

FAFSA AND FINDING MONEY FOR COLLEGE

THE BASICS

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COST OF ATTENDANCE (COA)

Your COA is the amount it will cost you to go to school. Most two-year and four-year colleges will calculate your COA to show your total cost for the school year (for instance, for the fall semester plus the spring semester). Schools with programs that last a different period of time (for instance, an 18-month certificate program) might give you a COA that covers a time period other than a year.

If you're attending at least half-time, your COA is the estimate of

- tuition and fees;
- the cost of *room and board* (or living expenses for students who do not contract with the school for room and board);
- the cost of books, supplies, transportation, loan fees, and miscellaneous expenses (including a reasonable amount for the documented cost of a personal computer);
- an allowance for child care or other dependent care;
- costs related to a disability; and/or
- reasonable costs for eligible study-abroad programs

WHAT IS THE “STICKER PRICE”

- [University of Connecticut](#) (Public)
- [Three Rivers Community College](#) (Community College)
- [Springfield College](#)(Private)

- [Hidden costs](#)

NOW What do we do to find the \$\$\$\$\$\$?

FAFSA: WHAT IS IT?

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid!
 - Used to determine financial eligibility for loans, grants, and some scholarships to cover the cost of attendance at institutions of higher learning
 - FAFSA overview: <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa>
 - Must be filled out **EVERY YEAR** you attend college
- [FAFSA.ED.GOV](https://fafsa.ed.gov)

*****This year, you will be applying for the 2020-2021 school year using your 2018 tax information (called “prior prior year”) *****

HOW DO I APPLY: ALL THE INFORMATION YOU NEED IS A CLICK AWAY

Documentation Required to File

STEP 1:

- FSA ID: electronic signature
 - One parent and student need an ID to sign the FAFSA

USEFUL STEP-BY-STEP INFORMATIONAL GRAPHIC

- <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/sites/default/files/fafsa-process.png>

THE FAFSA[®] PROCESS

It provides more than \$120 billion in grants, loans, and work-study funds each year to help pay for college or career school. To apply for this aid, you must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA[®]). Many states, state governments, and many colleges and career schools use your FAFSA information to award you their aid.

DID YOU KNOW?
Some schools won't consider you for merit scholarships, institutional grants, or institutional aid unless you've submitted a FAFSA. So complete it now, even if you think you won't qualify for federal aid.

RELAX!
The FAFSA is designed to be simple to fill out. You'll complete the application once, and you'll use it for up to 10 years. Most schools have online guides to help you fill out the FAFSA so you won't be lost.

PREPARING FOR THE FAFSA[®]

The FAFSA process is easiest and fastest when you have a username and password called an FSA ID. If you aren't a parent, you'll need to create your FSA ID. If you are a parent, you'll need to create your FSA ID and have to create yours at [StudentAid.gov/fsaid](https://studentaid.gov/fsaid).

GATHER THIS INFORMATION
The FAFSA asks questions about you and your family. Get this information before hand:

- Social Security number
- Date of birth
- Federal income tax return
- Federal income tax return
- Federal income tax return
- Federal income tax return
- Federal income tax return
- Federal income tax return

DON'T HAVE ALL YOUR INFO READY YET?
That's okay! You can start the FAFSA now. You'll just need to go back to fill in the missing information later. You can also use the FAFSA to get a list of schools that accept federal student aid.

FILLING OUT THE FAFSA[®]

Each October, the FAFSA is opening for the next school year. It's important to fill it out as soon as possible to meet school and state financial aid deadlines.

SUBMISSION OPTIONS

- **Electronic form** (the best option)
- **Mail-in application** (only for FSA ID holders who don't have a FSA ID)
- **Signature** (submit by mail)

MEETING FINANCIAL AID DEADLINES

Each state and school has its own FAFSA deadline. Check it on the school's website or call the school's financial aid office. More info: studentaid.gov.

DID YOU KNOW?
You can use the FAFSA to get a list of schools that accept federal student aid. You can also use the FAFSA to get a list of schools that accept state financial aid.

PROCESSING THE FAFSA[®]

After you submit your FAFSA, your information will be sent to the colleges and career schools you listed on the form.

PROCESS TIMELINE

- You'll receive an email within a few days, telling you when your FAFSA was processed.
- Your college or career school might request additional information from you. Please send your response by any deadline.

FIRST-TIME APPLICANTS

You'll receive an email after you've been accepted by a college or career school. You'll also receive an email from the school's financial aid office, telling you when you need to provide your FAFSA information.

RENEWAL APPLICANTS

You'll receive an email after you've been accepted by a college or career school. You'll also receive an email from the school's financial aid office, telling you when you need to provide your FAFSA information.

RECEIVING FINANCIAL AID

Financial aid is sent to you in the form of a check or direct deposit. You'll receive an email from the school's financial aid office, telling you when you need to provide your FAFSA information.

Get free assistance and answers at studentaid.gov or 1-800-4-ED-AID (1-800-433-3243).

Federal Student Aid | studentaid.gov | [StudentAid.gov](https://studentaid.gov)

IMPORTANT PARENT INFORMATION

- <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/filling-out/parent-info#parent-citizenship>

Parent Income from Work

Student Demographics School Selection Dependency Status Parent Demographics **Parent Financials** Student Financials Sign & Submit Confirmation

How much did your Parent 1 (father/mother/stepparent) earn from working (wages, salaries, tips, etc.) in 2018? ?

\$.00

How much did your Parent 2 (father/mother/stepparent) earn from working (wages, salaries, tips, etc.) in 2018? ?

\$.00

← PREVIOUS

NEXT →

Site Last Updated: Sunday, September 29, 2019

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Even when utilizing IRS ^{Data} Retrieval Tool, these questions will be asked and the information needs to come from W-2 forms or your tax form from 2018

THINGS THAT CAN IMPACT A STUDENT'S ABILITY TO RECEIVE AID

If you're a male between the ages of 18 and 25 and you haven't registered with the Selective Service System, select "Yes" when you're asked if you would like to be registered. Otherwise, you won't be eligible to receive federal student aid. This requirement applies to any person assigned the sex of male at birth.

The screenshot shows the 'Student Eligibility Worksheet' form. At the top, there are navigation links: Exit, Reset FAFSA, View FAFSA Summary, Save, and Help. Below these are tabs for different sections: Student Demographics (active), School Selection, Dependency Status, Parent Demographics, Parent Financials, Student Financials, Sign & Submit, and Confirmation. The 'STUDENT INFORMATION' section contains two questions with radio button options:

- Question 1: "Have you ever received federal student aid?" with "Yes" selected.
- Question 2: "Have you been convicted for the possession or sale of illegal drugs for an offense that occurred while you were receiving federal student aid (grants, work-study, and/or loans)?" with "No" selected.

Below the questions is a message box with an information icon:

Based on the answers you provided, we have determined that your eligibility for federal student aid is not affected by the previous question(s).

If you are convicted of possessing or selling drugs after you submit your FAFSA, you must notify the financial aid administrator at your college immediately. You will lose your eligibility for federal student aid and will be required to pay back all aid you received after your conviction.

At the bottom right, there are 'PREVIOUS' and 'NEXT' buttons. The 'NEXT' button is highlighted with a mouse cursor. At the very bottom, there is a footer with the text: "Site Last Updated: Sunday, September 28, 2019" and "©2010 fafsa.gov. All rights reserved."

IRS DATA RETRIEVAL TOOL **(EXPLANATION)**

IRS Data Retrieval Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gD4TTatm9ol>

SIMPLE STEPS TO TRANSFER TAX INFORMATION INTO YOUR FAFSA® FORM

The IRS Data Retrieval Tool (IRS DRT) Electronically Transfers Your Federal Tax Return Information Into Your FAFSA® Form

WHY

EASY Transfer info with the click of a button.

FAST Instantly retrieve your information.

ACCURATE Correctly fill in your information.

HOW



1 Log in to your current FAFSA® form or start a new application at fafsa.gov.

2 In the finances section of the online form, you will see a "Link to IRS" button if you are eligible to use the IRS DRT.

3 Click the "Link to IRS" button and log in with your FSA ID to be transferred to the IRS to retrieve your info.

4 Once at the IRS site, enter your information **exactly** as it appears on your federal income tax return and click the "Submit" button.

5 Check the "Transfer My Tax Information into the FAFSA® form" box, and click the "Transfer Now" button.*

6 You will know that your federal tax return information has been successfully transferred because the words "Transferred from the IRS" will display in place of the IRS information in your FAFSA® form.

*For your protection, your tax information will not be displayed on either the IRS site or fafsa.gov.

The IRS DRT can be used by both students and parents.

Federal Student Aid
AN OFFICE OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PROUD SPONSOR of
the AMERICAN MIND®

To learn more about the IRS DRT, visit StudentAid.gov/irsdrt

"AFTER THE FAFSA: WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?"

Video

From: Federal Student Aid <FederalStudentAidFAFSA@cpsemail.ed.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, October 1, 2019 7:57:35 PM

Subject: FAFSA Confirmation Page E-mail

← e-mail will come from here

Congratulations, KATHRYN!

Your 2020-2021 FAFSA was successfully submitted to Federal Student Aid.

Confirmation Number: [REDACTED] #'s

Data Release Number (DRN): [REDACTED] 4 digit #

What Happens Next

- You will be notified when your FAFSA is processed.
- Your FAFSA information will be made available to your school(s), and they will use it to determine the aid you may be eligible to receive.
- Your school(s) will contact you if they need more information or when they are ready to discuss your financial aid award.
- If you have questions about your financial aid package, contact your school(s)

Eligibility Information

Estimated Expected Family Contribution (EFC)= [REDACTED] #'s

The EFC is a measure of how much you can contribute to the cost of your education. Schools use your EFC to determine your federal student aid eligibility.

The EFC is not how much aid you will receive or how much you have to pay for college.

1

Based on the eligibility criteria you may be eligible for the following:

Direct Stafford Loan Estimate - [REDACTED] #'s

You may also be eligible to receive other federal, state, or institutional grants, scholarships, and/or work-study.

In addition, you should learn about federal tax benefits for education <https://studentaid.ed.gov/types/tax-benefits>, including the American Opportunity Tax Credit (AOTC).

If you have questions, visit [Studentaid.ed.gov/fafsa-help](https://studentaid.ed.gov/fafsa-help).

Thank You

Federal Student Aid
<FederalStudentAidFAFSA@cpsemail.ed.gov>

Oct 3 (4 days ago)

to me

Dear KATHRYN,

Congratulations, your FAFSA was processed successfully.

What Happens Next

- Your FAFSA information was sent to the school(s) on your FAFSA, and they will contact you if they need additional information.
- Your school(s) will use your FAFSA information to determine the aid you may be eligible to receive.
- Contact your school(s) with any questions about your financial aid package.

Your Student Aid Report

Your Student Aid Report (SAR), which contains the information you submitted on your FAFSA, is now available online at the link below. Your school(s) will use the information on your SAR to calculate the amount of federal student aid you are eligible to receive.

You should view your SAR and check for any errors by selecting the link below:

<https://fafsa.gov/FAFSA/app/fafsa?cycle=1718&key=N54FMazn/+vXfx4Ek7B/nw==>

If you can't select the link, copy the entire link and paste it into the address or location line of your Web browser. Make sure you copy and paste the entire link, as it may appear on multiple lines. You can also go to www.fafsa.gov and log in to view your SAR.

Questions

Visit www.fafsa.gov and click the "Help" icon on the FAFSA home page.

Thank You,

U.S. Department of Education

VERIFICATION

- YOU MUST CHECK YOUR EMAILS!!!!
- If you get selected for verification, you will be notified via EMAIL
- What to do if you application gets flagged:

<https://www.consumerreports.org/paying-for-college/what-to-do-if-your-fafsa-application-gets-flagged-for-verification/>

GRANTS VS. LOANS VS. SCHOLARSHIPS

- GRANTS do not have to be repaid
 - Federal, state, institutional
- LOANS have to be repaid with interest.
 - Subsidized
 - unsubsidized
- Scholarships are funds that do not have to be repaid **STUDENT MUST APPLY SEPARATELY**
 - Merit
 - Financial need
 - Special interest

SCHOLARSHIPS

Found on the Norwich Tech guidance page

- <http://norwich.cttech.org/parents-students/counseling.html>

RESOURCES

- Information for 1st generation college students
 - <https://www.affordablecollegesonline.org/college-resource-center/first-generation-college-students/>
 - Information on all aspects of federal financial aid- helpful resource even if your student is not applying to SCSU
 - <https://inside.southernct.edu/onestop/financial-aid>
- Norwich Tech Guidance page <http://norwich.cttech.org/parents-students/counseling.html>

STILL NEED HELP?

KEEP
CALM
YOUR
SCHOOL COUNSELOR
CAN
HELP

Krys Konow
School Counselor

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