

4 PAYING FOR COLLEGE: ALL ABOUT FAFSA

WHAT IS THE FAFSA? The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the first step to apply for **financial aid**. **Completing the FAFSA is free and gives you access to the largest source of financial aid** to pay for vocational, technical, 2-year and 4-year colleges. Based on the info you provide, each college will calculate your financial aid **award**.

WHEN SHOULD I APPLY?

As early as **October 1** of your senior year.

Make sure you **know the financial aid priority deadlines** for the colleges you are interested in.

You need to **submit the FAFSA every year** while in college.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents should complete the FAFSA. Some undocumented students may be **eligible**

for the Washington Application for State Financial Aid (**WASFA**). **Check out the "All About WASFA" handout for more information.**

WHAT INFO DO I NEED TO PROVIDE?

Basic info, such as legal name, birthdate, etc.

Past parent and student **tax/income** information

Your **list of colleges**

* DON'T FORGET:

Be sure to write down the answers to your challenge questions in the application and store them in a safe location with your FSA ID.

DO I NEED A FSA ID? (FEDERAL STUDENT AID ID)

An FSA ID gives you access to your FAFSA info and

serves as your legal signature. You AND one parent (biological or adoptive) will need to create an FSA ID (username and password). Be sure you and your parent use separate email addresses. If your parent is undocumented they should not create an FSA ID. They will instead print, sign and mail a signature page.

What information do I need to create an FSA ID? Basic info, such as social security number (SSN), legal name, birthdate, contact info, etc.

HOW DO I COMPLETE IT?

1. Create a Federal Student Aid Identification (FSA ID) at fsaid.ed.gov
2. Use your FSA ID to log in and complete the FAFSA at fafsa.gov
3. Check for an email confirming you have successfully submitted the FAFSA.

MAY: GRADE 11
SEPT: GRADE 12



4 PAYING FOR COLLEGE: ALL ABOUT WASFA

WHAT IS THE WASFA?

The Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA) is the first step to apply for **financial aid** for some *undocumented students* who live in Washington state. Completing the WASFA is free and gives eligible students access to **state financial aid** to pay for vocational, technical, 2-year and 4-year colleges in Washington. Undocumented students with or without **DACA** can complete the WASFA. **If you are a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident, check out the "All About FAFSA" handout and do not complete the WASFA.**

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

Eligibility is based on **immigration status**. Students must meet individual program and residency requirements. For specifics, use the eligibility questionnaire at readysetgrad.org/wasfaelig

HOW DO I COMPLETE IT?

1. Go to readysetgrad.org/wasfa and click on "Start a New WASFA."
2. Complete the eligibility questionnaire.
3. Create an account and save your login and password.
4. Complete and submit your application.

What is the parent signature on the WASFA? You will need to send an email invitation to one parent (biological or adoptive) to electronically sign your WASFA. Be sure you and your parent use separate email addresses.

- * **Don't Forget:** Your parent's signature is needed to complete your application.
- * **Your parent must electronically sign within 72 hours of being invited.**

WHEN SHOULD I DO IT?

File as early as **October 1 of your senior year.**

Make sure you **know the financial aid priority deadlines** at the colleges you are interested in. (Often the WASFA deadline is not listed, but it is the same as the FAFSA deadline.)

You need to **submit the WASFA** every year while in college.

WHAT INFO DO I NEED?

Basic information, such as legal name, birthdate, etc.

Parent and student **tax/income info**

Your **list of colleges** (Washington state colleges only)

Your **DACA number** if you have one

Is my family's information protected?

The Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) and colleges that access your application only use your information to determine eligibility for state financial aid. Campuses are not permitted to use the information for other purposes or share the data with other parties.

If you have questions about the WASFA, contact the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) at 1-888-535-0747, option 2 or email wasfa@wsac.wa.gov

MAY: GRADE 11
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