

# FAFSA CHECKLIST

## WHY THE FAFSA?

The FAFSA is the application you will use to apply for the federal student aid programs offered by the U.S. Department of Education (ED). Completing and submitting the FAFSA is free and easier than ever, and it gives you access to the largest source of financial aid to help pay for college. Applying online is generally faster and easier.

## GET READY

- Obtain a **Federal Student Aid PIN**, a personal identification number. This will allow you to sign your FAFSA electronically
- Just starting your FAFSA? Go to [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) and click on “Start A New FAFSA”
- You should have the following information and documents with you as you fill out the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)*:
  - Your Social Security number (it’s important that you enter it correctly on the FAFSA!)
  - Your parents’ Social Security numbers if you are providing parent information
  - Your driver’s license number if you have one
  - Your Alien Registration Number, if you are an **eligible non-U.S. citizen** (if you are not an eligible non-citizen, go here: [Dream Act](#))
- **Federal tax information or tax returns**, including IRS W-2, 1098, 1099 and pay stubs, for you (and your **spouse**, if you are married), and for **your parents** if you are a **dependent student**
- Untaxed, additional income and assets for you, and for your parents if you are providing parent information
  - ▶ *Records of untaxed income such as welfare benefits, Social Security income, child support received, interest income, veterans non-education benefits, and military or clergy allowances*
  - ▶ *Additional sources of income reported to the IRS such as taxable work-study, assistantships, fellowships, grants and scholarships, and combat pay*
  - ▶ *Information on cash; savings and checking account balances; investments, including real estate but not including the home in which you live; and business and farm assets*

## COMPLETE THE FAFSA

- Enter your information. The FAFSA will ask a series of questions to determine whether you are a dependent or independent student
- List first the community college you will be most likely to attend (you may list up to ten schools). Your FAFSA information will be sent to all schools listed
- Sign the application with your Federal Student Aid PIN. At least one parent must also sign, using a PIN number, if you provided parental information

## AFTER THE FAFSA

- Check the status of your submitted FAFSA at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov), or contact the **Federal Student Aid Information Center**
- After your application has been processed you will be provided a summary of your FAFSA data called a Student Aid Report (SAR)
- The colleges which you listed in your application will determine your financial aid eligibility. You will receive an “award letter” (electronic or paper) listing dollar amounts for aid
- Read and respond to any correspondence from the colleges you listed on the FAFSA—yours may require additional documentation
- Contact your college(s) for any questions