



# Financial Aid

# 101

PRESENTED BY:

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EDGEWOOD COLLEGE

# Financing A College Education

A successful experience requires a collaborative effort by:

- ▶ Student
- ▶ Parent
- ▶ Institution
- ▶ Government



# Where do I start...

Complete your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (**FAFSA**), so the Department of Education can determine your Student Aid Index (**SAI**).

[www.studentaid.gov](http://www.studentaid.gov)

**December 2023**

# What is the SAI?

## Federal Methodology:

- ▶ A formula created by Congress to determine your Student Aid Index(SAI)
  - ▶ The same formula applies to all applicants.
  - ▶ Measures your ability, not willingness to pay.
  - ▶ SAI components:
    - ▶ Parent Income and Assets
    - ▶ Student Income and Assets
- ▶ Things not considered: value of primary residence, consumer debt, or retirement accounts.

# What is Financial Need?

Cost of Attendance (COA) = **A**

- ▶ Tuition, Fees, Room, Board, Transportation, and Misc.

Student Aid Index(SAI)from FAFSA = **B**

- ▶ Income, Assets, Number in Family

**A – B = (C) Your Financial Need**



# Your need depends on the cost!

	UW System	Voc Tech	Private
COA	\$39,000	\$29,000	\$49,000
SAI	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
<b>NEED</b>	<b>\$34,000</b>	<b>\$24,000</b>	<b>\$44,000</b>

# 3 Types of Federal Student Aid

1



Free money.

**Grants** are usually based on financial need and don't have to be repaid.

2



Borrowed money.

**Loans** are an investment in your future. But remember, they must be repaid with interest.

3



Earned money.

A **work-study** job lets you earn money while you're in school.

**Federal Student Aid**  
An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

PROUD SPONSOR of  
the AMERICAN MIND®

Learn more at [StudentAid.gov/types](https://StudentAid.gov/types). Apply at [www.fafsa.gov](https://www.fafsa.gov).

# Scholarships

- ▶ Academic
- ▶ Creative Talent
- ▶ Athletic Talent
- ▶ Ethnicity/Religion





# Need-Based Grants

## Federal Government

- ▶ Pell
- ▶ SEOG
- ▶ TEACH Grant

## State Government

- ▶ Wisconsin Grant

## Institutional

- ▶ Varies by institution



# Loans

## Federal Direct Loan (22-23 UG rates)

- Subsidized and Unsubsidized 5.5%
- \$3,500 Subsidized
- \$2,000 Unsubsidized

## PLUS: Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students

- 8.05%

## Alternative Loans (vary)

## Institutional (vary)



# Financial Aid Limitations

## Federal Pell Grant

- ▶ 6 years at full time status

## Wisconsin Grant

- ▶ 10 semesters

\*\*Usage is cumulative throughout college career.\*\*

\*\*Other programs may also have additional limitations – check with the aid office for further details.\*\*

# Student Employment

## Part-time employment

- ▶ On campus
- ▶ Designated off-campus locations



## Questions to ask

- ▶ When are jobs available?
- ▶ How does a student secure a job?
- ▶ Does the student get paid directly or is it applied to their account?

## Be prepared to complete new hire paperwork

- ▶ I9, WT4, W4
- ▶ Bring 2 original forms of identification



# Eligibility for Financial Aid

- ▶ Don't eliminate yourself! Remember it's
- ▶ There is no income cutoff for financial aid.
- ▶ Complete admission process.
- ▶ Contact the Aid Office if financial circumstances change.

**FREE**



# Before FAFSA filing....

## FSA ID tips

**FSA ID** = electronic signature for student and parent

- ▶ Separate email and mobile phone required

Create at least 3 days prior to FAFSA filing.

Write down usernames, passwords, security question answers.

Will need access to email and/or mobile phone during this process.

# Create Your FSA ID

## www.studentaid.gov

### Email:

- Each FSA ID must have a unique email address (you and your parent cannot use the same email address).
- You must have access to this email account.

### Username:

- Don't include personal info such as date of birth or name.
- If you see a message "Username taken, create a different username," then someone has already used that username.

### Create an Account

Whether you're a student, parent, or borrower, you'll need to create your own account to manage the student loan journey.

[Get Started](#)

Already have an account? [Log In](#)

#### What You Can Use Your Account For

- Filling out the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®)* form
- Signing your *Master Promissory Note (MPN)*
- Applying for repayment plans
- Completing loan counseling
- Using the *Public Service Loan Forgiveness Help Tool*

#### What You'll Need

- Social Security number
- Your own mobile phone number and/or email address

# 2024-2025 FAFSA

An official website of the United States government. Help Center English | Español

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

FAFSA ▾ Loans & Grants ▾ Repayment ▾ Loan Forgiveness ▾

Log In | Create Account

## Get Money to Pay for School

Use the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) form to apply for financial aid for college or graduate school.

### 2024-25 FAFSA Form

[Start a New Form](#) [Edit Existing Form](#)

Need to access last year's form? [Start or Edit a 2023-24 Form](#)

### Check FAFSA® Deadlines for the State You Live In

Some states and colleges use FAFSA information to award their own grants, scholarships, and loans. Check your state's deadlines here!

School Year

State of Residence

[Find Deadlines](#)

[View All FAFSA Deadlines](#)

#### Who Should Complete This?

Any student, regardless of income, who wants to be considered for federal, state, and school financial aid programs, which includes scholarships, grants, loans, and Federal work-study.

#### How Long Will it Take?

It takes most people less than an hour to complete, including gathering any documents or data needed.

#### What Do I Need?

- Verified StudentAid.gov account
- Social Security Number
- Parent or spouse contributor email addresses
- Income and asset information, if required



# Who is completing the FAFSA?



FAFSA<sup>®</sup> FORM 2024-25

Welcome, Raya,  
to the FAFSA<sup>®</sup> Form

I am starting the FAFSA form as a

Student 

Parent 

Previous Continue

The image shows a screenshot of the FAFSA 2024-25 welcome page. At the top left is the FAFSA logo with 'FORM 2024-25' below it. The main header area features a light blue background with two hot air balloons (one orange and white, one teal and white) and a central banner that says 'Welcome, Raya, to the FAFSA Form'. Below this is a white section with the text 'I am starting the FAFSA form as a' followed by two radio button options: 'Student' with a graduation cap icon and 'Parent' with an icon of two people. At the bottom, there are two buttons: 'Previous' on the left and 'Continue' on the right.


# FAFSA Contributors

**FAFSA**<sup>®</sup> FORM 2024–25 Student **Raya Tran**

## Understanding the FAFSA<sup>®</sup> Form


2 of 4

### Contributors to the FAFSA<sup>®</sup> Form



#### Parents or Spouses

Your answers on the FAFSA form will determine if any contributors need to be identified. These contributors will complete their own sections of the form and are asked to provide personal and financial information, but will not become financially responsible for your education.



#### How to Invite

Contributors will need to log in with their own FSA ID to provide their information. To invite a contributor to your FAFSA form, you'll need to provide their name, date of birth, Social Security number, and email address.

Information or Documents You May Need ^

You might need the following information or documents as you fill out the FAFSA form:

- Tax returns
- Records of child support received
- Current balances of cash, savings, and checking accounts
- Net worth of investments, businesses, and farms

[Previous](#) [Continue](#)

# Step Three: Student Status

**Step Three (Student):** Answer the questions in this step to determine if you will need to provide parental information. Once you answer **"Yes"** to any of the questions in this step, skip Step Four and go to Step Five on page 8.

- |  |     |                       |   |    |                       |   |
|--|-----|-----------------------|---|----|-----------------------|---|
| 46. Were you born before January 1, 1995? .....  | Yes | <input type="radio"/> | 1 | No | <input type="radio"/> | 2 |
| 47. As of today, are you married? (Also answer "Yes" if you are separated but not divorced.) .....   | Yes | <input type="radio"/> | 1 | No | <input type="radio"/> | 2 |
| 48. At the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year, will you be working on a master's or doctorate program (such as an MA, MBA, MD, JD, PhD, EdD, graduate certificate, etc.)? .....  | Yes | <input type="radio"/> | 1 | No | <input type="radio"/> | 2 |
| 49. Are you currently serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces for purposes other than training? See Notes page 9. ....   | Yes | <input type="radio"/> | 1 | No | <input type="radio"/> | 2 |
| 50. Are you a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces? See Notes page 9. ....   | Yes | <input type="radio"/> | 1 | No | <input type="radio"/> | 2 |
| 51. Do you now have or will you have children who will receive more than half of their support from you between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019? .....  | Yes | <input type="radio"/> | 1 | No | <input type="radio"/> | 2 |
| 52. Do you have dependents (other than your children or spouse) who live with you and who receive more than half of their support from you, now and through June 30, 2019? .....   | Yes | <input type="radio"/> | 1 | No | <input type="radio"/> | 2 |
| 53. At any time since you turned age 13, were both your parents deceased, were you in foster care or were you a dependent or ward of the court? See Notes page 10. ....  | Yes | <input type="radio"/> | 1 | No | <input type="radio"/> | 2 |
| 54. As determined by a court in your state of legal residence, are you or were you an emancipated minor? See Notes page 10. ...  | Yes | <input type="radio"/> | 1 | No | <input type="radio"/> | 2 |
| 55. Does someone other than your parent or stepparent have legal guardianship of you, as determined by a court in your state of legal residence? See Notes page 10. ....   | Yes | <input type="radio"/> | 1 | No | <input type="radio"/> | 2 |
| 56. At any time on or after July 1, 2017, did your high school or school district homeless liaison determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless? See Notes page 10. ....  | Yes | <input type="radio"/> | 1 | No | <input type="radio"/> | 2 |
| 57. At any time on or after July 1, 2017, did the director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless? See Notes page 10. .... | Yes | <input type="radio"/> | 1 | No | <input type="radio"/> | 2 |
| 58. At any time on or after July 1, 2017, did the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless? See Notes page 10. ....   | Yes | <input type="radio"/> | 1 | No | <input type="radio"/> | 2 |

If student answers "NO" to all questions, then at least one parent's information and signature is required.

If student answers "Yes" to any question, then student is Independent only their income and assets will be considered.

# Step Four: Parent Info

The screenshot shows the 'Parent Marital Status' section of the FAFSA form. At the top, a progress bar indicates the current step is 'Parent Demographics' (4), with previous steps 'Student Demographics' (1), 'School Selection' (2), and 'Dependency Status' (3) completed, and subsequent steps 'Parent Financials' (5), 'Student Financials' (6), and 'Sign & Submit' (7) pending. The form title is 'PARENT INFORMATION Parent Marital Status'. A blue information box states: 'Because the FAFSA® form belongs to the student, "you" and "your" always (unless otherwise noted) refer to the student.' Below this, the question 'As of today, what is the marital status of your parents?' is followed by a dropdown menu with 'Married or remarried' selected. The next question is 'When did your parents get married or remarried?', with input fields for 'Month' (08) and 'Year' (1994). At the bottom, there are 'Previous' and 'Continue' buttons.

## Which parent's information must be included on the FAFSA?

- ▶ Parents are married – **Both parents**
- ▶ Parents are divorced (not remarried) - **Only parent who provides most support**
- ▶ Parents are divorced (remarried) - **Parent and step parent who provides most support**
- ▶ Parents were never married (don't live together) – **Only parent who provides most support**
- ▶ Parents are not married (DO live together) – **Both parents**

# Student Invites Parents to FAFSA

The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2024-25 interface for student Raya Tran. At the top, a progress bar indicates five steps: 1. Personal Circumstances (active), 2. Demographics, 3. Financials, 4. Colleges, and 5. Signature. The main heading is "Invite Parents to your FAFSA® Form". A light blue box contains the text: "You will need to provide information for your parents. Based on your answers in the previous section, you'll need to provide information about both of your parents on your FAFSA form. You can invite your family members to your form to help you complete all required sections." Below this, a green box states: "Enter names of parents, identified on the prior page, and we'll send electronic requests on your behalf." A note below reads: "Please make sure to provide information that your parents would use to login to StudentAid.gov." The form features two columns for parent information. The left column is for a "Parent" and the right for a "Parent Spouse (optional)". Each column has fields for "First Name", "Last Name", and "Date of Birth" (with sub-fields for Month, Day, and Year). The "Parent" fields are filled with "Alcina", "Tran", and "05", "05", "1973" respectively.

**FAFSA** FORM 2024-25 Student Raya Tran Save FAFSA Menu

1 Personal Circumstances 2 Demographics 3 Financials 4 Colleges 5 Signature

### Invite Parents to your FAFSA® Form

You will need to provide information for your parents

Based on your answers in the previous section, you'll need to provide information about both of your parents on your FAFSA form. You can invite your family members to your form to help you complete all required sections.

Enter names of parents, identified on the prior page, and we'll send electronic requests on your behalf.

Please make sure to provide information that your parents would use to login to StudentAid.gov.

Parent			Parent Spouse (optional)			
First Name	Alcina		First Name			
Last Name	Tran		Last Name			
Date of Birth	Month	Day	Year	Month	Day	Year
	05	05	1973			

# Step One: Student Information

- ▶ Student's Name
- ▶ Date of Birth
- ▶ Citizenship Status
- ▶ Marital Status
- ▶ Email Address

STUDENT INFORMATION

Student Address

Your Permanent Mailing Address (include apt. number)

100 Main St

Your City (and country, if not U.S.)

Manchester

Your State

New Hampshire

Your ZIP Code

03245

Previous Continue

# Student Financial Information

**FAFSA** FORM 2024-25 Student Raya Tran Save FAFSA Menu

Personal Circumstances Demographics **Financials** Colleges Signature

### Student Assets

**Current Total of Cash, Savings, and Checking Accounts**  
*Don't include student financial aid*

\$  .00

**Current Net Worth of Businesses and Investment Farms**  
*Enter the net worth of the student's businesses or for-profit agricultural operations. Net worth is the value of the businesses or farms minus any debts owed against them.*

\$  .00

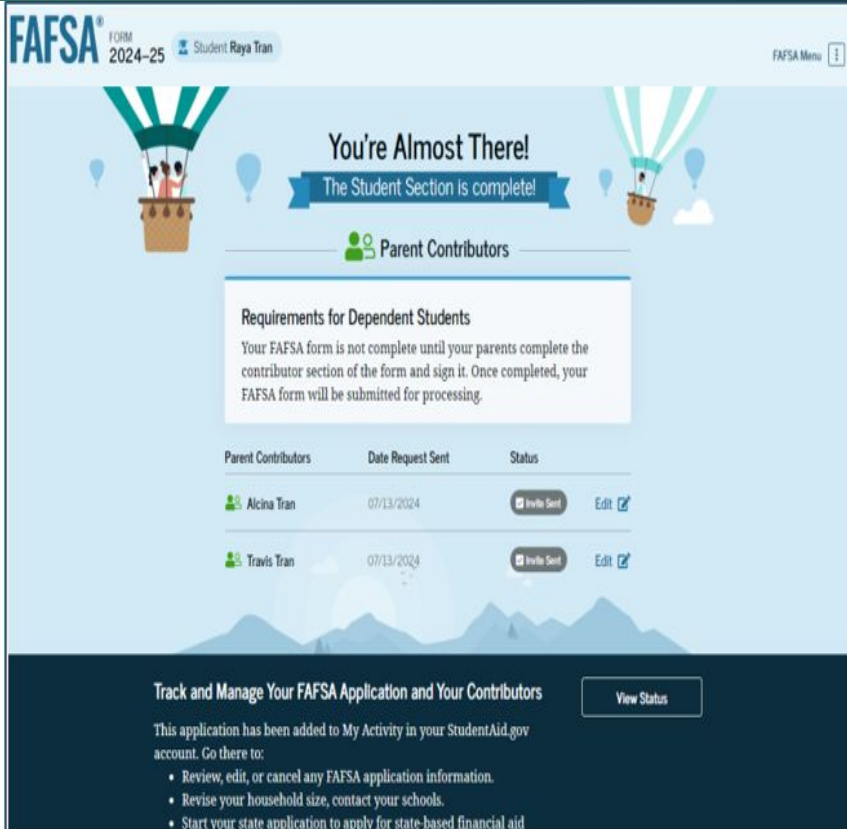
**Current Net Worth of Investments, Including Real Estate**  
*Don't include the home the student lives in. Net worth is the value of the investments minus any debts owed against them.*

\$  .00

Previous Continue

# Student Section Complete!

- ▶ College selection
- ▶ Review of information
- ▶ Signature



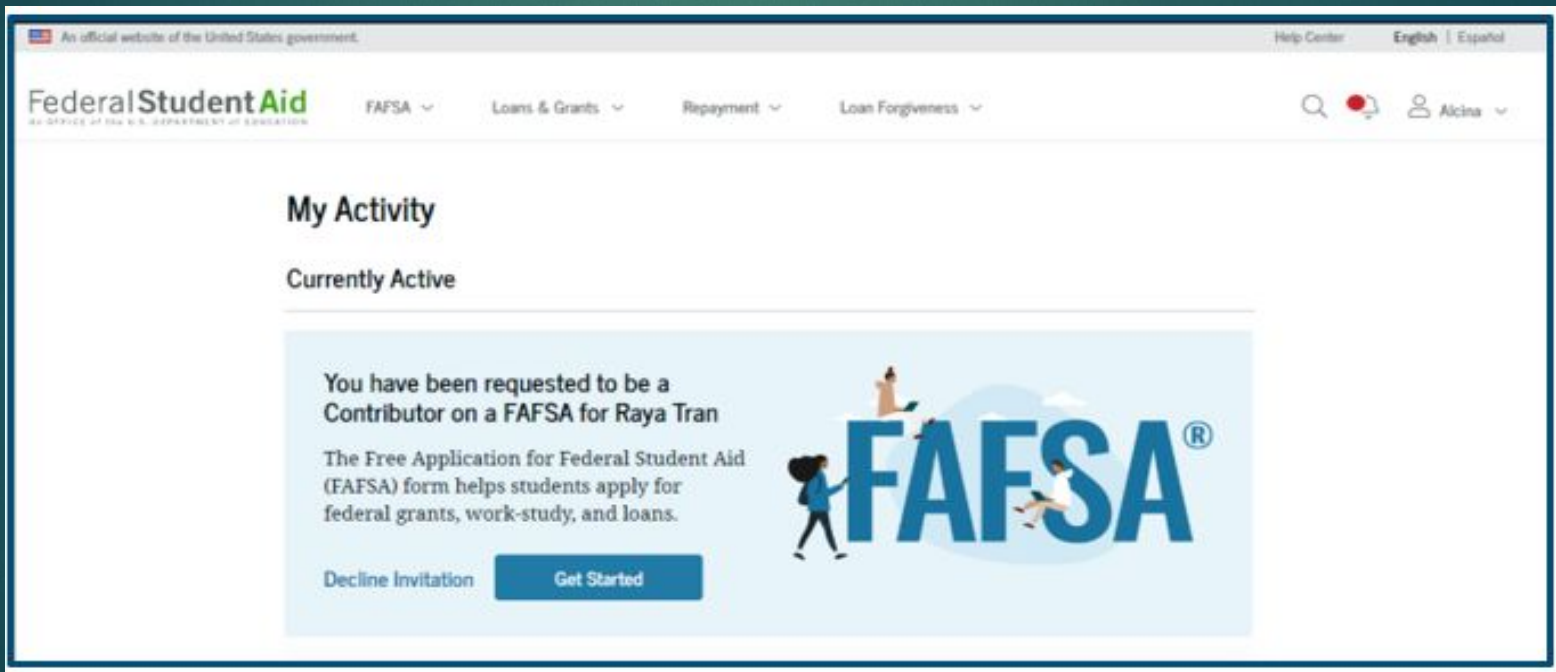
The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2024-25 StudentAid.gov interface. At the top, it says 'FAFSA FORM 2024-25 Student Raya Tran'. The main heading is 'You're Almost There! The Student Section is complete!'. Below this, there is a section for 'Parent Contributors' with the title 'Requirements for Dependent Students'. The text states: 'Your FAFSA form is not complete until your parents complete the contributor section of the form and sign it. Once completed, your FAFSA form will be submitted for processing.' A table lists two parent contributors: Alcina Tran and Travis Tran, both with a date request sent of 07/13/2024. Each row has 'Invite Sent' and 'Edit' buttons. At the bottom, there is a section titled 'Track and Manage Your FAFSA Application and Your Contributors' with a 'View Status' button. Below this, it says 'This application has been added to My Activity in your StudentAid.gov account. Go there to:' followed by a list of actions: 'Review, edit, or cancel any FAFSA application information.', 'Revise your household size, contact your schools.', and 'Start your state application to apply for state-based financial aid.'

Parent Contributors	Date Request Sent	Status
Alcina Tran	07/13/2024	Invite Sent Edit
Travis Tran	07/13/2024	Invite Sent Edit



# Parent Invitation

- ▶ Email invitation to complete parent portion of student's FAFSA
- ▶ Parents must use FSA ID to access FAFSA



The screenshot shows the Federal Student Aid website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the text "An official website of the United States government." on the left and "Help Center" and "English | Español" on the right. Below this is the "Federal Student Aid" logo, followed by menu items: "FAFSA", "Loans & Grants", "Repayment", and "Loan Forgiveness". On the right side of the navigation bar, there are icons for search, a notification bell, and a user profile labeled "Alcina".

The main content area is titled "My Activity" and "Currently Active". A prominent light blue banner contains the following text:

You have been requested to be a Contributor on a FAFSA for Raya Tran

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form helps students apply for federal grants, work-study, and loans.

Below the text are two buttons: "Decline Invitation" and "Get Started". To the right of the text is a large graphic of the word "FAFSA" in blue, with a registered trademark symbol, and several stylized figures of people interacting with the letters.

# Parent Information...

- ▶ Identity and contact information
- ▶ Consent for FTI (Federal Tax Information) transfer from IRS
- ▶ Marital status
- ▶ State of legal residence
- ▶ Assets

**Current Total of Cash, Savings, and Checking Accounts**  
*Don't include student financial aid*

\$  .00

---

**Current Net Worth of Businesses and Investment Farms**  
*Enter the net worth of the student's businesses or for-profit agricultural operations. Net worth is the value of the businesses or farms minus any debts owed against them.*

\$  .00

---

**Current Net Worth of Investments, Including Real Estate**  
*Don't include the home the student lives in. Net worth is the value of the investments minus any debts owed against them.*

\$  .00

# Parent Section Complete

- Review of information
- Signature and submission of FAFSA

The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2024-25 Parent Section Complete page. The header includes the FAFSA logo, the text 'FORM 2024-25', and the user's name 'Parent of Raya Tran'. There are 'Save' and 'FAFSA Menu' buttons in the top right. The main content area features a congratulatory message: 'Congratulations, the FAFSA Form Is Complete!' with a ribbon graphic. Below this, the student's name 'Raya Tran' and the completion date '10/12/2024' are displayed. A section titled 'What Happens Next' lists three items: 'Email sent' (confirming an email version was sent), 'The Student Will Receive Notification of Processing' (notifying the student within 1-3 days), and 'The Student Will Receive School Communications' (schools using the form data to calculate aid and reach out to the student). At the bottom, there is a section for 'Track and Manage the Student's FAFSA Form' with a 'View Status' button and a note about checking the status in the 'My Activity' section of the StudentAid.gov account.

FAFSA<sup>®</sup> FORM 2024-25 Parent of Raya Tran Save FAFSA Menu

**Congratulations,**  
the FAFSA<sup>®</sup> Form Is Complete!

Raya Tran  
Completion Date  
10/12/2024

### What Happens Next

- Email sent**  
Confirm that the student received an email version of this page.
- The Student Will Receive Notification of Processing**  
In one to three days, the student will receive a notification by email that their FAFSA form was processed and sent to the student's schools.
- The Student Will Receive School Communications**  
We use the information collected on the student's FAFSA form to calculate their Student Aid Index (SAI). The SAI lets schools determine how much aid the student is eligible to receive. Schools will reach out to the student if they need more information. They will also contact the student with financial aid offers. Once received, the student can contact their financial aid offices directly to ask questions about their student aid packages.

**Track and Manage the Student's FAFSA<sup>®</sup> Form** [View Status](#)

You can check the status of the student's application in the "My Activity" section of your StudentAid.gov account. We will let you know if we need anything more from you.

# Frequent FAFSA Errors

- ▶ Failing to file the FAFSA annually
- ▶ Filing the wrong year's FAFSA
- ▶ Missing financial aid deadlines
- ▶ Using the wrong Social Security Number (SSN) or date of birth
- ▶ Errors in student or parent marital status
- ▶ Incorrect data related to divorced parents
- ▶ Reporting wrong tax filing status (e.g., head of household)
- ▶ Reporting retirement plans and the net worth of the family home as investments



# Special Circumstances?

## Contact the Financial Aid Office

- ▶ Divorce/Separation
- ▶ Loss of income or benefits
- ▶ One-time income
- ▶ Death or Disability of student or parent
- ▶ Substantial medical/dental expenses not covered by insurance
- ▶ Elementary or secondary school tuition
- ▶ Dependency override

(Note: Professional Judgment is at the sole discretion of each institution.)

# The Application Process



Student submits FAFSA



ED calculates SAI and returns results to student



School follows up with student



ED sends copy of result to state & schools of choice



# Verification

The Department of Education picks about 30% of students randomly for verification.

Provide documentation to school

- ▶ Verification Worksheet
- ▶ Consent to IRS data retrieval or submit a tax return transcript
- ▶ Asset Statements
- ▶ Child Support Paid Documentation
- ▶ Others items as determined by the school



# Response from Schools

The Financial Aid Office issues a:

## **FINANCIAL AID PACKAGE**

\*Processing times vary\*

\*Delivery methods vary\*

Consisting Of:

- ▶ The Cost of Attendance
- ▶ Your Financial Aid Eligibility
- ▶ A description of each program
- ▶ What to do next

If you feel you have special circumstances, let the aid office know!





# Questions to consider

Are the scholarships renewable?

- ▣ Requirements?

- GPA, participation, major, max number of terms

Grant/Loan combination

Will the student graduate in 4 or 5 years? What is the additional cost?

Are there additional fees for specific majors?

How is student employment handled?

Actual cost minus aid – not just the most aid

# How are we going to pay?

Direct Costs (tuition, room & board, fees, books)

- Financial aid

**= Remaining balance due**

- Am I billed for the year or by the term?
- What are my payment options?
- When are payments due?
- Do I need an additional loan? If yes, ensure that loans are finalized 1 month prior to the start of the term.

# Net Price Calculator (NPC)

Aid estimate prior to actual financial aid package

- ▶ Located on individual college's website (all schools are required to have this)
- ▶ Families provide basic financial information
  - Parent and student income and assets

Changes in actual aid packages may result if information used on the NPC is significantly different than that on the FAFSA

# Other Resources

- ▶ Parent or Student Employer Scholarships
- ▶ Corporation for National and Community Service
- ▶ Veterans/ROTC Benefits
- ▶ Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Grants
- ▶ Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)
- ▶ Higher Educational Aids Board (HEAB)



# Scholarship Searches

The logo for fastweb, featuring the word "fastweb" in white lowercase letters on a dark blue rectangular background.

[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)

The logo for collegeexpress, featuring a stylized "CX" in blue and white, followed by the word "collegexpress" in blue lowercase letters.

[www.collegeexpress.com](http://www.collegeexpress.com)

The logo for Sallie Mae, featuring a stylized "S" icon and the words "sallie mae" in lowercase letters.

[www.salliemae.com/college-planning/tools/scholarship-search/](http://www.salliemae.com/college-planning/tools/scholarship-search/)

The logo for FinAid!, featuring the word "FinAid!" in blue, with a small cartoon character holding a rolled-up document next to the exclamation point.

[www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org)

The logo for bigfuture by The College Board, featuring the word "bigfuture" in bold black lowercase letters, with "by The College Board" in smaller text below it, and a blue speech bubble icon to the right.

[bigfuture.collegeboard.org](http://bigfuture.collegeboard.org)

The logo for cappex, featuring a stylized "C" icon and the word "cappex" in white lowercase letters on a dark green background.

[www.cappex.com](http://www.cappex.com)

# Avoid Being Scammed

**APPLYING FOR AID IS A FREE PROCESS!**

Department of Education Office  
[studentaid.gov/resources/scams](http://studentaid.gov/resources/scams)

Better Business Bureau

[www.bbb.org](http://www.bbb.org)

- Financial aid scam notices
- Tips to avoid scams
- Check legitimacy of scholarship agencies



# College Goal Wisconsin

Free FAFSA filing assistance from aid experts

- ▶ 95.7 percent of the families felt it was worth participating
- ▶ College Goal Wisconsin events will take place virtually and in person during October and November.

Go to [www.collegegoalwi.org](http://www.collegegoalwi.org) for dates and details.



# Final

- ❑ Apply early – watch deadlines
- ❑ Schools may have additional aid forms
- ❑ Each school evaluates the student differently
- ❑ Read ALL materials issued by the school
- ❑ Inform your school of any “special circumstances”
- ❑ Always keep copies





# Questions?

