FEDERAL STUDENT AID AT A GLANCE

2017–18

WHAT is federal student aid?

Federal student aid comes from the federal government—specifically, the U.S. Department of Education. It's money that helps a student pay for higher education expenses (i.e., college, career school, or graduate school expenses).

Federal student aid covers such expenses as tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, and transportation.

There are three main categories of federal student aid: grants, work-study, and loans. Check with your school's financial aid office to find out which programs the school participates in.

WHO gets federal student aid?

Every student who meets certain eligibility requirements can get some type of federal student aid, regardless of age or family income. Some of the most basic eligibility requirements are that you must

- demonstrate financial need (for most programs—to learn more, visit **StudentAid.gov/how-calculated**);
- be a U.S. citizen or an eligible noncitizen;
- have a valid Social Security number;
- register (if you haven't already) with Selective Service, if you're a male between the ages of 18 and 25;
- maintain satisfactory academic progress in college or career school; and
- show you're qualified to obtain a college or career school education by
  - having a high school diploma or a General Educational Development (GED) certificate or a state-recognized equivalent; or
  - completing a high school education in a home-school setting approved under state law; or
  - enrolling in an eligible career pathways program.

Find more details about eligibility criteria at **StudentAid.gov/eligibility.**

HOW do you apply for federal student aid?

1. **Create an FSA ID.** Students, parents, and borrowers should create an FSA ID, made up of a username and password, to submit their *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) online and to access U.S. Department of Education websites. Your FSA ID is used to confirm your identity and electronically sign your federal student aid documents. To create an FSA ID, visit **StudentAid.gov/fsaid.**

2. **Complete the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) at fafsa.gov.** If you plan to attend college from July 1, 2017–June 30, 2018, you'll be able to submit a 2017–18 FAFSA beginning on Oct. 1, 2016. You'll be required to report income and tax information from 2015. Schools and states often use FAFSA information to award nonfederal aid, but their deadlines vary. Check with the schools that you're interested in for their deadlines, and find state deadlines at **fafsa.gov.**

   NOTE: In the past, you couldn't submit the FAFSA until January 1 of the year you planned to attend college. The change to October 1 is a permanent change, and you'll be able to complete and submit your FAFSA as early as October 1 every year.

3. **Review your *Student Aid Report*.** After you apply, you'll receive a *Student Aid Report*, or SAR. Your SAR contains the information reported on your FAFSA and usually includes your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The EFC is a number (not a dollar amount) used to determine your eligibility for federal student aid. Review your SAR information to make sure it's correct. The school(s) you list on your FAFSA will get your SAR data electronically.

4. **Contact the school(s) you might attend.** Make sure the financial aid office at each school you're interested in has all the information needed to determine your eligibility. If you're eligible, each school's financial aid office will send you an aid offer showing the amount and types of aid (from all sources) the school will offer you. You can compare the aid offers you received and see which school is the most affordable once financial aid is taken into account.

Federal Student Aid

An OFFICE of the
U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

HAVE QUESTIONS?
Contact or visit the following:

- **StudentAid.gov**
- a college financial aid office
- studentaid@ed.gov

- 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243) toll-free
- 1-800-730-8913 (toll-free TTY for the hearing impaired)

Program and Type of Aid	Program Information	Annual Award Amount (subject to change)
Federal Pell Grant Grant: does not have to be repaid	For undergraduates with exceptional financial need who have not earned bachelor's or professional degrees.	Amounts can change annually. For 2016–17 (July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017), the award amount is up to $5,815. Visit StudentAid.gov/pell-grant for more information.
Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) Grant: does not have to be repaid	For undergraduates with exceptional financial need.	Up to $4,000. Visit StudentAid.gov/fseog for more information.
Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant Grant: does not have to be repaid unless student fails to carry out service obligation	For undergraduate, postbaccalaureate, and graduate students who are completing or plan to complete course work needed to begin a career in teaching. As a condition for receiving this grant, student must sign a TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve in which the student agrees to perform four years of qualifying teaching service and meet other requirements.	Up to $4,000. Visit StudentAid.gov/teach for more information.
Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant Grant: does not have to be repaid	For students who are not Pell-eligible due only to having less financial need than is required to receive Pell funds; whose parent or guardian died as a result of military service in Iraq or Afghanistan after the events of 9/11.	The grant award can be equal to the maximum Federal Pell Grant amount (see above), but cannot exceed your cost of attending school. Visit StudentAid.gov/Iraq-Afghanistan for more information.
Federal Work-Study Work-Study: money is earned; does not have to be repaid	For undergraduate and graduate students; part-time jobs can be on campus or off campus. Money is earned while attending school.	No annual minimum or maximum amounts. Visit StudentAid.gov/workstudy for more information.
Direct Subsidized Loan Loan: must be repaid with interest	For undergraduate students who have financial need; U.S. Department of Education generally pays interest while the student is in school and during certain other periods; student must be at least half-time. Interest rate is 3.76% for loans first disbursed on or after July 1, 2016 and before July 1, 2017, and fixed for the life of the loan. Visit StudentAid.gov/interest for more information.	Up to $5,500 depending on grade level and dependency status. Visit StudentAid.gov/sub-unsub for more information.
Direct Unsubsidized Loan Loan: must be repaid with interest	For undergraduate and graduate or professional students; borrower is responsible for all interest; student must be at least half-time; financial need is not required. Interest rate is 3.76% (undergraduate) and 5.31% (graduate or professional) for loans first disbursed on or after July 1, 2016 and before July 1, 2017, and fixed for the life of the loan. Visit StudentAid.gov/interest for more information.	Up to $20,500 (less any subsidized amounts received for same period), depending on grade level and dependency status. Visit StudentAid.gov/sub-unsub for more information.
Direct PLUS Loan Loan: must be repaid with interest	For parents of dependent undergraduate students and for graduate or professional students; borrower is responsible for all interest; student must be enrolled at least half-time; financial need is not required; borrower must not have an adverse credit history. Interest rate is 6.31% for loans first disbursed on or after July 1, 2016 and before July 1, 2017, and fixed for the life of loan. Visit StudentAid.gov/interest for more information.	Maximum amount is cost of attendance minus any other financial aid received. Visit StudentAid.gov/plus for more information.
Federal Perkins Loan Loan: must be repaid with interest	For undergraduate and graduate students with exceptional financial need. Eligibility depends on the student's financial need and availability of funds at the school. For questions on Perkins Loan eligibility, students must contact the school's financial aid office. Interest rate is 5% and fixed for the life of the loan.	Undergraduate students: up to $5,500; graduate and professional students: up to $8,000. Visit StudentAid.gov/perkins for more information.

Note: The information in this document was compiled in spring 2016. For updates or additional information, visit StudentAid.gov.

MAY 2016

LOOKING FOR MORE SOURCES FOR FREE MONEY?

Try StudentAid.gov/scholarships for tips on where to look and for a link to a free online scholarship search.

fastweb!
Paying for school just got easier

Student Bulletin
Visit www.fastweb.com to search over 1.5 million scholarships!

Web Resources Guide

Information about Financial Aid

Fastweb
www.fastweb.com

FinAid
www.finaid.org

Fastweb's College Gold
www.collegegold.com

Federal Student Aid for Students
www.studentaid.ed.gov

Financial Aid Calculators
www.finaid.org/calculators

College Cost Information
http://navigator.ed.gov

College Affordability and Transparency Center
www.collegecost.ed.gov

FTC Project Scholarship Scam
ftc.gov/scholarshipscams

Guide to Federal Student Aid
studentaid.ed.gov/guide/

International Students
www.edupass.org

Mapping Your Future
www.mappingyourfuture.org

National Student Loan Data System
www.nslds.ed.gov

Sources of Aid

Scholarship Search
www.fastweb.com

AmeriCorps*
www.americorps.gov

Athletic Scholarships
www.ncaa.org

City Year*
www.cityyear.org

College Savings Plan Network
www.collegesavings.org

Job Corps
www.jobcorps.gov

State Resources
www.finaid.org/state

Student Tax Information
www.irs.gov/individuals/students

*Award upon successful program completion

Financial Aid Applications

CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE
profileonline.collegeboard.com

FAFSA
www.fafsa.ed.gov

FAFSA PIN Registration
www.pin.ed.gov

FAFSA 4Caster
www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov

General Information

Social Security Administration
www.ssa.gov

Selective Service
www.sss.gov

Study Abroad
www.studyabroad.com

U.S. Department of Education
www.ed.gov

Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration
uscis.gov

Graduate and Admissions Testing

SAT & SAT Subject Tests
www.sat.collegeboard.org

ACT
www.actstudent.org

GRE
www.ets.org/gre

LSAT
www.lsac.org

GMAT
www.mba.com/mba

MCAT
www.aamc.org/mcat

Choosing a Career

MonsterCollege
www.monstercollege.com

Bureau of Labor Statistics
www.stats.bls.gov

Occupational Outlook Handbook
www.bls.gov/oco

MONEY and INFO on the WEB

The College of New Jersey
Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA)
Green Hall Room 101
P.O. Box 7718
Ewing, NJ 08628-0718

Federal School Code: 002642

Phone: 609 / 771-2211
FAX: 609 / 637-5154
E-mail osfa@tcnj.edu

http://www.tcnj.edu – The College of New Jersey Homepage
http://www.tcnj.edu/~sfs/account/ – Student Accounts Home Page
http://www.tcnj.edu/~sfs/aid/ – Student Financial Assistance Homepage
http://tuitionpay.salliemae.com/tcnj – (Monthly Installment Plan)
http://www.mappingyourfuture.org – Entrance/Exit Loan Counseling
http://www.fafsa.gov – FAFSA on the Web

http://dlenote.ed.gov – Direct Stafford & Plus loan Master Promissory Note
http://www.dl.ed.gov – Direct Entrance Loan Counseling
http://www.collegeboard.com – General Financial Aid Information
http://www.finaid.org – General Financial Aid Information
http://www.nslds.ed.gov – Individual Cumulative Borrowing History
http://www.finaid.org/calculators – Interactive calculator
http://ed.gov/DirectLoan/calc.html – Interactive calculator
http://www.studyabroad.com – International Education Information
http://www.nasfaa.org – NASFAA Homepage/Sitemap
http://www.hesaa.org – NJ Higher Education Student Assistance Authority
http://www.bls.gov/oco/ – Occupational Outlook Handbook
http://www.ecsi.net – Perkins and Nursing Repayment Info, Need PIN
http://www.ecsi.net/promi9/ – Perkins Loan E-signature
http://www.pin.ed.gov/ – FAFSA Pin Number Registration
http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/index.html – Postsecondary Education
http://www.nslc.org – Remember Your Loans
http://www.eac.gov – Register to Vote

(Additional Resources Continued – Opposite Side)

MONEY and INFO on the WEB (Continued)

http://www.sss.gov – Selective Service Registration
http://www.opennet.salliemae.com – Stafford, PLUS and Signature loans
http://www.BlackExcel.org – Financial Aid Information
http://www.collegeispossible.com – Financial Aid Resource
http://www.xap.com – Financial Aid Resource
http://collegenight.com – Financial Aid Search
http://www.edonline.com/collegecompass – Financial Aid Search
http://www.petersons.com/ – Financing education
http://www.savingforcollege.com – Save for Children and Grandchildren
http://www.nyu.edu/financialaid/scholarshipsearch.html Scholarship Search
http://www.collegenet.com/mach25 – Scholarship Search
www.College Scholarships.org – Scholarship Search
http://www.fastweb.com – Scholarship Search
http://www.iefa.org – Scholarship Search for International Students
http://www.gmsp.org – Scholarship Search (Gates Millennium)
http://www.Scholarships.Com – Scholarship Search
http://www.studentloans.gov – Information from the U.S. Department of Education

03/2011

College Application Checklist

→ Go on the website of each college you are applying to and read through application directions

→ Print out the application checklist for each college and tape it to the inside of a folder

→ Check the deadlines for each college application and leave enough time for all materials to get to the schools

→ Check the financial aid deadline for each college and whether or not there are additional financial aid requirements (like a CSS profile)

→ Check the testing that is required for each college: SAT or ACT, and possibly SAT subject tests

→ Go on collegeboard.com and order SAT scores (credit card required) to be sent DIRECTLY to each of the colleges you are applying to and allow two weeks for the scores to arrive

→ For Common App, fill out the Counselor Letter of Recommendation Form (obtain from counselor if you need another) so that your counselor can write a letter of recommendation

→ Ask teachers in person if they are willing to write a letter for you in time to meet the application deadline; add the teacher recommendation requests on Naviance

→ Add all the colleges to your "Colleges that I am applying to" list on Naviance

→ Indicate on Naviance what type of application you are using to apply to each college if there is an option (if there is a question mark you must click on it and select whether you are using the Common Application or other)

→ "Match" your Common Application (if applicable) with your Naviance account

→ Complete all parts of your application and submit payment

→ Complete the "Transcript Request Form" in guidance and attach proof of your submitted application--one form for each college

→ Follow up in about ten days with the college to verify that all materials were received

Naviance: Username is student email; Password is student id # (add a 0 to the end if yours is only 5 digits)
Common App: Register and create your account. Use email and note your password somewhere safe (in your phone, possibly)