

FINANCIAL AID BASICS

What Students & Families
Need to Know

Questions that we will answer in this presentation

1

How much does college cost, and what is included in the total cost?

2

What is the difference between grants, scholarships, loans, and work-study?

3

How does a student receive financial aid?



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More than half of all students attending college in the United States receive some form of financial assistance.

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COLLEGE COSTS

Knowledge is Power



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NET PRICE

NET PRICE is the amount that a student pays to attend an institution in a single academic year **AFTER** subtracting scholarships and grants the student receives.

Focus on the NET PRICE.

Not the STICKER Price.

NET PRICE CALCULATORS



NET PRICE CALCULATORS

Available on a college's website, net price calculators can help prospective students get a better handle on what they will be expected to pay.

Students enter information about their family's financial situation to learn what similar students paid to attend the institution in the previous year.

WHY ARE NET PRICE CALCULATORS IMPORTANT?

Knowing your net price:

- **Gives you the best idea of what you'll pay for a particular college**
- **Makes comparing colleges easier**
- **Widens your choice of colleges**

NET PRICE CALCULATOR TIPS

- **Answer questions accurately**
- **Remember the net price calculators are intended to provide estimated net price information and does not represent a final determination , or actual award of financial assistance.**

FINANCIAL AID

The Process

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THE FINANCIAL AID PROCESS

- **FAFSA** (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) – www.fafsa.ed.gov
- **CSS Profile** – profileonline.collegeboard.com
- **Institutional aid and scholarship applications**

Be sure to check each individual school's website to find out what forms are required and when they must be filed.

FILE YOUR FAFSA

Each year, the federal government awards roughly \$150 billion to college students through need-based grants, loans, and work-study funds.

Filing the FAFSA ensures you are in the running.

- **Highly recommended.** Filling out FAFSA ensures consideration for institutional scholarships
- **Watch deadlines.** Some states have priority deadlines. Check your state's information [here](#).
- **Be organized.** Gather all documents needed prior to filling the FAFSA and avoid delays, check for mistakes before submitting information.
- **You should not have to pay money to fill out FAFSA. It is FREE!**

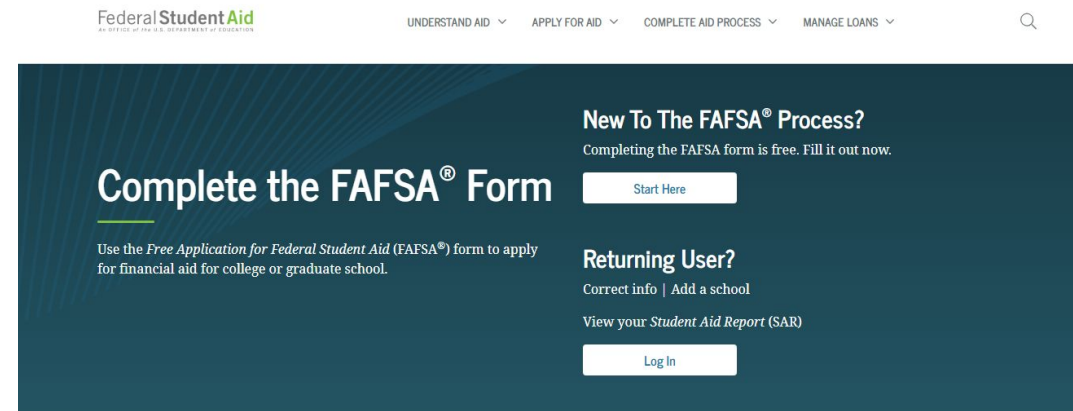
AN IMPORTANT DAY



October 1 is the first day that the FAFSA can be completed.

FEDERAL STUDENT AID

Completing the **FAFSA** is the first step in securing **federal aid** for college, career school, or graduate school.



The screenshot shows the Federal Student Aid website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the following links: UNDERSTAND AID, APPLY FOR AID, COMPLETE AID PROCESS, and MANAGE LOANS. A search icon is located on the right side of the navigation bar. The main content area features a dark blue background with white text. The primary heading is "Complete the FAFSA® Form", followed by a sub-heading: "Use the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) form to apply for financial aid for college or graduate school." To the right of this text are two sections: "New To The FAFSA® Process?" with a "Start Here" button, and "Returning User?" with links for "Correct info | Add a school" and a "Log In" button. Below the main content area, there is a section titled "FAFSA® Announcements".

FAFSA® Announcements

<https://studentaid.gov/>

CSS/ FINANCIAL AID PROFILE

The **PROFILE** is a tool created by the College Board that allows students to complete one form and apply online for **non-federal financial aid** from almost 400 colleges, universities, professional schools, and scholarship programs.



The screenshot shows the homepage of the CSS Profile website. At the top, the text "CSS Profile" is followed by a navigation menu with links for Home, Getting Started, Fee Waivers, Divorced or Separated Families, and International Applicants. The main content area has a purple background and features a circular image of two women talking. To the right of the image, the text reads "Apply with CSS Profile" and "Each year CSS Profile gives access to more than \$9 billion for thousands of undergraduate, graduate and professional students." Below this is a yellow button that says "Sign In to Fall 2020/Spring 2021". At the bottom of the main area, there are three icons with text: a school icon for "Check participating Schools and Scholarships", a document icon for "Learn how to apply", and a person icon for "View our Student Guide". Below this is a "Site Topics" section with three items: "Getting Started" (We've compiled the list of our most helpful resources to make it easier for you to apply.), "Fee Waivers" (The CSS Profile is free for eligible students.), and "Divorced or Separated Families" (Some colleges may require the CSS Profile from both biological parents. Learn more.). At the bottom right of the screenshot, the URL <https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/> is displayed.

<https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/>

CSS/ FINANCIAL AID PROFILE TIPS



- Available on **October 1st**
- Use your **College Board Account** to complete the **Financial Aid PROFILE**
- May be **required** by some colleges and universities
- CSS / Financial Aid PROFILE is in **addition** to the FAFSA.

BE SMART ABOUT SCHOLARSHIPS



Thousands of scholarships exist. Some colleges automatically consider all applicants for scholarships. Other scholarships from colleges, universities, and private sources require special applications and additional work and motivation to make it happen.

Never pay money to apply to an outside scholarship.

TAKE STEPS TO MINIMIZE DEBT



The majority of students use loans to help finance their college education.

Don't borrow any more than you absolutely need.

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

BILLABLE COSTS

- Tuition and Fees
- On-Campus Room and Board

These costs **will show up** on the college bill.

INDIRECT COSTS

- Books and Supplies
- Off-Campus Room & Board
- Personal Expenses
- Travel Costs

These costs **do not show up** on the college bill.

ASSESSING STUDENT NEED

A **student's financial need** is calculated as the difference between the cost of attending the school, the **Cost of Attendance (COA)** minus any expected financial assistance (EFA), such as gifts or outside scholarships, and the amount the student and their family is expected to pay, the **Expected Family Contribution (EFC)**

$$\text{COA} - \text{EFC} = \text{Student Financial Need}$$

EXPECTED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION (EFC) IS INFLUENCED BY THESE FACTORS:

- The amount the student's parents will be asked to pay from income and assets
- The amount the student can contribute from earnings and savings
- Family size, age of oldest parent, number of children currently attending college
- Special circumstances: Health related expenses, loss of property or death in the family

FINANCIAL AID

What is Available

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Read and Understand the instructions.*
 Yes, I have

If selected, you will be asked for documentation to support the data you provide. Likewise, all correspondence and award agreements will be generated from the personal information submitted below. So, please use proper spelling, capitalization and punctuation.

1. Personal Data:
Tell us about yourself

Full Name
First Name: _____ Middle Name: _____ Surname: _____

Social Security Number:
(e.g. 1234567890)
Month: _____ Day: _____ Year: _____

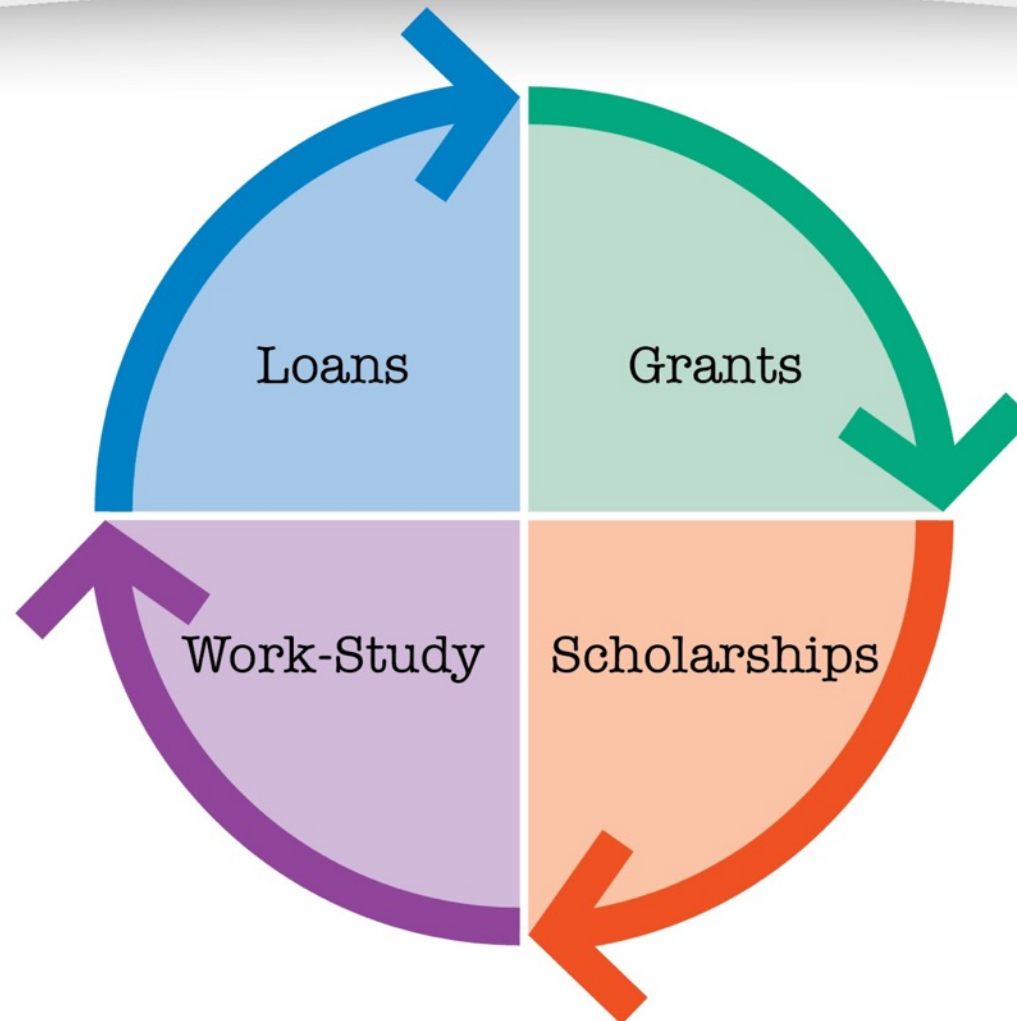
Birthdate:
Area Code Phone Number: _____
Home/Work/Cell: _____
Where the confirmation will be sent to: _____

Mobile No.: _____

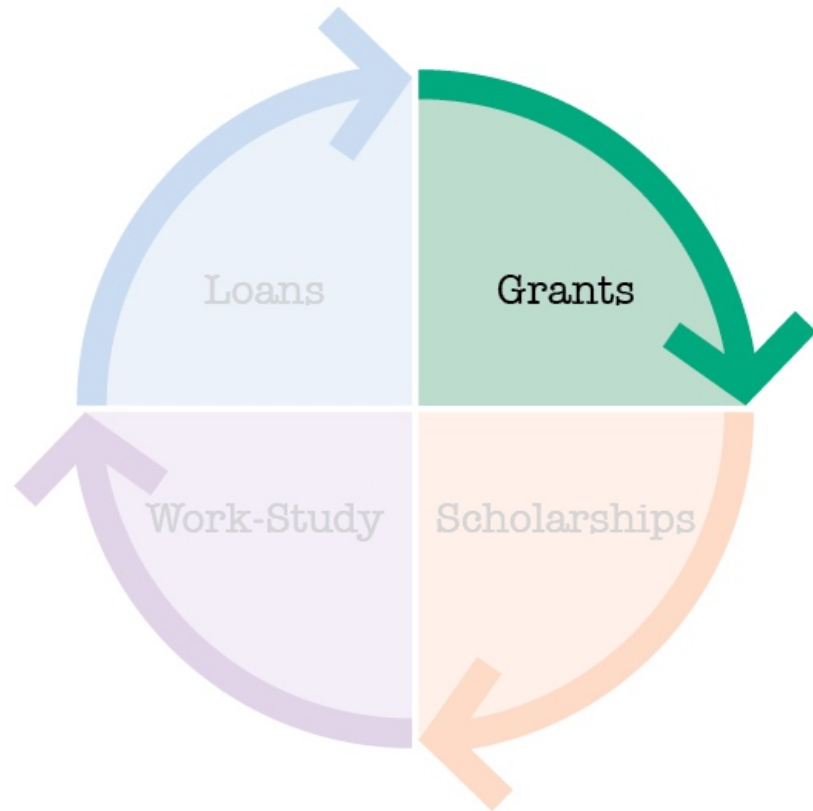
E-mail: _____

Home Address:
Street Address: _____
Street Address Line 2: _____ State/Province: _____
City: _____ Postal/Zip Code: _____
Country: _____

TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID

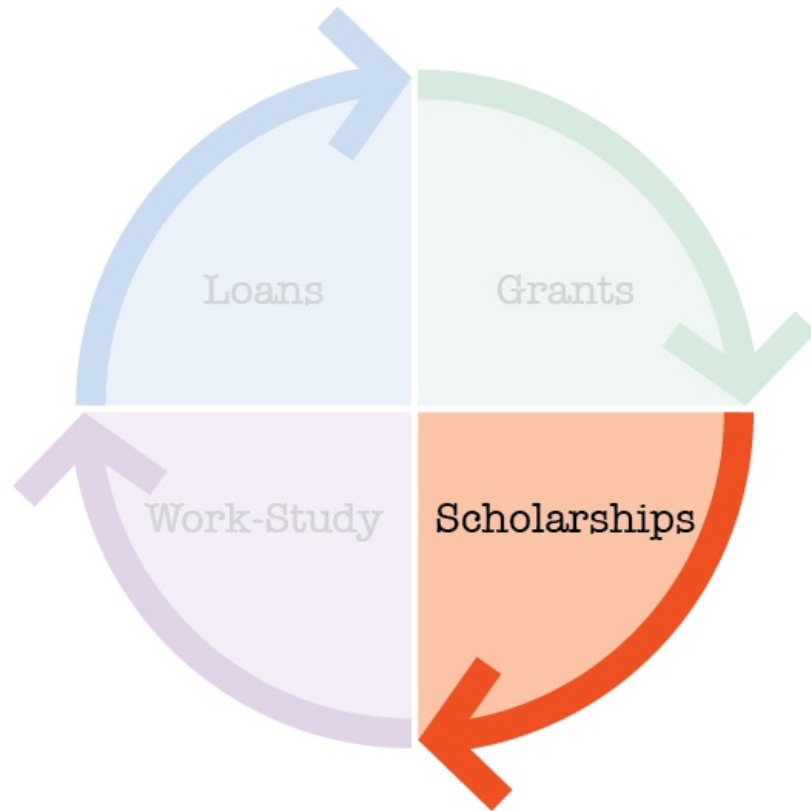


GRANTS



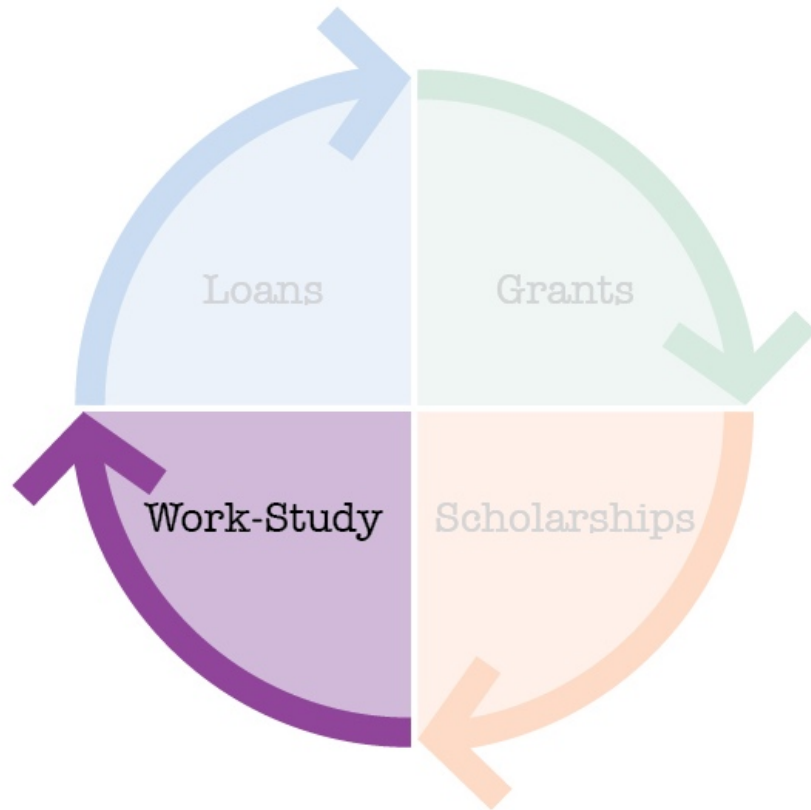
- **Federal Pell Grants**
- **Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants (FSEOG)**
- **State Grants**
- **Institutional Grants**

SCHOLARSHIPS



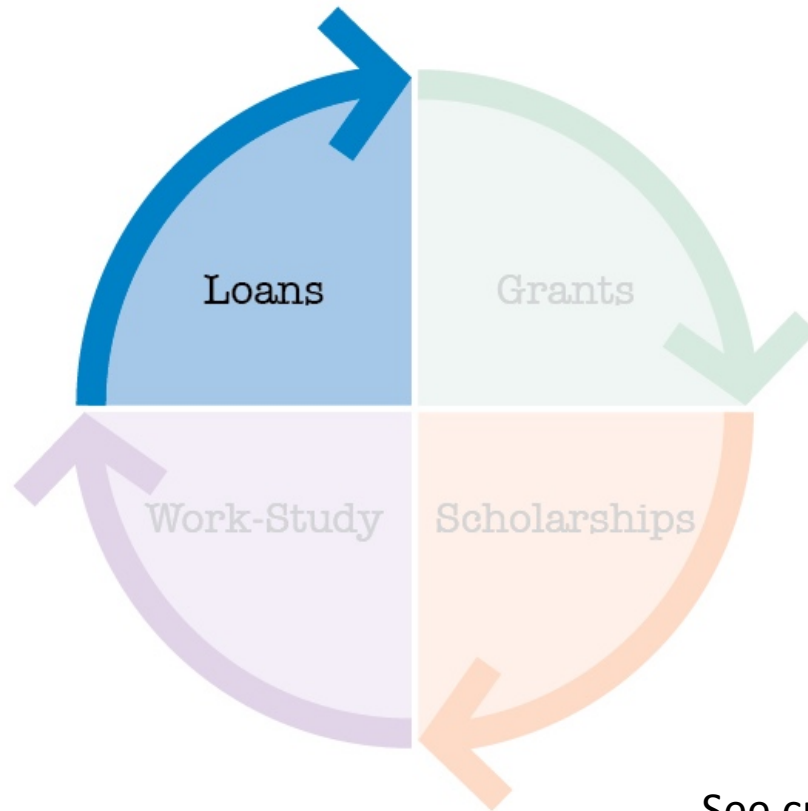
- **Athletic, Academic, Leadership, Theatre, Music**
- **Usually Competitive**
- **Institutional**
- **National**
- **State, Local, or Civic**

WORK-STUDY



- **Based on demonstrated need**
- **Student is provided an on-campus job**
- **10 – 15 hours per week and paid directly to student**
- **At least the state minimum wage, never below.**

LOANS



- **Direct Subsidized & Unsubsidized**
- **Perkins**
- **PLUS (Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students)**
- **Private Loans**

See current interest rates:

<https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/loans/interest-rates>

TRUSTED SOURCES

For More Information

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TRUSTED SOURCES

Hundreds of websites report to offer families advice about financial aid. Not all of them are truly helpful. Not all are accurate.

NACAC has curated a list of trusted, up-to-date sources to help families navigate the process.

THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



- [Financial Aid Toolkit](#)
- [2019 – 20 Counselors & Mentors Handbook](#)
- [Loan Simulator information and log in](#)
- [The National Training for Counselors & Mentors](#)
- [Helping Students Navigate the Path to College](#)
- [Federal Student Aid \(FSA\) Website](#)

THE INSTITUTE FOR COLLEGE ACCESS & SUCCESS

the institute for
college
access & success

- ⦿ Income-Based Repayment
- ⦿ College InSight
- ⦿ Project on Student Debt

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT FINANCIAL AID ADMINISTRATORS (NASFAA)



- College Affordability & Transparency Resources for Counselors
- Student Aid Tips for Unique Populations

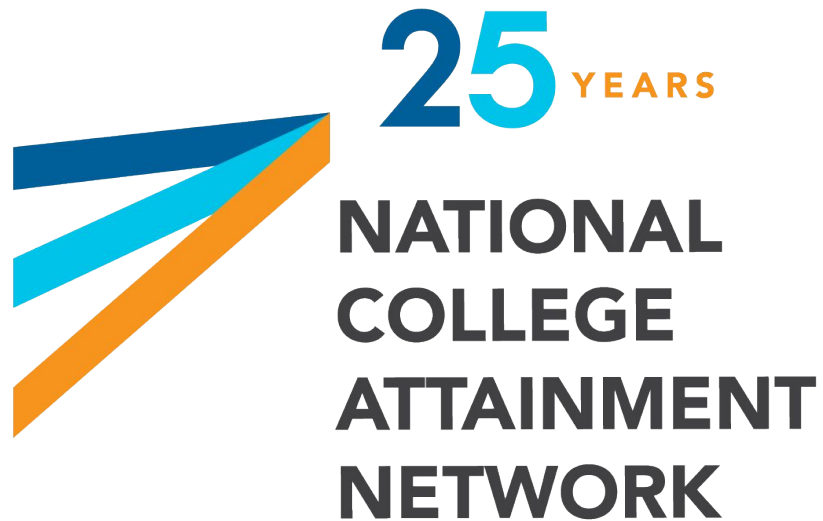
CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION BUREAU



Consumer Financial
Protection Bureau

- Paying for College

NATIONAL COLLEGE ATTAINMENT NETWORK



- Form Your Future Campaign

CLOSING THOUGHTS

Planning how to finance a degree has become a more prominent part of the college application process. By becoming aware of the costs associated with college, your family is better positioned to incorporate educational costs into your savings plan.



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