How to Fill Out the FAFSA Video Transcript

The free application for federal student aid, or FAFSA, is the application for grants, loans and work study funds provided by the federal government. It is also used by many states and schools for their financial aid programs.

For the fastest and easiest way to apply, visit our official website, FAFSA.gov. The FAFSA is available in English and Spanish. As you fill it out online, you'll be able to automatically skip questions that don't pertain to you, check out your status immediately and get online help. It takes most people less than 30 minutes to complete the application.

You'll need a few things when you fill it out, so get ready by gathering your social security number, your permanent resident card if you have one, any W-2 forms or records of money you earned for the previous year and your tax records. By the way, a nice time saving feature of the FAFSA is that many people are eligible to automatically transfer their tax data from the IRS into the FAFSA, so keep an eye

out while you're applying in case you're offered that option. If you have any questions about what information to gather, there's a complete list of documents you will need at FAFSA.gov.

Before you begin the process of filling out the FAFSA, you should create a user name and password called an FSA ID that will act as your electronic signature. You'll only need to create an FSA ID once, and you can use it to renew your FAFSA each year that you apply. Your parents will need a FSA ID, too if they have to provide any information. So, now you're ready to begin filling out the FAFSA to apply for financial aid.

There are three groups of questions that include: personal information, such as your name, address and marital status; financial information, such as your income; and any parent information that is required. If you get hung up or confused about a question, the help and hints box on the right hand side of the application can help with each question as you move along. Also, look for the online chat

feature under help if you would like assistance from a knowledgeable agent.

Because colleges and career schools use the FAFSA to provide financial aid, you can list up to 10 schools that you are interested in attending. You should list all of the schools you are considering even if you haven't been accepted or applied yet. If you have more than 10 schools in mind, you can submit your FAFSA with 10 schools and then replace some of those schools with other schools later.

When you finish filling out the FAFSA, use your FSA ID to sign the form. If you are required to submit parent information on your FAFSA, a parent will need to sign the application with his or her own FSA ID as well.

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

- FAFSA Overview
- Dependency Status

- After You've Completed the FAFSA
- Types of Federal Student Aid

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