tuition and fees, books and supplies, room and board, travel, and other personal expenses)? Do any of these costs vary by program?
2. What are the ranges of costs for the different housing options and meal plans?
3. By how much should I expect my costs to increase each year? (A three- to five-year history of cost increases should be available.)
4. Does financial need have an impact on admission decisions?
5. How is financial aid affected if I apply via an Early Decision or Early Action program?
6. Does the school offer scholarships or other types of aid that aren't based on financial need?
7. What forms are required to apply for financial aid?
8. What is the priority deadline to apply for financial aid?
9. When will I be notified about financial aid award decisions?
10. Will the financial aid offer take into account the full cost of attending, including books and supplies, transportation and personal expenses?
11. What percentage of need does this college attempt to meet on average?
12. Will the financial aid office provide me with an explanation of how my financial need and award package were determined?
13. What financing options are available to help us pay our share of the costs?
14. What is the average amount of student loan debt incurred by graduates?
15. If the financial aid package isn't enough, can I appeal? Under what conditions, if any, will the aid office reconsider the offer?
16. How will the aid package change from year to year? What will happen if my enrollment status or my family's financial situation changes?
17. What are the academic requirements or other conditions for the renewal of financial aid, including scholarships?
18. When can I expect to receive bills from the college? Is there an option to spread the yearly payment over equal monthly installments?
19. How much money will I need during the first week of school for books, supplies and other initial expenses? Can these expenses be charged to my account?
20. Regarding student employment, including the Federal Work-Study Program: How are jobs assigned? How many hours per week are students expected or allowed to work? How often and in what manner are they paid?