

FAFSA Overview Video Transcript

If you're interested in financial aid for college or career school, you're going to have to fill out the free application for federal student aid or FAFSA.

It takes most people about 30 minutes to complete online, and the best part, it's 100% free. And it provides you with access to grants, loans and work-study funds from the federal government, and many colleges and states use FAFSA information to provide their own college and state financial aid. Before you fill out the FAFSA, it's a good idea to create your FSA ID, a user name and password that lets you sign your FAFSA and gives you access to various websites related to federal student aid. And here's an important tip, if your parent is providing information on your FAFSA, he or she will need his or her own FSA ID.

Visit StudentAid.gov/FSAID for more information. Your FAFSA can be completed online at FAFSA.gov, and help is provided throughout the online application process.

You will need to fill out the FAFSA each year you are in school because your financial situation may change. Plus, you may be able to automatically transfer your tax data from the IRS making the application even quicker to fill out.

Each state and college or career school sets its own deadline for the FAFSA, though it's best to get it done early. Since some of the funds are available on a first come, first served basis, you don't want to miss out.

Now that you know about the FAFSA, you might be asking, "Well, how much money will I get?" Your college or career school will do the math, and there's a simple formula that they use. First, the college takes your cost of attendance, which is the total amount it will cost you to go to that school. Your cost of attendance will vary from school to school. Then, the college subtracts your expected family contribution, or EFC. Your EFC is based on information provided in your FAFSA and will not change based on the school you attend. However, the EFC is not necessarily the amount of money you

will have to pay. Basically, your cost of attendance minus your EFC equals your financial need. Your college uses your financial need and other information to determine how much financial aid you can receive. See, pretty simple.

If you have questions or need more information, please visit StudentAid.gov.

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