

YOUR GUIDE TO THE FINANCIAL AID PROCESS

IF YOU NEED MONEY FOR COLLEGE, COMPLETE THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA).
HERE'S HOW.



1 CREATE AN FSA ID AT [HTTPS://FSAID.ED.GOV](https://fsaid.ed.gov)

You'll need it to sign your application. One of your parents will also need to create an ID to sign. If neither parent has an SSN, complete the FAFSA and follow instructions on the signature page.

2 COMPLETE YOUR APPLICATION AT [WWW.FAFSA.GOV](http://www.fafsa.gov)

Applications are available starting in October. Complete your application as soon as possible.

3 THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION CALCULATES YOUR EFC

The EFC, or Expected Family Contribution, is how much your family is expected to provide for college. You and your selected colleges will receive a report listing your EFC and other information from the FAFSA.

4 COLLEGES AWARD AID BASED ON NEED AND AVAILABILITY

Using the report, colleges put together an aid package for you. The package could contain grants, work-study, loans, scholarships, or a combination of these.

5 SCHOOLS SEND YOU AWARD LETTERS

These letters itemize your financial aid award.

6 PICK A COLLEGE

Take into account what matters to you, including school size, campus environment, major, and career path.

7 CONSIDER YOUR AWARD

Accept all, some, or none of the aid offered.

8 FUNDS ARE DISBURSED

Look for instructions on disbursement from your college.

1609-61010



KEY POINTS:

- DON'T FORGET TO APPLY FOR ADMISSION TO YOUR COLLEGE.
- ASK QUESTIONS WHEN YOU'RE CONFUSED. YOUR COLLEGE CAN HELP.
- CHECK YOUR EMAIL REGULARLY AND RESPOND TO ALL MAIL AND EMAIL FROM YOUR COLLEGE. IT KEEPS THE APPLICATION PROCESS MOVING.

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Learn more at

www.AIE.org/YourFAFSAConnection