



October 1, 2025

Senior College Planning Seminar

Financial Aid 101

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Tonight we will answer:

- What is financial aid?
- Where do I find funds for college?
- How and when do I apply ?
- Who can help me?



What is Financial Aid?

- ◉ **ALL** funding received from institutional, federal, state, or private resources
 - ◉ Monies are also categorized as:
 - ◉ Gift aid
 - ◉ Self-help (self-pay or loans)
 - ◉ Need-based
 - ◉ Merit-based
- ◉ Can cover *direct* or *indirect* costs associated with college attendance

Financial Aid Acronyms

- COA Cost of Attendance
- SAR Student Aid Report
- SAI Student Aid Index
- FAFSA Free Application for Federal Student Aid
- FSA ID Federal Student ID
- FFAA Florida Financial Aid Application
- FAO Financial Aid Office
- USDOE United States Department of Education
- FLDOE Florida Department of Education
- OSFA Office of Student Financial Assistance



College Costs

- COA: Cost of Attendance varies from:
 - Institution to institution
 - In State vs. Out of State/Residency
 - On Campus vs. Off Campus expenses
- $COA = \text{Direct Costs} + \text{Indirect Costs}$
 - Direct: Tuition, fees, housing, meal plan
 - Indirect: Personal allowance, travel, supplies
- Net Price Calculator
 - Requirement to be online for every institution



Total Cost of Attendance

Examples:

Public 2-year college (PHSC) **\$10,807**

Public 4-year college (USF) **\$23,866**

Public 4-year college (non-resident, UGA) **\$47,416**

Private 4-year college (St. Leo) **\$46,602**

Source: BigFuture by CollegeBoard



COA @ USF

Tuition & Fees*	\$6,410	30 credits/year
Housing	\$8,156	Range: \$5,990 - \$11,900
Meals	\$4,100	Range: \$625 - \$4,450
Total Direct Expenses	\$18,666	
Books & Supplies	\$1,100	Estimate/Average
Transportation	\$1,600	Estimate/Average
Personal Allowances**	\$2,500	Estimate/Average
Total Indirect Expenses	\$5,200	
Total Cost of Attendance	\$23,866	

Source: www.usf.edu



Financial Aid Categories

Institutional

Federal

State

Private



Institutional Aid/Scholarships

- Awarded by the college, usually based on merit and/or need
- Usually considered at the time of application for admissions; Most don't require a separate application
- Apply for admissions **EARLY**; follow both admission and financial aid deadlines for each college



Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

- Federal student aid distributed and processed by the U.S. Department of Education
- One application for grants, loans, work-study
- **FAFSA open NOW!**
- IRS Direct Data Exchange is required to be used to import **PRIOR PRIOR (2024)** year tax data
- Must be completed **ANNUALLY** (per academic year) to be evaluated for financial aid

<https://studentaid.gov/>

FAFSA

Federal **StudentAid**
An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

FAFSA® Form ▾

Grants and Loans ▾

Loan Repayment ▾

Loan Forgiveness ▾



[Log In](#) | [Create Account](#)

2026–27 FAFSA® Form Now Available!

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

**Start a 2026–27
FAFSA® Form**

[Start New Form](#)

**Edit a 2026–27
FAFSA® Form**

[Edit Existing Forms](#)

**Accept an Invitation for a
2026–27 FAFSA® Form**

[Accept an Invitation](#)



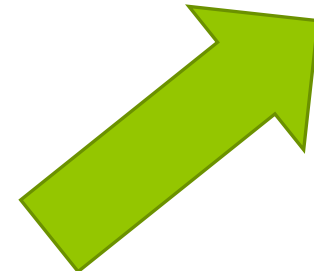
Need the 2025–26 FAFSA® Form?

[Start New Form](#)

[Edit Existing Forms or Accept an Invitation](#)



Hi! Need help?





Getting Started: FAFSA

- **FIRST:** Create your Federal Student Aid (FSA) ID and FSA Password, which is used to sign and date your application
- Gather important data (Social Security Numbers)
- Monitor priority deadlines
 - State and institutional deadlines vary

Dependent vs. Independent?

- Were you born before January 1, 2003?
- As of today are you married?
- At the beginning of the 2026-2027 school year, will you be working on a master's or doctorate program?
- Are you currently serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces?
- Are you a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces?
- Do you now have or will you have children who will receive more than half of their support from you between July 1, 2026 and June 30, 2027?
- 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, 2027?
- 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?
- As determined by a court in your state of legal residence, are you or were you an emancipated minor?
- Does someone other than your parent or stepparent have legal guardianship of you, as determined by a court in your state of legal residence?
- At any time on or after July 1, 2025, 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?

Dependent vs. Independent?

- Answered any question “Yes”

Independent, and not required to provide parent financial information

- Answered all questions “No”

Dependent, and required to provide parent financial information

Who is a Parent?

- A legal parent includes a biological or adoptive parent, or a person that the state has determined to be your parent.
- Grandparents, foster parents, legal guardians, older brothers or sisters, widowed stepparents, and aunts and uncles are **not** considered parents unless they have legally adopted you.

Parent Marital Status

- Never Married
- Unmarried but living together
- Married
- Remarried
- Divorced or separated
- Widowed

FAFSA Submission Summary (FSS)

- Provides basic information about federal student aid eligibility
- Received (after you submit the FAFSA) via email within 3-5 days if you provided an email address
 - Received via mail within 7-10 days if you did not provide an email address
- Correct errors, if needed
- Will contain a Student Aid Index (SAI)
 - Assists institutions in the financial aid award packaging process
 - Could be selected for *Verification
- **COA-SAI = Demonstrated Financial Need**

Cost of attendance less expected family contribution = financial need



Demonstrated Financial Need

COA-SAI = Demonstrated Financial Need

Example:

68,950

COA at Yale University

Cost of attendance less expected family contribution = financial need



Demonstrated Financial Need

COA-SAI = Demonstrated Financial Need

Example:

68,950
- 12,850

COA at Yale University
EFC from FAFSA

Cost of attendance less expected family contribution = financial need



Demonstrated Financial Need

COA-SAI = Demonstrated Financial Need

Example:

68,950

COA at Yale University

- 12,850

SAI from FAFSA

\$56,100

Demonstrated financial need

Cost of attendance less expected family contribution = financial need



Additional Information

- College will receive and award your funds through your financial aid account
- Contact institution directly for special circumstances or professional judgment needs
- Use student loans as a ***LAST RESORT***



Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA)

- The Florida Financial Aid Application opens **October 1*** of the senior year
 - **Must** be completed prior to August 31 of high school graduation year
 - Can apply NOW; Eligibility is determined with final transcript after graduation, early July
- One application is used for multiple scholarships *including* Bright Futures
 - Must log-in to check status, online notifications, change your college, and view award history



FFAA



Welcome to the

Office of Student Financial Assistance

Florida Department of Education

Student Loans -
Information for
Students, Parents,
Schools & Lenders

State Grants,
Scholarships &
Applications

Florida
Automated
System for
Transferring
Educational
Records

Florida Department
of Education

Welcome to



Mission Statement

Commissioner



Office of Student Financial Assistance

Florida Student Scholarship & Grant Programs

Login ▾



First-Time Applicants

Students must submit a completed Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) to OSFA for programs denoted by an asterisk (*). In order to apply for State Scholarship & Grant Programs, a student must first [Create a Student Account](#). After logging into your account, you may proceed to complete the FFAA.

Eligible Institutions

High Schools:

Verify if your high school is a participating Florida public or private high school.

Postsecondary Institutions:

Verify if the postsecondary institution you are planning to attend is eligible to disburse state aid.

State Scholarship and Grant Programs

Access to Better Learning and Education Grant

Benacquisto Scholarship Program (FAQ)

Bright Futures Scholarship*

Effective Access to Student Education

First Generation Matching Grant

Florida Farmworker Student Scholarship

Florida Student Assistance Grant
- Career Education

Florida Work Experience Program

José Martí Scholarship Challenge Grant*

Mary McLeod Bethune Scholarship

Minority Teacher Education Scholarship

Rosewood Family Scholarship*

Scholarships for Children and Spouses of Deceased or
Disabled Veterans* (Award Amounts)



Bright Futures

Florida Academic Scholars (FAS)

Award is equal to 100% tuition and fees

- 3.5 weighted* GPA on 16 eligible courses
- 1330 SAT **or** 29 ACT **or** 95 CLT (superscore composite by Aug. 31st of the graduation year)
- 100 community service hours OR 100 paid work hours OR a combination totaling 100 hours

Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS)

Award is equal to 75% tuition and fees (*or 100% for A.A. degree, then 75% for university)

- 3.0 weighted* GPA on 16 eligible courses
- 1190 SAT **or** 24 ACT **or** 82 CLT (superscore composite by Aug. 31st of the graduation year)
- 75 community service hours OR 100 paid work hours OR a combination totaling 100 hours

*Weighted .5 for honors/AP/IB/DE courses

Bright Futures Course Requirements

- 4 English
- 4 Math
- 3 Social Science
- 3 Science
- 2 World Language
(sequential, in the same language*)

***Check your academic history to ensure you're not missing
any of the course requirements!
Check your language credits!***



PRIVATE SCHOLARSHIPS

- ◉ Seek, find, apply!
- ◉ Employers, businesses, organizations
- ◉ Look local!
- ◉ You won't get chosen if you don't apply!



Scholarship Websites

- Bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarships
- www.fastweb.com
- www.scholarships.com
- Xello (on myPascoConnect dashboard)

Search and apply often!

Beware of Scams!

Never pay for free money!

Report to www.ftc.gov



Navigating your Financial Future (NyFF)

- Financing higher education
- Managing day-to-day money
- Career planning
- School/Life management
- Resources available at no cost

www.navigatingyourfuture.org

Review: Action Items

- Federal – <https://studentaid.gov/>
 - FAFSA application is open!
 - Create FSA ID and passwords
- State – www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org
 - October 1st FFAA application opening date
 - Can apply **NOW!** Eligibility determined with final transcript, after graduation.
- Private scholarships – apply, apply, apply!

Scan to request slides and
resources:

Information Request Form - Event:
Financial Aid Seminar 10/1/25

