

MISSION: POSSIBLE!

The toolkit that
helps you plan
and pay for
college

Presented
by **The SallieMae Fund**
in Partnership with



National Association for
College Admission Counseling

Guiding the way to higher education

The College Access MASTER CHECKLIST

College Prep Timeline

- What to do this year.

How to Get There

- The kind of school you'd like to go to.
- The tests you need to take.
- What to look for in a school.
- How to research a college.
- The application process.
- What to do on a campus visit.

How to Pay for It

- What financial aid is.
- All there is to know about loan programs.
- Who's eligible for financial aid.
- What an award letter is.
- What makes up the cost of college.
- The financial aid process.
- How to save money for college.
- Filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- How to search for scholarships.
- How to be a smart borrower.

Glossary

- Look up the words you don't know.



College Prep Timeline for High School Students

Freshman Year

- Read through this timeline
 - › know what you have to do to get into college
- Meet with high school guidance counselor
 - › select courses that meet college admissions requirements
- Take challenging classes
 - › build strong verbal, mathematics, and reasoning skills
- Keep an academic portfolio and record of extracurricular activities
- Get involved in extracurricular activities
 - › show your interests in activities and people
- Check out schools on the Internet
 - › learn early on which schools interest you (*see pages 6-7*)
- Research career possibilities
 - › learn early on which jobs interest you

Sophomore Year

- Continue all activities listed under FRESHMAN YEAR
 - › keep building on success
- Register for the PSAT and/or PLAN test
 - › stay ahead of the game
- Take a practice PSAT
 - › find out your strengths and weaknesses (*see pages 4-5*)
- Talk to your guidance counselor about your PSAT and/or PLAN scores and next steps
- Use the summer to your advantage
 - › read books, take courses, or volunteer your time

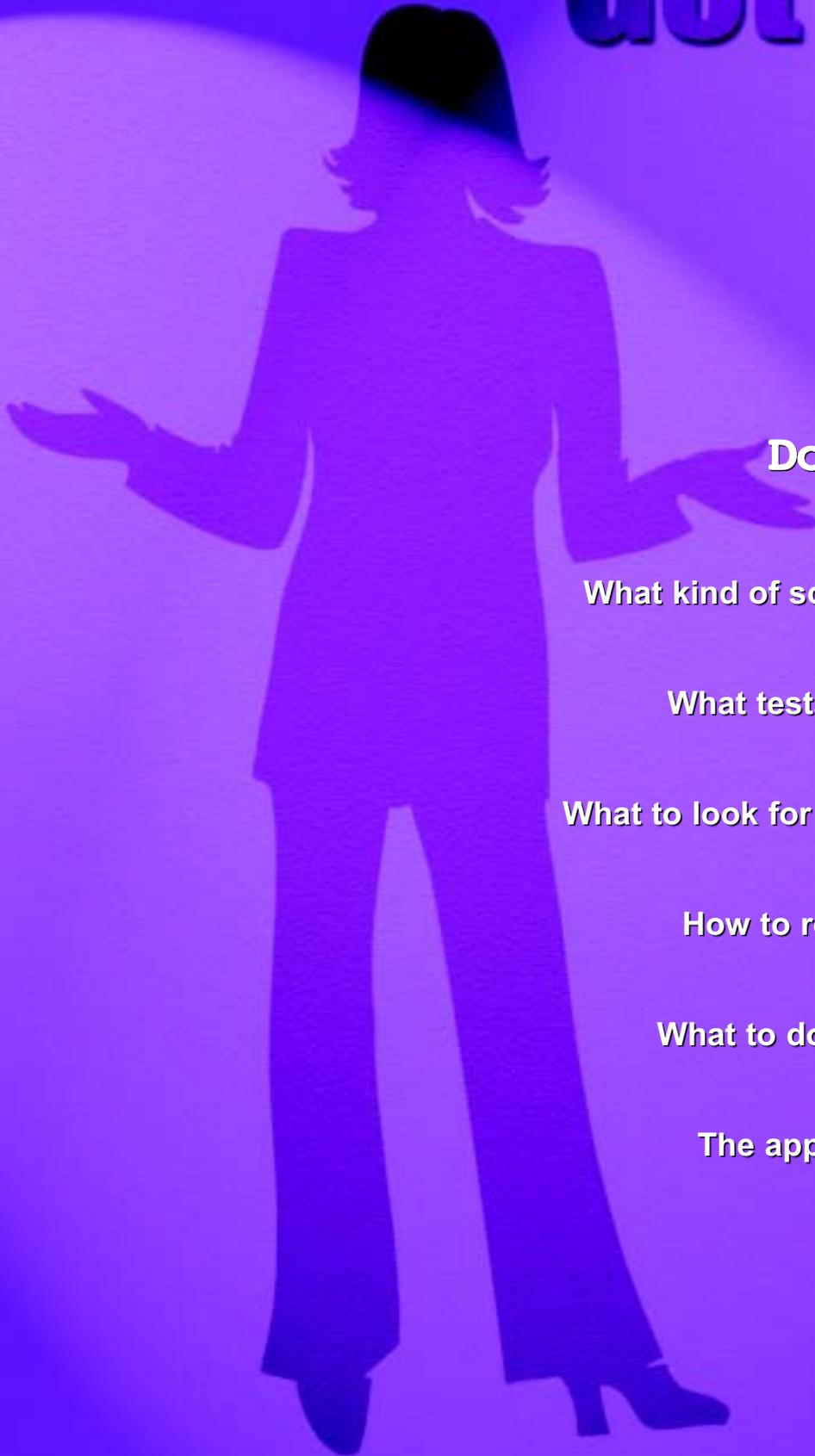
Junior Year

- Register for the PSAT
 - › stay ahead of the game
- Take the PSAT
 - › a good score may qualify you for scholarship programs (*see pages 4-5*)
- Talk to your guidance counselor about your PSAT scores
 - › learn how to improve them
- Stay on the ball with grades
 - › good grades in advanced courses impress colleges
 - › good grades improve chances for grants and scholarships
- Start researching your options for grants, scholarships, and work-study programs (*see pages 15-16*)
- Make a list of colleges you would like to know more about (*see page 7*)
- Discuss your list of colleges with your guidance counselor
- Visit colleges and attend college fairs
- Double check which colleges require the ACT, SAT, and/or SAT Subject Tests
- Register for the ACT, SAT, and/or SAT Subject Tests
- Take the ACT, SAT, and/or SAT Subject Tests (*see pages 4-5*)

Senior Year

- Obtain all the admissions and financial aid applications from your top college picks
- Ask your teachers for recommendations, if the colleges require them
- Visit colleges and attend college fairs
- Complete admission applications and essays (keep a copy for your records)
- Have your official high school academic transcript sent to your college picks
- Have your official test scores sent to your college picks
- Complete the FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1st (*see pages 23-31*)
- Review your Student Aid Report (SAR)
- Review acceptances and financial aid offers
- By May 1st, make final decisions, notify schools, and submit any necessary documents or deposits

How to Get There



Do You Know...

What kind of school you'd like to go to?
page 3

What tests you need to take?
pages 4-5

What to look for in a college or university?
page 6

How to research a college?
page 7

What to do on a campus visit?
page 8

The application process?
page 9

Types of Institutions

Colleges and Universities (4-year)

Institutions made up of divisions called schools or colleges. Geared toward preparation for professional occupations such as accounting, engineering, and health services. Grant Bachelor of Arts (BA) or Bachelor of Sciences (BS) degrees upon completion of program.

Community and Junior Colleges (2-year)

Institutions are conveniently located in local communities. Specialize in college transfer programs often tied to four-year colleges in state or local area. Offer technical programs designed to serve the community's needs. Grant associate degrees or certificates upon completion of program.

Vocational, Technical and Business Schools

Private schools specializing in trades or vocations by offering various courses and occupational programs. Specialize in skill training (e.g., welding, cooking, hair styling, and word processing) required for a specific job. Offer certificates upon completion of training program.

Minimum High School Requirements

English	4 years
Science	2-4 years
Math	2-4 years
Social Sciences	2-4 years
Foreign Language	2-4 years
Community/ Club Activities	music, art, drama, student government, French club, youth church group, etc.

English	4 years
Science	2-4 years
Math	2-4 years
Social Sciences	2-4 years
Foreign Language	2-4 years
Community/ Club Activities	music, art, drama, student government, French club, youth church group, etc.

English	4 years
Science	1-3 years
Math	2-4 years
Social Sciences	2-4 years
Foreign Language	2-4 years
Community/ Club Activities	shop courses, business courses, Future Business Leaders of America, computer club, etc.

Standardized Testing

Testing requirements vary from college to college. Some colleges accept only the SAT while others accept either the SAT or ACT. Most schools will take the highest scores from different test dates, and some schools have standardized test results as an optional requirement.

Many colleges require SAT Subject Tests in addition to the SAT. Some schools will accept the ACT in lieu of SAT Subject Tests. It is helpful to study for them and to take them as soon as possible after completing the appropriate course.

PSAT/NMSQT® (Preliminary SAT®/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test)

A practice test designed to prepare students for the SAT. PSAT scores are not usually used by colleges in admission criteria. The test can be taken in the sophomore year in high school; however, it should definitely be taken in the junior year to qualify for national merit scholarships and recognitions.

SAT®

A three-hour-and-45-minute college admission test of critical reading, mathematical reasoning abilities, and writing skills. It is usually taken in the junior year and again in the senior year and is a required test for admission to many colleges. The SAT is primarily multiple choice and provides writing, math, and critical reasoning scores, each graded 200 (low) to 800 (high). On test day, the first section will always be the 25-minute essay and the final section will always be the 10-minute multiple-choice section. The remaining six, 25-minute and two, 20-minute sections can appear in any order, with one of the 25-minute sections being the unscored section (also referred to as the variable or equating section). This section can be either a critical reading, math or multiple-choice writing section. This section does not count toward the final score, but is used by The College Board to ensure test integrity and to try out new questions.

SAT® Subject Tests

A one-hour college admission test of knowledge in a specific subject area. Usually, only highly selective colleges require these tests. Colleges requiring these tests usually require three SAT Subject Tests, one of which should be mathematics. Note: Many colleges will accept an ACT score in place of the three SAT Subject Tests. It is best to take an SAT Subject Test immediately following its equivalent high school course. The test is primarily multiple choice.

For more information about the PSAT, SAT and SAT Subject Tests, visit www.collegeboard.com.

PLAN®

A standardized test offered to high school sophomores who are considering a college education. It is designed to familiarize students with the ACT (taken later) and provide an assessment of the student's career interests and study skills.

ACT Assessment®

About a three-and-a-half-hour college admissions examination that consists of tests in English (45 minutes), mathematics (60 minutes), reading (35 minutes), and science (35 minutes). ACT provides a composite score. The sub scores and composite score are graded 1 (lowest) to 36 (highest). The test is primarily multiple choice with 215 questions. ACT also offers an optional 30-minute writing test (ACT Plus Writing®) for students applying to schools that require writing scores.

For more information about the PLAN and ACT Assessment Tests, visit www.actstudent.org.

©2008 The Sallie Mae Fund – All Rights Reserved

Standardized Testing

Juniors should take the SAT in January, April, May or June. You should also take the ACT in February, April or June. Make plans to retake the SAT in October, November or December of the senior year and retake the ACT in September, October or December. Keep in mind:

- You cannot take SAT and SAT Subject Tests on the same day. You can take up to three SAT Subject Tests on the same day.
- Not all SAT Subject Tests are offered on all testing dates (check www.collegeboard.com for complete listings).
- Find out if the schools to which you are applying require any SAT Subject Tests.
- Some schools will accept the ACT in place of the SAT Subject Tests.

Registration is your responsibility. Registration materials are available in your high school counseling office or you can register online at www.collegeboard.com or www.actstudent.org. Registration deadlines are well ahead of the test dates. Ask your counselor for your CEEB (College Entrance Examination Board) School Code, which is used for SAT and ACT tests registration as well as many other college and scholarship applications. Cost for the ACT is a \$30 Basic Registration Fee, which includes sending scores to up to four schools. The optional writing test for the ACT is an additional \$14.50. The SAT is \$43, which includes sending scores to up to four schools. For the SAT Subject Tests, there is a \$20 Basic Registration Fee plus an \$20 fee for any Language Tests with Listening and/or \$8 for all other Subject Tests.

Be sure to check with your academic counselor as you may be eligible for a PSAT or ACT registration fee waiver. For more information about test fee waivers, visit www.collegeboard.com and www.act.org.

Many colleges require students to have all scores sent directly from the testing agency, **and you must request that your scores be sent to the colleges of your choice.** Be sure to list as many schools and organizations as you can on your registration form. Additional score reports for the ACT are \$8.50 each; for the SAT, they are \$9.50 each. Score reporting should include SAT, ACT, and SAT Subject Tests scores.

Non-Standard Testing

Both the SAT and ACT are offered in different formats or with extended time to accommodate students with learning differences or disabilities. Students who qualify for these tests may take them with extended time, given on tape, read to them by a proctor, or untimed. How colleges and universities look at non-standard testing varies from school to school. Colleges will not deny admission based solely on a learning difference or disability; however, admission officers will not admit students whom they feel will not succeed in their college's programs. At many schools there are no special tracks or programs for students with learning differences. On the other hand, there are many schools that offer extensive programs and accommodations.

On both The College Board and the ACT Web sites, information is available for those students who need to apply to take a non-standard test. There are a variety of forms and documentation required to be eligible for non-standard testing.

Test Preparation

Practice can improve scores. There are many preparation books as well as computer programs and online services. A Web site offering free test prep is www.number2.com. Sample questions can also be found at both the ACT and College Board Web sites.

Know Yourself

- What are your reasons for wanting to go to college?
- What sort of environment will stimulate your personal growth?
- What are your academic interests?
- What balance of academics, activities, and social life suits you best?
- Which extracurricular activities do you want to try in college?
- What kinds of surroundings are important to you (rural, urban, small town, etc.)?

Know Your School

When considering the kind of college you are interested in, use these factors as a guide. Make sure you meet all your needs—academically, socially and financially.

Type

What kind of an academic environment will you excel in?

Two-year or four-year; vocational or technical; public or private; religious affiliation; coed or single sex, etc.

Size

Size matters. What size school are you comfortable with?

Under 1,000 students; 1,000-5,000 students; 5,000-15,000 students; over 15,000 students, etc.

Location

What kind of a physical environment do you feel comfortable in?

Geographic region; urban, suburban, or rural setting; distance from home, etc.

Facilities

What facilities do you need to make the most of your college experience?

Academic: library; classrooms; lecture halls; science labs; computer labs; language labs; art, music, and theater facilities, etc.

Athletic: varsity and non-varsity facilities; weight room, etc.

Residential and Student Life: single sex or coed dormitories; theme housing; meal plans and dining hall options; bookstores, etc.

Researching Colleges 101

With over 9,000 colleges and universities in this country, there are lots of choices for you to find a school that you can call home.

Don't just research one school. You'll be surprised at how many schools fit your needs, and even more surprised at how many of them have different admission requirements and financial aid packages.

The Internet is one of the best ways to research both colleges and the college admission process. Almost every college has its own Web site. There are also many Web sites that provide information on colleges and search engines for finding schools. Here's a list to get you started:

- www.collegeanswer.com
- www.collegeboard.com
- www.collegeispossible.org
- www.studentaid.ed.gov
- www.mapping-your-future.org
- www.myroad.com
- www.nacacnet.org
- www.nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cool/search.asp
- www.petersons.com
- www.students.gov

Check the **Common Application** Web site at www.commonapp.org to see if your college or university participates in this admissions program. It saves you time by simplifying the admissions process!

College guidebooks are helpful, but often subjective. At your local library, look at:

- *The Fiske Guide to Colleges*, by Edward B. Fiske
- *The College Handbook*, by The College Board
- *The Insider's Guide to Colleges*, by the Yale Bailey News
- *Barron's Profiles of American Colleges*

College viewbooks, bulletins, and videos/DVDs are available from most schools:

- Viewbooks show pictures of the campus along with statistics like entrance requirements, student life, and financial aid.
- Videos and DVDs are like viewbooks, but more promotional.
- College bulletins and course catalogues provide in-depth information about major programs and other academic opportunities.

College visits to your high school by college admission representatives are excellent ways to meet counselors and area alumni.

College fairs help you gather information about schools and add your name to the school's mailing list. When you are at a college fair, try to visit as many representatives as possible and have a few questions ready. Visit the National Association for College Admission Counseling Web site, www.nacacnet.org for a schedule of NACAC-sponsored fairs.

Hot Tip: Take pre-printed information (labels/cards) to provide the schools with your name, address, home phone, e-mail address, graduation year, social security number, high school name, and areas of interest. The schools can use this information to key into their databases and follow-up with you.

Campus Visits 101

Planning and going on campus visits takes time, energy, and money so don't blow it. Make sure you visit a college campus when college is in session. Otherwise you'll miss seeing the college's community, culture, and academic environment. This probably means you'll have to visit during high school breaks or long weekends. Sometimes you'll have to plan a tour by yourself, but there are also many opportunities for school and/or community-sponsored college tours. Check with your high school guidance counselor for more information.

Campus Visit Checklist

- Schedule an appointment with an admissions officer and/or financial aid administrator at colleges you are considering.
- Take a campus tour.
- Research the college before you go so you know what questions to ask.
- Try taking an "unofficial" high school transcript with you (get it from your high school guidance counselor) so that admissions counselors can give you a realistic idea of how you'll fare against other applicants.
- Attend a class and eat in the dining hall.
- Read the student newspaper.
- Look at bulletin boards to see what's going on around campus.
- Check out the range of services and facilities in the bookstore and student center.
- Ask students what they like about the campus and what they don't like.
- Be a Sherlock Holmes and observe the students. How do they look and act? Do you want to be a part of this student body?
- Check out whatever is important to you: athletic facilities, fine arts facilities, career counseling office, student newspaper office, etc.

Hot Tip: For information about your rights and responsibilities in the college admission process, check with your guidance counselor for a copy of the *Students' Rights and Responsibilities in the College Admissions Process*, a brochure written by NACAC (available at www.nacacnet.org).

The College Application Flowchart



LUCKY 3

- Pick at least three schools to apply to:
1. your reach school
 2. your realistic school
 3. your safety school

Get copies of college application forms

Write down deadlines

FREE RIDE

Ask your high school guidance counselor if you are eligible for application fee waivers

Also, don't forget to ask your counselor if you qualify for an ACT or SAT fee waiver!

RECOMMENDATIONS & ESSAYS

Start asking, start writing

Fill out application!
Send in application!

Send in latest transcript of your grades

Colleges Answer

You're accepted!
Celebrate!

You're waitlisted...
Think about it..

You're turned down
Don't panic

Consider/compare financial aid packages

Return acceptance letter

Send in deposit

You're done!

How to Pay for It

Do You Know...

Who's eligible for financial aid?	page 11
What financial aid is?	page 12
What makes up the cost of college?	page 13
How to save money for college?	page 14
How to search for scholarships?	pages 15-16
How to be a smart borrower?	page 17
All there is to know about loan programs?	pages 18-19
What an award letter is?	page 20
The financial aid process?	pages 21-22
How to fill out the FAFSA?	pages 23-31



Who's Eligible for Financial Aid? You Are!

Nothing in life is certain, but your odds of being eligible for financial aid are pretty good. Two-thirds of all full-time undergraduate students receive some kind of financial aid. Financial aid is out there, waiting for you to use it. But you have to apply for it.

Top Five "I'm Not Eligible" Myths

1. My family's income isn't low enough to qualify for financial aid.

Wrong! The federal government has a formula that determines the amount your family is expected to contribute to your college costs. Any costs above that have a chance to be covered by financial aid.

2. My parents have already saved a lot for my college education, so we won't get any aid.

Not necessarily. The federal formula provides allowances for savings and assets.

3. My older brother/sister wasn't eligible for financial aid last year, so I won't be eligible either.

On the contrary. The number of family members in college has a big impact on your financial aid eligibility.

4. I'm only going to college part time, so I'm not eligible for financial aid.

Not so! Financial aid is available for part-time students. Check with your financial aid office for information on aid for part-time students.

5. I'm not a U.S. citizen, so I don't qualify.

Hold up. If you have an F1 or F2 visa, you are **not** eligible for financial aid. But if you are a U.S. permanent resident with an I-551 or I-551c, or you fit under one of these classifications with an I-94, then you are eligible for aid:

Indefinite parole

Non-citizens "refugee"

Asylum granted

Humanitarian parole

Cuban-Haitian entrance

Getting Financial Aid

Financial aid is money loaned or awarded to students to help them pay for college. The largest source of financial aid is the federal government, followed by state governments, colleges, and then private organizations. The first step to getting financial aid—get to know the financial aid administrators at the colleges you are applying to!

Need-Based Financial Aid Versus Non-Need-Based Financial Aid

Some financial aid is based on the amount of financial need you and your family have. For example, need-based loans offer lower interest rates. Other types of loans are available regardless of your financial situation. These would be considered non-need-based financial aid.

Types of Financial Aid

The term “financial aid” covers all the different options to help you pay for college. Financial aid is broken down into three main categories.

1. Free Money 📄 grants and scholarships.

Grants: Money awarded based on financial need. Grants are given out by the federal government, state governments, and colleges. The federal government funds two of the largest grant programs: the Federal Pell Grant and the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG).

Scholarships: Money given for a variety of reasons—excellent grades, economic need, community involvement, parents’ employers, membership in organizations, left-handedness, etc.

2. Earned Money 📄 Work-study programs. Work part time on campus. Work-study programs have flexible hours and expose you to more of what college can offer.

3. Borrowed Money 📄 Loans. Loans must be repaid, usually with interest. Most educational loans are government-sponsored.

Applying for Financial Aid

You must reapply for aid each year that you are in school, or when you transfer to a different school. Stay on top of your aid applications. Incomplete or late forms will reduce your chances of getting financial aid. Deadlines vary from school to school. Help is available if you have questions.

- Get organized—use this toolkit!
- Keep a financial aid file and set up a deadline calendar.
- Keep copies of all applications you send.
- Gather important documents that you will need to fill out your financial aid application (bank statements, driver’s license, W-2, tax returns, etc.).

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

The number one form to fill out for financial aid is the FAFSA. This is a free government form that students must fill out to be considered for federal student aid. Colleges, universities, state agencies and some scholarship programs use the information in the FAFSA to award institutional aid, state aid, and private scholarships. Although the FAFSA is available in paper form (see sample on page 23), the fastest way to fill it out is via FAFSA on the Web at www.fafsa.ed.gov. The FAFSA is filled out after January 1st of each year a student is in college either full or part time.

The CSS/Financial Aid Profile®

Some colleges and scholarship programs require that students complete the College Scholarship Service (CSS)/Financial Aid PROFILE to be considered for nonfederal student aid. You can register for the PROFILE Online by going to www.collegeboard.com. There are fees associated with this application process.

Other Forms

Most colleges require that students fill out institutional financial aid forms. Find out from the school’s financial aid office which forms you need to fill out. Most states require students to fill out state aid forms for state grants and scholarships. Check with your academic counselor to see if your state requires this.

The Cost of College

The cost of college isn't one lump sum. It can be broken down into different categories. Some costs you can't control. Some you can—and they can make a huge difference.

Direct costs include tuition, room and board in college housing, and any special fees.

Indirect costs include items such as books, computers and computer supplies, transportation, off-campus housing and personal expenses.

Estimating current education-related expenses

Get a list of direct expenses from your college. Use those figures along with amounts for indirect expenses to figure out the cost of attending college in the exercise below.

Tuitions and fees	\$ _____
Room and board	\$ _____
Books	\$ _____
Personal expenses (laundry, snacks, etc.)	\$ _____
Transportation	\$ _____
Miscellaneous	\$ _____
Cost of attendance for one year	\$ _____

The average yearly tuition, fees, and room and board for a public four-year college in the 2007-2008 academic year was \$13,500. The average yearly tuition, fees, and room and board for a private four-year college was \$32,000.

Comparing Colleges

COMPARING AID

	College A	College B
Grants	\$2,500	\$4,300
Scholarships	\$2,000	\$11,500
Work-Study	\$1,000	\$2,500
Stafford Loan	\$3,500	\$3,500
PLUS Loan	\$0	\$5,000
Financial Aid	\$9,000	\$26,800

COMPARING COST

	College A	College B
Annual Price	\$13,500	\$32,000
Financial Aid	– \$9,000	– \$26,800
Family's Cost	\$4,500	\$5,200

Notice something? The costs to the family are now more similar. Don't let the price of a college discourage you from applying—look for financial aid first.

The Way to Save

Start Early

Most families pay for college using a combination of savings, current earnings, and financial aid. Save yourself money by saving early.

- Saving early and regularly gives compound interest the time to work its magic.
- When you start early, you can save smaller amounts over a longer period of time.
- Families can help pay for their children's education without putting off retirement planning.
- Families can help their children complete college with less debt.
- Every family can set aside some amount of money on a regular or semi-regular basis.
- Set a savings goal and break it down into monthly installments.

Dollars Saved Each Month	After 4 Years	After 8 Years	After 12 Years
\$25	\$1,443	\$3,394	\$6,078
\$50	\$2,886	\$6,788	\$12,156
\$75	\$4,329	\$10,182	\$18,233
\$100	\$5,773	\$13,576	\$24,311

Assumes 8 percent annual return and monthly compounding

Savings Options

Qualified State Tuition (529) Plans come in two varieties. Parents can (1) prepay tuition expenses, or (2) contribute to a tax-free account used for paying college expenses. For more information, visit www.collegesavings.org.

Reward programs help you save for college through everyday purchases, like gas, groceries, and dining out.

IRAs allow families at specified income levels to make penalty-free withdrawals when the funds are used for education.

Company retirement plans allow you, in some cases, to withdraw funds or take loans for education. Check with your employer to see if this is permitted.

Traditional bank services such as savings accounts, money market accounts, and certificates of deposit have rates of return lower than the potential return on stocks, but have less risk.

U.S. Savings Bonds have modest rates of return. They are exempt from local and state taxes and, depending on your income level, federal taxes as well.

Insurance companies offer a variety of investment plans, including annuities. "Permanent" life insurance is another option whose cash value can be tapped to help fund education.

Taxes and Education Expenses

Many families can take advantage of two federal income tax credits that are available through the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997.

- Hope Tax Credit: Provides eligible taxpayers with a tax credit of up to \$1,650 per student for the first two years of post-secondary education.
- Lifetime Learning Credit: Provides tax credit to eligible tax payers for post-secondary education or classes to improve job skills.

Searching for Scholarships

There are millions of dollars in private scholarships available each year. Companies, unions, foundations, community organizations, churches, and others sponsor scholarships ranging from a few hundred dollars to a free ride for all four years of college. Searching for scholarships takes time and energy, but remember: it's free money. Even if you spend five hours applying for scholarships and receive only a \$500 scholarship, that's still the same as earning \$100 an hour—not bad! To make things easier, keep these tips in mind.

Criteria

Many scholarships are based on select criteria, like:

- grades
- chosen college
- chosen major
- organization affiliation
- artistic ability
- leadership ability
- athletic ability
- gender
- race
- religious affiliation
- parents' organization affiliation
- parents' place of work
- military background
- economic need

Resources

The Internet: Many Web sites have large scholarship databases that will do the grunt work for you. Enter your criteria and they will return a list of scholarships that match them. Most sites are free and only require you to register to use their services. There are also many organizations that provide scholarships and/or links to scholarship resources. Some sites to check out are:

- www.blackcollegedollars.org
- www.collegeanswer.com
- www.collegefund.org (Native American)
- www.college-scholarships.com
- www.fastaid.com
- www.fastweb.com
- www.finaid.org
- www.gmsp.org (Gates Millennium Scholars)
- www.hsf.net (Hispanic)
- www.latinocollegedollars.org
- www.ocanatl.org (Asian American)
- www.review.com
- www.salliemaefund.org
- www.scholarships.com
- www.scholarshipsforhispanics.org
- www.srnexpress.com
- www.studentaid.ed.gov
- www.uncf.org (African American)

Scholarship Guides: Your local library or your high school guidance counselor should have a number of these books. Again, scholarships are listed by criteria. While most guides will share some scholarships in common, there will be many that are unique to each guide, so be sure to look through more than one. Some guides to look at are:

- How to Get Money for College*, by Woodburn Press (www.woodburnpress.com)
- Cash for College*, by NASFAA (www.nasfaa.org)
- How to Pay for College: A Practical Guide for Families*, by Gen and Kelly Tanabe
- The A's and B's of Academic Scholarships*, by Anna Leider and Anna Schimke
- The Black Student's Guide to Scholarships*
- The Scholarship Book*, by National Scholarship Research Service
- The Scholarship Advisor*, by Christopher Vuturo
- Winning Scholarships for College: An Insider's Guide*
- Peterson's College Money Handbook*
- Paying for College without Going for Broke*, by Kalman Chany and Geoff Martz
- Peterson's Winning Money for College*

Searching for Scholarships

Deadlines

The listed deadline is the date on which the completed application must be received. That date will arrive before you know it, so get organized, get a deadline calendar, and give yourself plenty of time to find scholarships, request applications, receive them, complete them, and send them.

Deadlines usually occur between December and April, so get a head start and begin researching scholarships the summer before your senior year. Often scholarships are limited and are on a first-come, first-serve basis. So what are you waiting for?

Scams

Some Web sites/agencies will charge you hefty fees to find you the same information you can find yourself for free. Other sites and agencies are outright scams. If it sounds too good to be true, it usually is. Check with your guidance counselor or the Better Business Bureau before engaging the services of any private scholarship search companies. **Remember:** No one can guarantee you a scholarship.

Other Avenues

There are a number of organizations that will pay all or part of your way through college in return for a two-to-four-year commitment when you graduate. These include:

- Merchant Marine Academy (www.usmma.edu)
- ROTC (www.military.com)
- federal programs for underserved school districts

Networking

You're not expected to know everything. Tell family, friends, teachers and other people in your community that you are looking for scholarships. They may know something you don't.

Thanks

If you manage to snag a scholarship, be sure to write a small thank you note to the people who provided you with it. Make a good impression—you may want to reapply for the scholarship in the future.

Loans

When you use loans, you use a lot of terms. Check the glossary for any words you don't know.

Tips for Borrowing for College

- Borrow only what you absolutely need.
- Be organized and keep records.
- If you need to borrow more than once, use the same lender—you'll have all your loans together, which will simplify repayment.
- Stay enrolled until you get your degree—if you're not enrolled at least half time, some of your loans could be called into repayment before you finish school.
- Many lenders reward borrowers who have good credit records with better interest rates, so make sure your credit record is clear before applying for a private loan.
- Most education loans have a variable interest rate and an interest rate cap. Ask for estimates of what your interest charges and total debt will be.
- Ask what the fees are for carrying a loan.
- Find out if you have to make payments while you are still in school.
- See if the government pays the interest on your loan while you are in school or during grace and deferment periods.
- Ask about the grace period on your loan.
- Find out how your interest is capitalized (added to your loan balance) while your payments are being deferred. Less frequent capitalization means less interest on the loan.
- Choose a lender with flexible repayment plans and ask about your repayment options.
- See if your lender offers borrower benefit programs, such as reduced interest rates for on-time monthly payments.
- Choose a lender with electronic bill/payment processing—this will save you time and money.
- Choose a lender with good customer service hours and online access to loan information.

Loan Programs

The federal government is the largest source of education loans. The two primary federal programs are the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP) and the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program (FDLP). Both programs have the same lending terms. There's one critical difference—in the FFELP, your bank, credit union, or school is the lender; in the FDLP, the federal government is the lender.

Federal Perkins Loans are fixed 5% interest rate loans for students with exceptional financial need. Perkins Loans are funded by the federal government and administered by the college.

Federal Stafford Loans (subsidized and unsubsidized) are low-interest rate loans for students attending college at least half time.

- *Subsidized.* You can qualify for subsidized Stafford Loans if you can demonstrate financial need. The federal government will pay the interest on the loan while you are in school.
- *Unsubsidized.* You can get an unsubsidized Stafford Loan regardless of your family's income. You are responsible for all accrued interest, but you don't have to make payments until you graduate or leave school. If you don't qualify for the full, subsidized Stafford Loan amount, you can get an unsubsidized Stafford Loan for the balance, up to the federal Stafford limit.

Federal PLUS Loans allow parents to borrow for each dependent undergraduate student who is enrolled in college at least half time. Parents can borrow up to the full cost of their student's education each academic year, less grants and other financial aid the student receives. Important: PLUS borrowers usually start making payments within 60 days after full disbursement of funds.

Institutional loans are available from the colleges and universities themselves. The colleges determine loan characteristics and eligibility requirements.

Private loans are available to students from banks and other organizations, which determine loan characteristics and eligibility requirements.

How to Get Your Money

Before you can receive a Federal Stafford Loan, you will first need to complete a Master Promissory Note (MPN). The MPN is the legal agreement you sign with a lender when you accept student loan funds. By signing the MPN, you agree to pay the loan under the terms and conditions detailed in the note.

Lenders provide funds to your school by check or electronically in installments. Loan funds are first applied to your school account, which typically includes tuition, fees, and room and board if you will be living in a school residence. You will then receive any remaining funds from your college. If it's your first loan and your first year in school, the money may not be released until 30 days after your first day of enrollment.

Education Loan Characteristics

Program	Federal Perkins Loan	Federal Stafford Loan	Federal Parent PLUS Loan*
Description	A low-interest loan for students funded by the federal government and administered by the school.	A low-interest loan for students funded by the federal government, a financial institution, or the college.	A low-interest loan for parents funded by the federal government, a financial institution, or the college.
Eligibility	U.S. citizens or nationals, U.S. permanent residents, or eligible non-citizens. Full or part-time undergraduate or graduate students. Priority is offered to Pell Grant recipients. Need-based.	U.S. citizens or nationals, U.S. permanent residents, or eligible non-citizens enrolled at least half time. Undergraduate or graduate students. Subsidized loans are need-based.	U.S. citizens or nationals, U.S. permanent residents, or eligible non-citizens with an undergraduate dependent child who is enrolled at least half time. The student must also be a U.S. citizen or national, a U.S. permanent resident, or eligible non-citizen. No collateral or income requirements.
Amount	Undergraduate: \$4,000 per year. Graduate: \$6,000 per year.	Annual Limit Dependent: Freshman \$3,500 Sophomore \$4,500 Junior/Senior \$5,500 Annual Limit Independent: Freshman \$7,500 Sophomore \$8,500 Junior/Senior \$10,500 Graduate/Prof. \$20,500 Lifetime Limit: Undergrad Dependent \$23,000 Undergrad Independent \$46,000 Graduate/Prof. \$138,500	Up to the total cost of the student's education, less other aid received.
Interest Rate	5%	6.8%	8.5%
Repayment Begins	9 months after leaving school or when student drops to less than half-time status.	6 months after leaving school or when student drops to less than half-time status.	2 months after loan is fully disbursed.

* Federal Graduate PLUS Loans are available to graduate students.

NOTE: The above loan characteristics are applicable for the 2008-2009 academic year.

Evaluating Financial Aid Packages

All colleges will not offer you the same financial aid package. Each aid package differs in the amount of aid and the form in which the aid is given (grants, work-study, loans, etc.) Once all of the schools listed on your FAFSA have sent you award letters (see sample below) with their financial aid packages, take some time and evaluate how each college meets your financial needs and educational goals. The cost of college may be more affordable than you think. You shouldn't let the sticker price of the college determine where you go.

Sample Award Letter

2008-2009 College of Sallie Mae Fund Financial Aid Notification Letter

RETURN ONE SIGNED COPY TO THE FINANCIAL AID OFFICE
 Financial Aid Office, 1234 Smith Hall, Reston, VA 20190 (703) 984-1234

123-45-6789 N
 01-01-1986

John Q. Student
 4567 Bluemont Way
 Reston, VA 20190

Award Date
03-01-08

Reply Deadline
05-01-08

This financial aid offer **SUPERSEDES** any previous award offers. **No financial aid offer is valid until the original copy of this form is signed on the front and returned to the Financial Aid Office.** We reserve the right to modify financial awards at any time due to changes in your financial aid eligibility, changes in program terms, coordination with other resources you receive, or changes in the availability of our funding.

SECTION I – COST OF ATTENDANCE AND FINANCIAL NEED	
This financial aid offer is valid for the following period(s): Fall 2008 / Spring 2009	Enrollment Hours: Full-Time (12 hours or more)
BASED ON YOUR LIVING	ON CAMPUS Is this correct? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> (see over)

BELOW ARE YOUR COST OF ATTENDANCE ITEMS:

UNDERGRADUATE FEES	\$ 4,403.00
ROOM AND BOARD	6,100.00
BOOKS AND SUPPLIES	1,350.00
TRANSPORTATION	1,600.00
PERSONAL COSTS	1,500.00
TOTAL COST OF ATTENDANCE	\$ 14,953.00

DETERMINATION OF FINANCIAL NEED:

A. COST OF ATTENDANCE	\$ 14,953.00
B. FAMILY CONTRIBUTION	\$ 1,227.00
C. FINANCIAL NEED (A-B=C)	\$ 13,726.00

SECTION II – FINANCIAL AID AWARD

For each award below, circle "yes" to accept or "no" to decline it. This *Financial Aid Notification Letter* contains important information about your eligibility for financial aid. You are responsible for following all instructions on both sides of this *Financial Aid Notification Letter*. Read the *Financial Aid Notification Guide* for more information.

ACCEPT	FINANCIAL AID AWARDS	DISBURSEMENT SCHEDULE			TOTAL
		SUMMER	FALL	WINTER	
Yes / No	Federal Pell Grant		1,375.00	1,375.00	2,750.00
Yes / No	Federal Work-Study		1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00
Yes / No	VA State Grant		1,719.50	1,719.50	3,439.00
Yes / No	College of Letters Scholarship		936.00	936.00	1,872.00
Yes / No	Federal Stafford Loan		1,312.50	1,312.50	2,625.00
	TOTAL		6,343.00	6,343.00	12,686.00

SECTION III – ADJUSTMENT REASONS

If any adjustments have been made to your awards, you will find the reason(s) listed below. Your financial aid eligibility has been reviewed by your counselor: Maria Santiago.

I have ACCEPTED / DECLINED each award above. I have read and I understand the requirements and the conditions applying to financial aid as stated on both sides of this *Financial Aid Notification Letter* and the *Financial Aid Notification Guide*.

STUDENT'S SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

The Financial Aid Flowchart



The Magic Numbers

- Get a Social Security number
1-800-772-1213 / www.ssa.gov
- Get a FAFSA PIN number for student and parents
www.pin.ed.gov

CSS/PROFILE and Institutional & State Financial Aid Forms

Complete these forms if required by your school, state or scholarship program

Get a FAFSA

- online at www.fafsa.ed.gov
- at a college fair
- from your high school counselor

Scholarships

- Start researching! Try:
- Web sites - see page 15
 - scholarship books
 - community organizations
 - your high school counselor

Collect Personal Data

Fill out the FAFSA

and send it in as soon as possible after January 1

Remember: List as many schools on the FAFSA as possible even if you have not been admitted yet.

State Aid

To find out what your state offers to residents, go to www.finaid.org/otheraid/state.phtml

Processing

Dept of Ed processes your FAFSA and sends it off to the financial aid offices of your chosen colleges

Receive your Student Aid Report (SAR)

(wait four weeks if you completed a paper FAFSA)
(wait 72 hours if you completed an online FAFSA)

Find out your Expected Family Contribution (EFC)

Package for You

Colleges offer you a financial aid package (grants, scholarships, work-study, and loans)
See sample award letter on page 20





Time to Compare
Compare financial aid packages from colleges

Time to Decide
Decide to accept financial aid package

Covered!
There is a financial aid package that covers 100% of your financial needs

Gapped!
There is a gap between the financial aid offered and your financial need

..... Also known as *Unmet Need*

Consider Additional Loans:

- PLUS Loans
- Private Loans
- Student Unsubsidized Loans
- Institutional Loans

Look for "Last Dollar" Scholarships

Examine Other Options:

- savings
- second mortgage
- college payment plans

Sign Master Promissory Note for Any Loans

Close the Financial Gap

CONGRATULATIONS!
You're off to college!



Use this form to apply free for federal and state student grants, work-study and loans.

Or apply free online
at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

Applying by the Deadlines

For federal aid, submit your application as early as possible, but no earlier than January 1, 2008. We must receive your application no later than June 30, 2009. Your college must have your correct, complete information by your last day of enrollment in the 2008–2009 school year.

For state or college aid, the deadline may be as early as January 2008. See the table to the right for state deadlines. You may also need to complete additional forms. Check with your high school guidance counselor or a financial aid administrator at your college about state and college sources of student aid and deadlines.

If you are filing close to one of these deadlines, we recommend you file online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. This is the fastest and easiest way to apply for aid.

Using Your Tax Return

If you are supposed to file a 2007 federal income tax return, we recommend that you complete it before filling out this form. If you have not yet filed your return, you can still submit your FAFSA, but you must provide income and tax information. Once you file your tax return, correct any income or tax information that is different from what you initially submitted on your FAFSA.

Filling Out the FAFSA

Fill the answer fields directly on your screen or print the form and complete it by hand. Your answers will be read electronically; therefore, if you complete the form by hand:

- use black ink and fill in squares completely: **Correct** **Incorrect**
- print clearly in CAPITAL letters and skip a box between words:
I | 5 | E | L | M | S | T
- report dollar amounts (such as \$12,356.41) like this:
\$ | 1 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 6 | no cents

Orange is for student information and purple is for parent information.

If you or your family has unusual circumstances (such as loss of employment), complete this form to the extent you can, then submit it as instructed and consult with the financial aid office at the college you plan to attend.

For more information or help in filling out the FAFSA, call 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243). TTY users (for the hearing-impaired) may call 1-800-730-8913. Or visit our Web site at www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov.

Mailing Your FAFSA

After you complete this application, mail only pages 7 through 10 to: Federal Student Aid Programs, P.O. Box 4692, Mt. Vernon, IL 62864-4692. Do not send the worksheets on page 5. Print or make a copy of the entire completed form for your records.

If you do not receive the results of your application—a *Student Aid Report (SAR)*—within three weeks, please check online at www.fafsa.ed.gov or call 1-800-433-3243. If you provided your e-mail address in question 13, you will receive information about your application within a few days after we process it.

Let's Get Started!

Now go to page 7 of the application form and begin filling it out. Refer to the notes as instructed.

STATE AID DEADLINES

www.fafsa.ed.gov

Check with your financial aid administrator for these states and territories:

AL, *AS, CO, *FM, GA, *GU, *HI, *MH, *MP, NE, *NM, *NV, OR, PR, *PW, *SD, *TX, UT, *VA, *VI, *VT, WA, WI and *WY.

- AK April 15, 2008 (date received)
- AR Academic Challenge - June 1, 2008
Workforce Grant - Contact your financial aid administrator.
Higher Education Opportunity Grant - June 1, 2008 (fall term)
- November 1, 2008 (spring term) (date received)
- AZ June 30, 2009 (date received)
- *^ CA Initial awards - March 2, 2008
A Additional community college awards - September 2, 2008 (date postmarked)
- ** CT February 15, 2008 (date received)
- * DC June 30, 2008 (date received by state)
- DE April 15, 2008 (date received)
- FL May 15, 2008 (date processed)
- ^ IA July 1, 2008 (date received)
- ** ID March 1, 2008 (date received)
- # IL First-time applicants - September 30, 2008
Continuing applicants - August 15, 2008 (date received)
- IN March 10, 2008 (date received)
- ** KS April 1, 2008 (date received)
- # KY March 15, 2008 (date received)
- ^ LA July 1, 2008 (date received)
- #^ MA May 1, 2008 (date received)
- MD March 1, 2008 (date received)
- ME May 1, 2008 (date received)
- MI March 1, 2008 (date received)
- MN 30 days after term starts (date received)
- MO April 1, 2008 (date received)
- # MS MTAG and MESH Grants - September 15, 2008
HELP Scholarship - March 31, 2008 (date processed)
- # MT March 1, 2008 (date received)
- NC March 15, 2008 (date received)
- ND March 15, 2008 (date received)
- NH May 1, 2008 (date received)
- ^ NJ June 1, 2008, if you received a Tuition Aid Grant in 2007–2008
All other applicants
- October 1, 2008, fall & spring terms
- March 1, 2009, spring term only (date received)
- *^ NY May 1, 2009 (date received)
- OH October 1, 2008 (date received)
- # OK April 15, 2008 (date received) for best consideration
- * PA All 2007–2008 State Grant recipients & all non-2007–2008 State Grant recipients in degree programs - May 1, 2008
All other applicants - August 1, 2008 (date received)
- # RI March 1, 2008 (date received)
- SC Tuition Grants - June 30, 2008 (date received)
- # TN State Grant - March 1, 2008
State Lottery - September 1, 2008 (date received)
- *^ WV March 1, 2008 (date received)

- # For priority consideration, submit application by date specified.
- ^ Applicants encouraged to obtain proof of mailing.
- * Additional form may be required.

Notes for question 13 (page 7)

We will use this e-mail address to correspond with you. You will receive your FAFSA results through a secure link, sent to the e-mail address you provide. Leave blank if you prefer to receive information through regular mail. We will only share this address with the colleges you list on the form and your state. They may use the e-mail address to communicate with you.

Notes for questions 14–15 (page 7)

If you are an eligible noncitizen, write in your eight- or nine-digit Alien Registration Number. Generally, you are an eligible noncitizen if you are (1) a permanent U.S. resident with a Permanent Resident Card (I-551); (2) a conditional permanent resident (I-551C); or (3) the holder of an Arrival-Departure Record (I-94) from the Department of Homeland Security showing any one of the following designations: "Refugee," "Asylum Granted," "Parolee" (I-94 confirms that you were paroled for a minimum of one year and status has not expired), "Victim of human trafficking," T-Visa holder (T-1, T-2, T-3, etc.), or "Cuban-Haitian Entrant." If you are in the U.S. on an F1 or F2 student visa, a J1 or J2 exchange visitor visa, or a G series visa (pertaining to international organizations), you must fill in oval c. If you are neither a citizen nor an eligible noncitizen, you are not eligible for federal student aid. However, you may be eligible for state or college aid.

Notes for question 16 (page 7)

Report your marital status as of the date you sign your FAFSA. If your marital status changes after you sign your FAFSA, you must not change this information.

Notes for question 23 (page 7) – Enter the correct number in the box in question 23.

- Enter **1** for 1st bachelor's degree.
- Enter **2** for 2nd bachelor's degree.
- Enter **3** for associate degree (occupational or technical program).
- Enter **4** for associate degree (general education or transfer program).
- Enter **5** for certificate or diploma for completing an occupational, technical or educational program of less than two years.
- Enter **6** for certificate or diploma for completing an occupational, technical or educational program of at least two years.
- Enter **7** for teaching credential program (nondegree program).
- Enter **8** for graduate or professional degree.
- Enter **9** for other/undecided.

Notes for question 24 (page 7) – Enter the correct number in the box in question 24.

- Enter **0** for never attended college & 1st year undergraduate.
- Enter **1** for attended college before & 1st year undergraduate.
- Enter **2** for 2nd year undergraduate/sophomore.
- Enter **3** for 3rd year undergraduate/junior.
- Enter **4** for 4th year undergraduate/senior.
- Enter **5** for 5th year/other undergraduate.
- Enter **6** for 1st year graduate/professional.
- Enter **7** for continuing graduate/professional or beyond.

Notes for question 25 (page 7) – Enter the correct number in the box in question 25.

For undergraduates, an enrollment status of "full-time" generally means taking at least 12 credit hours in a term or 24 clock hours per week. "3/4-time" generally means taking at least 9 credit hours in a term or 18 clock hours per week. "Half-time" generally means taking at least 6 credit hours in a term or 12 clock hours per week. Provide this information about the college you are most likely to attend.

- Enter **1** for full-time.
- Enter **2** for three-quarter-time.
- Enter **3** for half-time.
- Enter **4** for less than half-time.
- Enter **5** for don't know.

Notes for question 26 (page 7) – Enter the correct number in the box in question 26.

- Enter a number to indicate if you are interested in other types of student financial aid, in addition to grants.
- Enter **1** for work-study (student aid that you earn through work).
 - Enter **2** for student loans (which you must pay back).
 - Enter **3** for both work-study and student loans.
 - Enter **4** for neither.
 - Enter **5** for don't know.

Notes for question 27 (page 7) – Enter the correct number in the box in question 27.

- Enter **1** for high school diploma.
- Enter **2** for General Educational Development (GED) certificate.
- Enter **3** for home schooled.
- Enter **4** for other.

Notes for questions 29–30 (page 7)

Some states and colleges offer aid based on the level of schooling your parents completed.

Notes for questions 33 c. and d. (page 8) and 77 c. and d. (page 9)

If you filed or will file a foreign tax return, a tax return with Puerto Rico, another U.S. territory (e.g., Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Swain's Island or the Northern Marianas Islands), or one of the freely associated states (i.e., the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands or the Federated States of Micronesia), use the information from that return to fill out this form. If you filed a foreign return, convert all figures to U.S. dollars, using the exchange rate that is in effect today. To view the daily exchange rate, go to www.federalreserve.gov/releases/h10/update.

Notes for questions 34 (page 8) and 78 (page 9)

In general, a person is eligible to file a 1040A or 1040EZ if he or she makes less than \$100,000, does not itemize deductions, does not receive income from his or her own business or farm and does not receive alimony. A person is not eligible to file a 1040A or 1040EZ if he or she makes \$100,000 or more, itemizes deductions, receives income from his or her own business or farm, is self-employed, receives alimony or is required to file Schedule D for capital gains. If you filed a 1040 only to claim Hope or Lifetime Learning credits, and you would have otherwise been eligible for a 1040A or 1040EZ, you should answer "Yes" to this question. If you filed a 1040 and were not required to file a tax return, you should answer "Yes" to this question.

Notes for questions 37 (page 8)

and 81 (page 9) — Notes for those who filed a 1040EZ

On the 1040EZ, if a person checked either the “you” or “spouse” box on line 5, use EZ worksheet line F to determine the number of exemptions (\$3,400 equals one exemption). If a person didn’t check either box on line 5, enter 01 if he or she is single, or 02 if he or she is married.

Notes for questions 38–39 (page 8)

and 82–83 (page 9)

These questions ask about earnings (wages, salaries, tips, combat pay, etc.) in 2007. Answer the questions whether or not a tax return was filed. This information may be on the W-2 forms, or on IRS Form 1040—lines 7 + 12 + 18 + Box 14 of IRS Schedule K-1 (Form 1065); 1040A—line 7; or 1040EZ—line 1.

Notes for questions 43–45 (page 8)

and 87–89 (page 10)

By applying online at www.fafsa.ed.gov, you may be eligible to skip some questions. If you do not apply online, you will not be penalized for completing questions 43–45 and 87–89 on the paper FAFSA.

Net worth means current value minus debt. If net worth is one million dollars or more, enter \$999,999. If net worth is negative, enter 0.

Investments include real estate (do not include the home you live in), trust funds, UGMA and UTMA accounts, money market funds, mutual funds, certificates of deposit, stocks, stock options, bonds, other securities, Coverdell savings accounts, 529 college savings plans, the refund value of 529 prepaid tuition plans, installment and land sale contracts (including mortgages held), commodities, etc. For more information about reporting education savings plans, call 1-800-433-3243. Investment value means the current balance or market value of these investments as of today. Investment debt means only those debts that are related to the investments.

Investments do not include the home you live in, the value of life insurance, retirement plans (pension funds, annuities, non-education IRAs, Keogh plans, etc.) or cash, savings and checking accounts already reported in 43 and 87.

Note: Students who must report parental information on this form should report all qualified educational benefits or education savings accounts owned by the parents—including Coverdell savings accounts, 529 college savings plans, and the refund value of 529 prepaid tuition plans—in question 88. If the account is owned by a student who must report parental information, the value of the account is not to be reported. If the account is owned by a student (or the student’s spouse) who is not reporting parental information, the value is to be reported as an investment in question 44.

Business and/or investment farm value includes the market value of land, buildings, machinery, equipment, inventory, etc. Business and/or investment farm debt means only those debts for which the business or investment farm was used as collateral.

Do not include the value of a family farm that you (your spouse and/or your parents) live on and operate. **Do not include** the value of a small business that you (your spouse and/or your parents) own and control and that has 100 or fewer full-time or full-time equivalent employees.

Notes for question 54 (page 8)

Answer “**Yes**” if you are currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces or are a National Guard or Reserves enlistee who is on active duty for other than state or training purposes.

Answer “**No**” if you are a National Guard or Reserves enlistee who is on active duty for state or training purposes.

Notes for question 55 (page 8)

Answer “**Yes**” (you are a veteran) if you (1) have engaged in active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines or Coast Guard) or are a National Guard or Reserve enlistee who was called to active duty for purposes other than training, or were a cadet or midshipman at one of the service academies, **and** (2) were released under a condition other than dishonorable. Also answer “**Yes**” if you are not a veteran now but will be one by June 30, 2009.

Answer “**No**” (you are not a veteran) if you (1) have never engaged in active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces, (2) are currently an ROTC student or a cadet or midshipman at a service academy or (3) are a National Guard or Reserves enlistee activated only for training.

Also answer “**No**” if you are currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces and will continue to serve through June 30, 2009.

Notes for questions 56–89 (pages 9 and 10) Step Four: Who is considered a parent in this step?

Read these notes to determine who is considered a parent on this form. Answer all questions in Step Four about your parents, even if you do not live with them.

Grandparents, foster parents and legal guardians are not considered parents on this form unless they have legally adopted you.

If your parents are living and married to each other, answer the questions about them.

If your parent is widowed or single, answer the questions about that parent. If your widowed parent is remarried as of today, answer the questions about that parent and the person whom your parent married (your stepparent).

If your parents are divorced or separated, answer the questions about the parent you lived with more during the past 12 months. (If you did not live with one parent more than the other, give answers about the parent who provided more financial support during the past 12 months, or during the most recent year that you actually received support from a parent.) If this parent is remarried as of today, answer the questions on the rest of this form about that parent and the person whom your parent married (your stepparent).

Notes for question 66 (page 9)

Include in your parents’ household (see previous notes for who is considered a parent):

- your parents and yourself, even if you don’t live with your parents,

Notes for question 66 (page 9) continued from page 3

- your parents' other children if (a) your parents will provide more than half of their support from July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2009, or (b) the children could answer "No" to every question in Step Three on page 8 of this form, and
- other people if they now live with your parents, your parents provide more than half of their support and your parents will continue to provide more than half of their support from July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2009.

Notes for question 67 (page 9)

Always count yourself as a college student. Do not include your parents. Include others only if they will attend, at least half-time in 2008–2009, a program that leads to a college degree or certificate.

Notes for questions 71–75 (page 9)

Mark a square for each federal benefit program if you, your parents, or anyone in your parents' household received benefits from the program at any time during 2007. Use the Notes for question 66 to identify who is included in your parents' household. Answering these questions will not reduce your eligibility for student aid or these other federal benefits. The federal benefit programs are listed below:

71. Supplemental Security Income Program (SSI)
72. Food Stamp Program
73. Free or Reduced Price School Lunch Program
74. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
75. Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

Notes for question 90 (page 10)

Include in your (and your spouse's) household:

- yourself (and your spouse, if you have one),
- your children, if you will provide more than half of their support from July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2009, and
- other people if they now live with you, you provide more than half of their support and you will continue to provide more than half of their support from July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2009.

Notes for question 91 (page 10)

Always count yourself as a college student. Include others only if they will attend, at least half-time in 2008–2009, a program that leads to a college degree or certificate.

Notes for questions 92–96 (page 10)

Mark a square for each federal benefit program if you (or your spouse if you are married) or anyone in your household received benefits from the program at any time during 2007. Use the Notes for question 90 to identify who is included in your household. Answering these questions will not reduce your eligibility for student aid or these other federal benefits. The federal benefit programs are listed below:

92. Supplemental Security Income Program (SSI)
93. Food Stamp Program
94. Free or Reduced Price School Lunch Program
95. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
96. Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

Information on the Privacy Act and use of your Social Security Number

We use the information that you provide on this form to determine if you are eligible to receive federal student financial aid and the amount that you are eligible to receive. Sections 483 and 484 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, give us the authority to ask you and your parents these questions, and to collect the Social Security Numbers of you and your parents. We use your Social Security Number to verify your identity and retrieve your records, and we may request your Social Security Number again for those purposes.

State and institutional student financial aid programs may also use the information that you provide on this form to determine if you are eligible to receive state and institutional aid and the need that you have for such aid. Therefore, we will disclose the information that you provide on this form to each institution you list in questions 97a–97h, state agencies in your state of legal residence and the state agencies of the states in which the colleges that you list in questions 97a–97h are located.

If you are applying solely for federal aid, you must answer all of the following questions that apply to you: 1–9, 14–16, 18, 21–22, 27–28, 31–36, 38–45, 48–56, 58–68, 71–80, 82–96 and 98–99. If you do not answer these questions, you will not receive federal aid.

Without your consent, we may disclose information that you provide to entities under a published "routine use." Under such a routine use, we may disclose information to third parties that we have authorized to assist us in administering the above programs; to other federal agencies under computer matching programs, such as those with the Internal Revenue Service, Social Security Administration, Selective Service System, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Justice and Veterans Affairs; to your parents or spouse; and to members of Congress if you ask them to help you with student aid questions.

If the federal government, the U.S. Department of Education, or an employee of the U.S. Department of Education is involved in litigation, we may send information to the Department of Justice, or a court or adjudicative body, if the disclosure is related to financial aid and certain conditions are met. In addition, we may send your information to a foreign, federal, state, or local enforcement agency if the information that you submitted indicates a violation or potential violation of law, for which that agency has jurisdiction for investigation or prosecution. Finally, we may send information regarding a claim that is determined to be valid and overdue to a consumer reporting agency. This information includes identifiers from the record; the amount, status and history of the claim; and the program under which the claim arose.

State Certification

By submitting this application, you are giving your state financial aid agency permission to verify any statement on this form and to obtain income tax information for all persons required to report income on this form.

The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995

The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 says that no one is required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number, which for this form is 1845-0001. The time required to complete this form is estimated to be one hour, including time to review instructions, search data resources, gather the data needed, and complete and review the information collection. If you have comments about this estimate or suggestions for improving this form, please write to:
U.S. Department of Education, Washington DC 20202-4700.

We may request additional information from you to process your application more efficiently. We will collect this additional information only as needed and on a voluntary basis.

Worksheets

Calendar Year 2007

Do not mail these worksheets in with your application.
Keep these worksheets; your college may ask to see them.

Student/Spouse

Worksheet A

Parents

Report Annual Amounts

For question 40		For question 84
\$	Earned income credit from IRS Form 1040—line 66a; 1040A—line 40a; or 1040EZ—line 8a.	\$
\$	Additional child tax credit from IRS Form 1040—line 68 or 1040A—line 41.	\$
\$	Welfare benefits, including Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). Don't include food stamps or subsidized housing.	\$
\$	Social Security benefits received, that were not taxed (such as SSI), for all household members reported in question 90 (or 66 for your parents). Report benefits paid to parents in the Parents column, and benefits paid directly to student (or spouse) in the Student/Spouse column.	\$
\$	—Enter in question 40.	Enter in question 84. — \$

Worksheet B

Report Annual Amounts

For question 41		For question 85
\$	Payments to tax-deferred pension and savings plans (paid directly or withheld from earnings), including, but not limited to, amounts reported on the W-2 Form in Boxes 12a through 12d, codes D, E, F, G, H and S.	\$
\$	IRA deductions and payments to self-employed SEP, SIMPLE, and Keogh and other qualified plans from IRS Form 1040—line 28 + line 32 or 1040A—line 17.	\$
\$	Child support received for all children. Don't include foster care or adoption payments.	\$
\$	Tax exempt interest income from IRS Form 1040—line 8b or 1040A—line 8b.	\$
\$	Foreign income exclusion from IRS Form 2555—line 45 or 2555EZ—line 18.	\$
\$	Untaxed portions of IRA distributions from IRS Form 1040—lines (15a minus 15b) or 1040A—lines (11a minus 11b). Exclude rollovers. If negative, enter a zero here.	\$
\$	Untaxed portions of pensions from IRS Form 1040—lines (16a minus 16b) or 1040A—lines (12a minus 12b). Exclude rollovers. If negative, enter a zero here.	\$
\$	Credit for federal tax on special fuels from IRS Form 4136—line 17 (nonfarmers only).	\$
\$	Housing, food and other living allowances paid to members of the military, clergy and others (including cash payments and cash value of benefits).	\$
\$	Veterans noneducation benefits such as Disability, Death Pension, or Dependency & Indemnity Compensation (DIC) and/or VA Educational Work-Study allowances.	\$
\$	Other untaxed income not reported elsewhere on Worksheets A and B, such as workers' compensation, untaxed portions of railroad retirement benefits, Black Lung Benefits, disability, etc. Tax filers only: report combat pay not included in AGI (FAFSA questions 35 and 79). Don't include student aid, Workforce Investment Act educational benefits, combat pay if you are not a tax filer, or benefits from flexible spending arrangements (e.g., cafeteria plans).	\$
\$	Money received, or paid on your behalf (e.g., bills), not reported elsewhere on this form.	XXXXXXXX
\$	—Enter in question 41.	Enter in question 85. — \$

Worksheet C

Report Annual Amounts

For question 42		For question 86
\$	Education credits (Hope and Lifetime Learning tax credits) from IRS Form 1040—line 49 or 1040A—line 31.	\$
\$	Child support paid because of divorce or separation or as a result of a legal requirement. Don't include support for children in your (or your parents') household, as reported in question 90 (or question 66 for your parents).	\$
\$	Taxable earnings from need-based employment programs, such as Federal Work-Study and need-based employment portions of fellowships and assistantships.	\$
\$	Student grant and scholarship aid reported to the IRS in your (or your parents') adjusted gross income. Includes AmeriCorps benefits (awards, living allowances and interest accrual payments), as well as grant or scholarship portions of fellowships and assistantships.	\$
\$	—Enter in question 42.	Enter in question 86. — \$

Step One: For questions 1–30, leave blank any questions that do not apply to you (the student).

Your full name (exactly as it appears on your Social Security card)

1. Last name 2. First name 3. Middle initial

Your permanent mailing address

4. Number and street (include apt. number)

5. City (and country if not U.S.) 6. State 7. ZIP code

8. Your Social Security Number 9. Your date of birth MONTH DAY 19 10. Your permanent telephone number () -

11. Your driver's license number 12. Your driver's license state

13. Your e-mail address. See Notes page 2.

14. Are you a U.S. citizen? Mark one. See Notes page 2.
a. Yes, I am a U.S. citizen (U.S. national). Skip to question 16. 1
b. No, but I am an eligible noncitizen. Fill in question 15. 2
c. No, I am not a citizen or eligible noncitizen. 3

15. Alien Registration Number A

16. What is your marital status as of today? See Notes page 2.
I am single, divorced or widowed 1
I am married/remarried 2
I am separated 3

17. Month and year you were married, separated, divorced or widowed MONTH YEAR

18. What is your state of legal residence? STATE 19. Did you become a legal resident of this state before January 1, 2003? Yes 1 No 2 20. If the answer to question 19 is "No," give month and year you became a legal resident. MONTH YEAR

21. Are you male or female? (Most male students must register with Selective Service to get federal aid.) Male 1 Female 2

22. If you are male (age 18–25) and not registered, answer "Yes" and Selective Service will register you. Yes 1 No 2

23. What degree or certificate will you be working on during the 2008–2009 school year? See Notes page 2 and enter the correct number in the box.

24. What will be your grade level when you begin the 2008–2009 school year? See Notes page 2 and enter the correct number in the box.

25. At the start of the 2008–2009 school year, what do you expect your enrollment status to be? See Notes page 2 and enter the correct number in the box.

26. What types of student aid interest you? See Notes page 2 and enter the correct number in the box.

27. If you will complete high school or its equivalent before you begin the 2008–2009 school year, enter the correct number in the box. See Notes page 2.

28. Will you have your first bachelor's degree before July 1, 2008? Yes 1 No 2

29. Highest school your father completed: Middle School/Jr. High 1 High School 2 College or beyond 3 Other/unknown 4

30. Highest school your mother completed: Middle School/Jr. High 1 High School 2 College or beyond 3 Other/unknown 4

31. Do not leave this question blank. Have you been convicted for the possession or sale of illegal drugs for an offense that occurred while you were receiving federal student aid (such as grants, loans, or work-study)? If you have, answer "Yes," complete and submit this application, and we will send you a worksheet in the mail for you to determine if your conviction affects your eligibility for aid. If you are unsure how to answer this question, call 1-800-433-3243 for help. No 1 Yes 3

Step Two: Answer questions 32–55 about yourself (the student). If you are married as of today, include information about your spouse (your husband or wife). If you are single, separated, divorced or widowed, answer only about yourself.

32. For 2007, have you (the student) completed your IRS income tax return or another tax return listed in question 33?

a. I have already completed my return. ¹ b. I will file, but I have not yet completed my return. ² c. I'm not going to file. (Skip to question 38.) ³

33. What income tax return did you file or will you file for 2007?

a. IRS 1040 ¹ c. A foreign tax return. **See Notes page 2.** ³
 b. IRS 1040A or 1040EZ..... ² d. A tax return with Puerto Rico, another U.S. territory or freely associated state. **See Notes page 2.** ⁴

34. If you have filed or will file a 1040, were you eligible to file a 1040A or 1040EZ? **See Notes page 2.**

Yes ¹ No ² Don't Know ³

For questions 35–47, if the answer is zero or the question does not apply to you, enter 0.

35. What was your (and spouse's) adjusted gross income for 2007? Adjusted gross income is on IRS Form 1040—line 37; 1040A—line 21; or 1040EZ—line 4. \$

36. Enter your (and spouse's) income tax for 2007. Income tax amount is on IRS Form 1040—line 57; 1040A—line 35; or 1040EZ—line 10. \$

37. Enter your (and spouse's) exemptions for 2007. Exemptions are on IRS Form 1040—line 6d or on Form 1040A—line 6d. For Form 1040EZ, see **Notes page 3.**

38. How much did you earn from working in 2007? **See Notes page 3.** You \$

39. How much did your spouse earn from working in 2007? **See Notes page 3.** Your Spouse \$

Student (and Spouse) Worksheets (40–42)

40-42. **Go to Page 5** and complete the columns on the left of Worksheets A, B and C. Enter the student (and spouse) totals in questions 40, 41 and 42, respectively. Even though you may have few of the Worksheet items, check each line carefully.

Worksheet A (40) \$
 Worksheet B (41) \$
 Worksheet C (42) \$

43. As of today, what is your (and spouse's) total current balance of cash, savings and checking accounts? Do not include student financial aid. \$

44. As of today, what is the net worth of your (and spouse's) investments, including real estate (not your home)? Net worth means current value minus debt. **See Notes page 3.** \$

45. As of today, what is the net worth of your (and spouse's) current businesses and/or investment farms? For a family farm or family business, see **Notes page 3.** \$

46-47. If you receive veterans education benefits, for how many months from July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2009, will you receive these benefits, and what amount will you receive per month? Do not include your spouse's veterans education benefits.

Months (46)
 Monthly Amount (47) \$

Step Three: Answer all eight questions (48-55) in this step.

48. Were you born before January 1, 1985? Yes ¹ No ²

49. At the beginning of the 2008–2009 school year, will you be working on a master's or doctorate program (such as an MA, MBA, MD, JD, PhD, EdD, or graduate certificate, etc.)? Yes ¹ No ²

50. As of today, are you married? (Answer "Yes" if you are separated but not divorced.) Yes ¹ No ²

51. Do you have children who receive more than half of their support from you? Yes ¹ No ²

52. Do you have dependents (other than your children or spouse) who live with you and who receive more than half of their support from you, now and through June 30, 2009? Yes ¹ No ²

53. Are (a) both of your parents deceased, or (b) are you (or were you until age 18) a ward/dependent of the court? Yes ¹ No ²

54. Are you currently serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces for purposes other than training? **See Notes page 3.** Yes ¹ No ²

55. Are you a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces? **See Notes page 3.** Yes ¹ No ²

If you (the student) answered "No" to every question in Step Three, go to Step Four.
 If you answered "Yes" to any question in Step Three, skip Step Four and go to Step Five on page 10.
 (Health Profession Students: Your college may require you to complete Step Four even if you answered "Yes" to any Step Three question.)

Step Four: Complete this step if you (the student) answered “No” to all questions in Step Three. Go to Notes page 3 to determine who is a parent for this step.

56. What is your parents' marital status as of today?				57. Month and year they were married, separated, divorced or widowed		MONTH	YEAR
Married/Remarried	1	Divorced/Separated	3				
Single	2	Widowed	4				

What are the Social Security Numbers, names and dates of birth of the parents reporting information on this form? If your parent does not have a Social Security Number, you must enter 000-00-0000. Enter two digits for each day and month (e.g., for May 31, enter 05 31).

58. FATHER'S/STEPFATHER'S SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER	59. FATHER'S/STEPFATHER'S LAST NAME, AND	60. FIRST INITIAL	61. FATHER'S/STEPFATHER'S DATE OF BIRTH
- -		,	1 9
62. MOTHER'S/STEPMOTHER'S SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER	63. MOTHER'S/STEPMOTHER'S LAST NAME, AND	64. FIRST INITIAL	65. MOTHER'S/STEPMOTHER'S DATE OF BIRTH
- -		,	1 9

66. Go to Notes page 3 to determine how many people are in your parents' household. Enter that number here.	67. Go to Notes page 4 to determine how many in question 66 (exclude your parents) will be college students between July 1, 2008, and June 30, 2009. Enter that number here.
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

68. What is your parents' state of legal residence?	STATE	69. Did your parents become legal residents of this state before January 1, 2003?	Yes 1 No 2	70. If the answer to question 69 is “No,” give month and year legal residency began for the parent who has lived in the state the longest.	MONTH	YEAR
-----------------------------------------------------	-------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------	------

In 2007, did you, your parents or anyone in your parents' household (from question 66) receive benefits from any of the federal benefit programs listed? Mark all the programs that apply. See Notes page 4.

71. Supplemental Security Income	72. Food Stamps	73. Free or Reduced Price Lunch	74. TANF	75. WIC
----------------------------------	-----------------	---------------------------------	----------	---------

76. For 2007, have your parents completed their IRS income tax return or another tax return listed in question 77?

a. My parents have already completed their return.	1	b. My parents will file, but they have not yet completed their return.	2	c. My parents are not going to file. (Skip to question 82.)	3
----------------------------------------------------	---	------------------------------------------------------------------------	---	-------------------------------------------------------------	---

77. What income tax return did your parents file or will they file for 2007?

a. IRS 1040	1	c. A foreign tax return. See Notes page 2.	3
b. IRS 1040A or 1040EZ	2	d. A tax return with Puerto Rico, another U.S. territory or freely associated state. See Notes page 2.	4

78. If your parents have filed or will file a 1040, were they eligible to file a 1040A or 1040EZ? See Notes page 2.

Yes	1	No	2	Don't Know	3
-----	---	----	---	------------	---

For questions 79–89, if the answer is zero or the question does not apply, enter 0.

79. What was your parents' adjusted gross income for 2007? Adjusted gross income is on IRS Form 1040—line 37; 1040A—line 21; or 1040EZ—line 4.	\$
80. Enter your parents' income tax for 2007. Income tax amount is on IRS Form 1040—line 57; 1040A—line 35; or 1040EZ—line 10.	\$
81. Enter your parents' exemptions for 2007. Exemptions are on IRS Form 1040—line 6d or on Form 1040A—line 6d. For Form 1040EZ, see Notes page 3.	
82. How much did your father/stepfather earn from working in 2007? See Notes page 3.	Father / Stepfather \$
83. How much did your mother/stepmother earn from working in 2007? See Notes page 3.	Mother / Stepmother \$
Parent Worksheets (84–86)	
84-86. Go to page 5 and complete the columns on the right of Worksheets A, B and C. Enter the parents' totals in questions 84, 85 and 86, respectively. Even though your parents may have few of the Worksheet items, check each line carefully.	Worksheet A (84) \$
	Worksheet B (85) \$
	Worksheet C (86) \$

- 87. As of today, what is your parents' total current balance of cash, savings and checking accounts? \$
- 88. As of today, what is the net worth of your parents' investments, including real estate (not your parents' home)? Net worth means current value minus debt. See Notes page 3. \$
- 89. As of today, what is the net worth of your parents' current businesses and/or investment farms? For a family farm or family business, see Notes page 3. \$

Step Five: Complete this step only if you (the student) answered "Yes" to any Step Three question.

90. Go to Notes page 4 to determine how many people are in your (and your spouse's) household. Enter that number here.	91. Go to Notes page 4 to determine how many people in question 90 will be college students, attending at least half-time between July 1, 2008, and June 30, 2009. Enter that number here.					
In 2007, did you (or your spouse) or anyone in your household (from question 90) receive benefits from any of the federal benefit programs listed? Mark all that apply. See Notes page 4.	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;">92. Supplemental Security Income</td> <td style="width: 15%;">93. Food Stamps</td> <td style="width: 15%;">94. Free or Reduced Price Lunch</td> <td style="width: 15%;">95. TANF</td> <td style="width: 15%;">96. WIC</td> </tr> </table>	92. Supplemental Security Income	93. Food Stamps	94. Free or Reduced Price Lunch	95. TANF	96. WIC
92. Supplemental Security Income	93. Food Stamps	94. Free or Reduced Price Lunch	95. TANF	96. WIC		

Step Six: Indicate which colleges you want to receive your FAFSA information.

Enter the six-digit federal school code and your housing plans. Look for the federal school codes at www.fafsa.ed.gov, at your college financial aid office, at your public library or by asking your high school guidance counselor. If you cannot get the federal school code, write in the complete name, address, city and state of the college. For state aid, you may wish to list your preferred college first. To have more colleges receive your FAFSA information, read *What is the FAFSA?* on page 6.

1ST FEDERAL SCHOOL CODE	NAME OF COLLEGE	STATE	HOUSING PLANS
97.a	OR		97.b on campus 1
			off campus 2
			with parent 3
2ND FEDERAL SCHOOL CODE	NAME OF COLLEGE	STATE	97.d on campus 1
97.c	OR		off campus 2
			with parent 3
3RD FEDERAL SCHOOL CODE	NAME OF COLLEGE	STATE	97.f on campus 1
97.e	OR		off campus 2
			with parent 3
4TH FEDERAL SCHOOL CODE	NAME OF COLLEGE	STATE	97.h on campus 1
97.g	OR		off campus 2
			with parent 3

Step Seven: Read, sign and date.

If you are the student, by signing this application you certify that you (1) will use federal and/or state student financial aid only to pay the cost of attending an institution of higher education, (2) are not in default on a federal student loan or have made satisfactory arrangements to repay it, (3) do not owe money back on a federal student grant or have made satisfactory arrangements to repay it, (4) will notify your college if you default on a federal student loan and (5) will not receive a Federal Pell Grant from more than one college for the same period of time.

If you are the parent or the student, by signing this application you agree, if asked, to provide information that will verify the accuracy of your completed form. This information may include U.S. or state income tax forms that you filed or are required to file. Also, you certify that you understand that the Secretary of Education has the authority to verify information reported on this application with the Internal Revenue Service and other federal agencies. If you sign any document related to the federal student aid programs electronically using a Personal Identification Number (PIN), you certify that you are the person identified by the PIN and have not disclosed that PIN to anyone else. If you purposely give false or misleading information, you may be fined up to \$20,000, sent to prison, or both.

98. Date this form was completed.

MONTH	DAY			
2008	or	2009		

99. Student (Sign below)

1	
---	--

Parent (A parent from Step Four sign below)

2	
---	--

If this form was filled out by someone other than you, your spouse or your parents, that person must complete this part.

Preparer's name, firm and address.	100. Preparer's Social Security Number (or 101)
_____	- -
_____	101. Employer ID number (or 100)
_____	-
_____	102. Preparer's signature and date
_____	1 _____

COLLEGE USE ONLY:	Federal School Code						
D/O <input type="radio"/> 1	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 20px; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;"></td> </tr> </table>						
FAA Signature							
1 _____							

DATA ENTRY USE ONLY:	<input type="radio"/> P	<input type="radio"/> *	<input type="radio"/> L	<input type="radio"/> E
-----------------------------	-------------------------	-------------------------	-------------------------	-------------------------

Glossary



The following glossary has been developed to help you understand some of the terms you will come across in completing your financial aid and admission application.

Glossary

Accrued interest: Interest accumulated on the unpaid principal balance of a loan.

Adjusted Gross Income (AGI): Federal taxable income less allowable adjustments to income. This figure is from IRS forms 1040, 1040A, and 1040EZ.

Aid package: A combination of financial aid (scholarships, grants, work-study, and/or loans) offered by the financial aid office of a school.

Amortization: The process of gradually repaying a loan over an extended period of time through periodic installments of principal and interest.

Award letter: An official letter issued by a financial aid office listing all the financial aid awarded to a student. The award letter usually includes information about the cost of attendance and terms and conditions for the financial aid.

Campus-based aid: Government financial aid programs administered by the university. The Federal Perkins Loan Program, the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, and Federal Work-Study are examples of campus-based aid.

Capitalization of interest: The addition of unpaid accrued interest to the principal balance of a loan. This increases the total debt on which interest accrues.

Common Application: A recommended admission form for 255 selective colleges and universities. More information can be found on www.commonapp.org.

Consolidation: Federal Consolidation Loans enable a borrower to combine eligible education loans into one new loan with one monthly payment and a fixed interest rate.

Cooperative work-study education: A program in which the student alternates between full-time study and full-time paid employment related to an area of study. Under this plan, a bachelor's degree often requires five years to complete.

Co-signer: A person who signs the promissory note in addition to the borrower and who is responsible for the obligation if the borrower does not pay.

Cost of attendance: The total cost of attending a postsecondary institution for one academic year. This figure usually includes tuition, fees, room, board, supplies, transportation, and personal expenses.

Credit-ready: An individual with no credit history—either positive or negative.

Credit scoring: A method, based on a statistical analysis of an applicant's characteristics, that lenders use to determine the applicant's qualification for credit.

Creditworthy: A term used to describe an individual with no negative credit history.

Default: Failure to repay a loan according to agreed-upon terms.

Deferment: A period of time during which a borrower who meets certain criteria may suspend loan payments.

Delinquency: Failure to make a loan payment when due.

Dependent student: A student who is not an "independent student." A parent of a dependent student must submit parental information on the FAFSA so the student can be considered for financial aid.

Disbursement: The release of loan funds to the school. Disbursements are usually made in equal installments co-payable to the borrower and the school.

Disclosure statement: Statement of the total cost and amount of a loan, including the interest rate and any additional finance charges.

Early action: An early admission program that does not require a student to commit to attending if accepted.

Early decision: An early admission program with earlier deadlines and earlier notification dates than the regular admissions process. Students who apply through an early decision program commit to attending the school if admitted (so a student can apply early decision to only one school). Students can request release from an early decision obligation if they can show financial hardship because of an inadequate financial aid award package.

Eligible non-citizen: Someone who is not a U.S. citizen but is nevertheless eligible for federal student aid. Eligible non-citizens include U.S. nationals, U.S. permanent residents who are either holders of a "green card," or holders of form I-94 who have been granted refugee or asylum status. Certain other non-citizens are also eligible. Non-citizens who hold student visas or exchange visitor visas are not eligible for student aid.

Enrollment status: An indication of whether you are a full-time or part-time student. Generally you must be enrolled at least half-time in a degree or certificate program to qualify for financial aid.

Entitlement: Entitlement programs award funds to all qualified applicants. The Federal Pell Grant is an example of such a program.

Expected Family Contribution (EFC): The amount students and their families are expected to pay toward school expenses. The EFC is determined by a federal formula.

FAT (Financial Aid Transcript): A record of all financial aid received by students at each school attended.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG): Federal grant funds made available through some schools to a limited number of undergraduate students with financial need.

Financial Aid Administrator (FAA): An individual employed by a college, university, or other school who prepares financial aid awards and works with students who have questions about financing their education.

Financial need: The difference between the cost of attendance at a college and the Expected Family Contribution (EFC).

Fixed interest: An interest rate that remains the same for the life of the loan.

Forbearance: The temporary suspension or reduction to a loan repayment schedule for cases of financial hardship.

General Education Development Certificate (GED): A certificate students receive if they pass an approved high school equivalence test.

Gift aid: Financial aid, such as grants and scholarships, that does not have to be repaid.

Grace period: A period of time between when a student graduates or drops below half-time status and the time student loan repayment begins.

Guaranty agency: A state agency or private non-profit corporation that insures student loans for lenders and helps administer the FFELP.

Holder: An institution that currently owns a loan.

Independent student: A student who is married, 24 years of age or older, enrolled in a graduate or professional education program, with legal dependents other than a spouse, or an orphan, or ward of the state, or a veteran of the United States armed forces.

Insurance fee: A fee charged by a guaranty agency.

Interest: An amount, calculated as a percent of the principal loan amount, that is charged for borrowed money.

Interest benefits: Interest the federal government pays for borrowers on some loans while the borrowers are in school, during authorized deferments, and during grace periods.

Interest-only payment: A payment covering only interest owed and none of the principal balance.

Interest rate cap: A predetermined limit above which the interest rate cannot rise.

Internship: A part-time job during the academic year or the summer months, with or without pay, in which a student receives supervised practical training in his or her field of study.

Loan interview: Students with educational loans are required to complete a loan counseling session before they receive their first loan disbursement and again before they graduate or otherwise leave school. During these counseling sessions, called entrance and exit interviews, the FAA reviews the repayment terms of the loan and the repayment schedule with the student.

Lender: An institution that provides money for loans. Most lenders are financial institutions, but some are state agencies, and others are schools.

Merit-based financial aid: Aid awarded based on accomplishments such as academic or athletic performance.

Need analysis: The technique used to determine a student's need for financial assistance for college expenses. The analysis determines the family's ability to contribute to the student's cost of attendance.

Need-based financial aid: Aid awarded based on a student's or family's financial situation.

Open admission: A policy of admitting all qualified students who apply to a school.

Origination: The process whereby the lender, or a servicing agent on behalf of the lender, handles the initial application processing and disbursement of loan proceeds.

Origination fee: A fee, deducted from the FFELP or FDLP loan principal, which is paid to the federal government to offset its cost of paying interest on subsidized loans while a student is in school, during grace, and authorized deferment periods.

Overaward: The amount of financial aid proceeds that, when added to other student financial assistance, exceeds the borrower's educational need.

PC (Parent's Contribution): The amount that parents can be expected to contribute each year to their student's education as determined by the federal formula.

Pell Grant Program: The largest federal grant program. Eligibility and award amounts are determined by the school, based on federal guidelines.

Postsecondary: This term means "after high school" and refers to all programs for high school graduates, including programs at two- and four-year colleges, as well as vocational and technical schools.

Prepaid tuition plan: A college savings plan that is guaranteed to rise in value at the same rate as college tuition. For example, if a family purchases shares that are worth half a year's tuition at a state college, they will always be worth half a year's a tuition, even 10 years later, when tuition rates may have doubled.

Principal: The amount borrowed plus the amount capitalized.

Promissory note: A contract between a borrower and a lender that includes the terms and conditions under which the loan is being made and will be repaid.

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP): An eligibility requirement to receive federal aid. Satisfactory academic progress standards are established by each school.

Secondary markets: Institutions that buy student loans from originating lenders, thus providing lenders with funds to make new loans.

Servicer: An organization that administers and collects education loan payments on behalf of the loan holder.

Statement of Educational Purpose: A legal document in which the student agrees to use financial aid for educational purposes only.

Student Aid Report (SAR): The report confirming financial information from the FAFSA. Students will make any needed changes to information provided in the FAFSA on the SAR. The information on the SAR is what is sent to the financial aid offices at colleges and universities.

Transcript: A report listing the courses a student has taken and the grades he or she earned in each course.

Tuition: The amount of money colleges charge for classroom and other instruction, and the use of facilities, such as libraries.

Undergraduate student: A degree-seeking student at a college or university who has not earned a first bachelor's degree.

Unmet Need: The gap between demonstrated financial need and financial aid package.

Variable interest: With a variable interest loan, the interest rate changes periodically. For example, the interest rate can be tied to the cost of a United States Treasury security plus an additional percentage and can be updated monthly, quarterly, semiannually, or annually.

Verification worksheet: A form sent by the school to students who are selected for FAFSA data verification by the Department of Education's Central Processing System.

Work-study: A program, awarded by the college, through which students work part-time to help fund their education.

The SallieMae Fund
www.SallieMaeFund.org