



# How to Apply for Federal Student Financial Aid

Financial aid is available from the federal and state governments and your college. This includes Pell Grants, Work-Study, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, and Federal Student Loans.

## Before You Apply

### Get Your StudentAid.gov account.

- Dependent students require at least one parent to also have a StudentAid.gov Account (FSA ID) in order to complete and electronically sign FAFSA and other federal student aid documents.
- Get it before you sit down to do the FAFSA.
- Visit [studentaid.gov](http://studentaid.gov) and click “Create Account.”

### Check your eligibility

Go to [studentaid.gov/aid-estimator](http://studentaid.gov/aid-estimator) to use the **Federal Student Aid Estimator** for an estimate of your federal aid eligibility.

## Complete the FAFSA

- Go to [studentaid.gov](http://studentaid.gov) and navigate to the **FAFSA® Form** to start applying for FAFSA.
- To fill out the FAFSA, you and your contributor must have all of the required materials to submit your application.
- The FAFSA form applies to a single academic year. That means you need to submit a new FAFSA form each year you’re applying for aid.

## Apply for the New York State Tuition Assistance Program (TAP)

- If you’re a NYS resident and include a NY school on your FAFSA, you should also apply for NYS aid online by using the NYS resident link on the FAFSA Submission Confirmation page.
- You must apply for TAP and complete or renew the FAFSA every year.
- You can apply directly at [www.tap.hesc.ny.gov/totw](http://www.tap.hesc.ny.gov/totw).

### Gather These Materials

- For both student and parents:
  - Drivers License.
  - Social Security Number.
  - Income tax returns from two years ago.
  - Records of other untaxed income, such as child support received, veterans’ benefits, or military allowances.
  - Email address.

## What’s Next?

- You will receive an email notice when your FAFSA has been processed and your FAFSA Submission Summary is available for review. Be sure to log onto your account to verify all of your information is set.
- Be sure to respond to any questions or requests for more information by the deadline indicated or you could lose your eligibility for financial aid.

## Important Reminders

- Find out the financial aid deadlines at your college.
- Apply for financial aid every year.
- Don’t pay for financial aid information that you can get for free. Visit [hesc.ny.gov/myths](http://hesc.ny.gov/myths).
- Attend financial aid workshops to learn more about programs and completing applications. Check with your high school counselor and visit [hesc.ny.gov](http://hesc.ny.gov).



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