

Filing the FAFSA

What students need to know



When to apply

The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is available to file beginning October 1 each year.

Remember: Financial aid deadlines aren't the same as college admission deadlines. FAFSA applications must be filed every year a student is in school.

Why FAFSA matters

FAFSA gives families and students access to not just federal loans, but also state aid if it's available. Many colleges offer their own aid too, although it's usually limited.

Students should check fafsa.ed.gov for their state's deadlines and their colleges' websites for those deadlines.

For more information, visit SallieMae.com/CollegePlanning

What tax information is needed

Students enrolling in college for Academic Year 2019 – 2020 will need their 2017 federal tax return. They can submit a FAFSA at fafsa.ed.gov beginning October 1, 2018.

Students enrolling in college for Academic Year 2020 – 2021 will need their 2018 federal tax return. They can submit a FAFSA at fafsa.ed.gov beginning October 1, 2019.

Schedule

College Academic Year
Fall 2019 | Spring 2020

Submit your FAFSA beginning

October 1, 2018
through June 30, 2019

Use your income tax info from
2017

College Academic Year
Fall 2020 | Spring 2021

Submit your FAFSA beginning

October 1, 2019
through June 30, 2020

Use your income tax info from
2018