

FAFSA FAQ

Q: What is the FAFSA?

A: FAFSA stands for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. The FAFSA helps determine how much money a student qualifies for to pay for college. This includes gift aid that never has to be paid back, like the Pell grant. Most schools require the FAFSA in order to apply for scholarships too.

Q: Will the FAFSA affect any other benefits a student gets such as food stamps or disability benefits?

A: No. The FAFSA only uses this information to determine the student's financial need.

Q: Will putting a parent's information on a student's FAFSA make the parent responsible for paying for college?

A: No. The student is still responsible for paying for their own education. The parent's information is only needed to determine a student's financial need.

Q: How much money can a student get?

A: A student can get up to \$6,495 each year from the Pell grant. There are also thousands of college scholarships that require the FAFSA.

Q: When is the last day to submit a FAFSA?

A: A student can begin the application as soon as October 1st and should complete the FAFSA as early as possible. Many colleges set a priority deadline for completing the FAFSA. Check with the financial aid office at your college to find the specific deadline, but know that there are several benefits to finishing early!

Q: Can a student use the Pell Grant for technical education programs?

A: Yes. In many cases, the Pell grant will cover the full cost of these programs. Pell grants are awarded to eligible students and can be used at two-year and four-year schools where students might pursue professional/technical certificates and academic degrees.

