

Find money for college!

College Goal SundaySM, can help.

- Get **free**, on-site professional assistance completing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)
- Talk to financial aid professionals about financial aid resources and how to apply
- Get information regarding state-wide student services, admission requirements, and more!

FAFSA deadline for state

Saturday, June 30, 2012

Bring the things you'll need

Parents and students should bring their latest tax information and/or last pay stub from the previous year in order to complete the form.

All information reviewed by the College Goal Sunday volunteers will be kept private and confidential and will not be used for any purpose other than helping the students and families apply for financial aid. Students' and family identities will be protected to the best extent possible and none of the information being requested will be sent to vendors for other purposes besides applying for aid.

- Social Security Number (can be found on Social Security card)
- Driver's license (if any)
- W-2 Forms for the previous year and other records of money earned
- Your (and your spouse's, if you are married) most recent Federal Income Tax Return:
 - IRS Form 1040,
 - 1040A,
 - 1040EZ,
 - 1040Telefile,
 - foreign tax return, or
 - tax return for Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia.
- Parent's Federal Income Tax Return for the previous year (if you are a dependent student as defined by federal criteria)
- Untaxed income records for the previous year:
 - Social Security,
 - Temporary Assistance to Needy Families,
 - welfare, or
 - veterans benefits.
- Current bank statements
- Current business and investment mortgage information, business and farm records, stock, bond, and other investment records

- Documentation that you are a U.S. permanent resident or other eligible noncitizen.

Questions about College Goal Sunday:

NEXT PAGE

Questions about College Goal Sunday:

When and where is College Goal Sunday?

The College Goal Sunday program usually is offered on a Sunday afternoon, most often between 2 and 4 p.m. at several locations in each state. [Decide where you'll get help.](#)

Who participates in College Goal Sunday?

College Goal Sunday is open to all college-bound students regardless of age. Whether a traditional student right out of high school or an adult who is returning or pursuing higher education for the first time, College Goal Sunday will help you complete the FAFSA, accurately and on time. Dependent students (those under 24) should bring a parent or legal guardian. Independent students (24 or over) will not require a parent's income information.

What if I can't attend a College Goal Sunday evening?

Many states make provisions for students and families who cannot attend on the day of the event, either through a telephone hotline or follow-up services. [Determine what resources are available.](#)

Why is College Goal Sunday important?

College Goal Sunday provides assistance in applying for financial aid to families who need it. By delivering help to families in their own communities, College Goal Sunday helps ensure that students get the help they need crossing the paper barrier to qualify for financial aid.

Most students and families need assistance in paying for higher education expenses. The FAFSA is the gateway to accessing financial aid resources, which include school loans. Secondly, a family's situation may change at some point during the school year resulting in a major reduction in income. If the FAFSA

Questions about the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) and financial aid:

What is the FAFSA?

Students use this application to apply for federal student grants, work-study money, and loans to assist them in funding their college education. They also may use this application to apply for most state and some private financial aid.

When should I complete the FAFSA?

You should apply as soon as possible after January 1. If the college has a deadline earlier than when your parents will have their taxes done, go ahead and estimate and meet the college's deadline. You can always correct the information later.

Will I need to complete my tax return before completing the FAFSA?

If the student or his/her parent(s) are filing an income tax return, we recommend filling it out before completing the FAFSA. However, the income tax return does not need to be sent to the IRS before filling out the FAFSA.

My parents are separated or divorced. Which parent fills out the FAFSA?

The parent you lived with most during the last 12 months. If you didn't live with either parent, or if you lived with each parent an equal number of days, use the parent who provided most of the support to you in the most recent calendar year.

Does my step-parent's income and assets have to be reported on the FAFSA?

If the parent whose information you are reporting on the FAFSA has married or remarried, you must include information about your step-parent (even if they were not married for the entire year).

My parents own a farm. Does this have to

has been filed in a timely manner, adjustments can be made as long as the filing deadline has not been missed.

What if I'm not sure I'll attend college?

Many students are not sure if they will be attending right after high school. When you complete the FAFSA, you aren't obligated to attend college. However, by completing it, you ensure you won't miss any deadlines, which is important in case you decide to apply to college later in the year.

be included under assets?

If you and your parents live on the farm and your parents claimed on Schedule F of the U.S. Tax return that they "materially participated in the farm's operation," the farm does not have to be listed under assets.

What if I don't have a Social Security number or don't want to report it on the FAFSA?

You must enter your Social Security number on the FAFSA. If you don't submit your social security number, the form will be returned unprocessed and you will not be considered for federal student aid. Additionally, at least one parent has to include his/her social security number however, if neither parent has one the FAFSA instructs those parents to put 0's instead of a social security number.

When is a student independent?

Under the federal definition, an independent student is one who can answer **Yes** to **any** of the following questions:

- Are you 24 years of age or older ?
- Are you married?
- At the beginning of the school year, will you be working on a master's or doctorate program (such as an MA, MBA, MD, JD, PhD, EdD, or graduate certificate, etc.)?
- Are you serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces for purposes other than training?
- Are you a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces?
- Do you have children who will receive more than half of their support from you during the academic year?
- 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 the end of the academic year?
- 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?
- Are you, or were you an emancipated minor as determined by a court in your state of legal residence?
 - Are you, or were you in legal guardianship as determined by a court in your state of legal residence?
 - At any time on or after July of the previous year, did your high school or school district homeless liaison determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless?
 - At any time on or after July of the previous year, 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?
 - At any time on or after July of the previous year, 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?

When is a student dependent? If you answered "No" to **ALL** of the questions above, then you are considered dependent and must provide parental information.

My father (or mother) recently died. How do I complete parental income information? Complete the FAFSA using the income, tax liability and asset information of the surviving parent only.

The FAFSA asks about last year's income. My parent now is unemployed and our income is significantly less. What should we do?

Go ahead and fill out the FAFSA using the 2008 information. However, when you get your Student Aid Report (SAR) back, you need to see or write the Financial Aid Administrator at the school(s) you want to

attend. Explain the situation documenting the decrease in income. Financial Aid Administrators might use professional judgment to adjust your need if it is warranted and can be documented sufficiently to meet federal guidelines.

Can my parents and I fill out the FAFSA over the internet?

Yes, you can fill out the FAFSA online. It is recommended that you and your parents get PIN codes first so you can sign the FAFSA electronically and not have to print out, sign and send in a paper signature page. Here are the web addresses:

- www.pin.ed.gov
- **FAFSA on the Web:** www.fafsa.ed.gov

[Foster youth and wards of the court: Get additional answers for your situation.](#)

Visit other resources

FAFSA on the Web — U.S. Department of Education

FAFSA opens the door to the federal student aid process. Every step you take will get you closer to achieving your educational goals. Find out what you can expect from beginning to end.
www.fafsa.ed.gov

Mapping Your Future®, Inc.

Mapping Your Future is a public-service organization providing free and neutral career, college, financial aid, and money management information and services.
MappingYourFuture.org

KnowHow2Go

KnowHow2Go Campaign (KH2G) is a national multi-media campaign that features television and radio public service announcements, outdoor and print advertising, and an interactive website that encourages low-income and first-generation students to take the steps necessary to go to college and delivers guiding information to students, parents/adults, and organizations.
www.knowhow2go.org

National Tax Community Coalition

The National Community Tax Coalition seeks to improve the economic well being of low- and moderate-income individuals, families, and communities by building a movement to dramatically increase access to tax credits and benefits and asset-building opportunities. To view detailed information on community-based free tax preparation programs for low- and moderate-income families in your state visit the website and click on program locator.

www.tax-coalition.org

Council for Opportunity in Education

COE advocates and supports federally-funded programs that assist underrepresented students in pursuing and completing post-secondary education. They publish a complete directory of these federally funded programs called TRIO and GEAR UP, where you can locate a program in or near your city and state.

www.coenet.us/ecm/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Directory_of_TRIO_GEAR_UP