



Financial Aid Applications

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

- Set by the federal government to determine a family's eligibility for grants, work-study, & loans to pay for college.
- States, colleges/universities, & private scholarship programs use the information to make their own financial aid decisions.

CSS Profile

- Online application administered by the College Board.
- Used by several hundred colleges, universities & private scholarship programs to determine eligibility for need-based, non-federal aid.
- CSS profile goes into more financial depth than the FAFSA.

Financial Aid

Federal Grants

- Awarded to students for post-secondary education in colleges, universities, & career schools.

Federal Pell Grant

- Based on financial need.
- Not required to be repaid.

Work-Study

- Refers to federal work-study.
- Provides part-time work on or off-campus while enrolled.

Scholarships

- Tend to be merit-based.
- There are scholarships that are need-based or take both merit & need into consideration.
- Some Scholarships are aimed at specific groups (i.e. - women, minorities, military, STEM, etc.)

Student Loans

Subsidized Loans

- Allocated to students with exceptional financial need.
- The US Department of Education will cover the interest while a student is enrolled at least half-time & for the first six months after graduation.

Unsubsidized Loans

- Available to families regardless of need.
- Interest will start accruing immediately.

Parent PLUS Loans

- Intended for the parents of an undergraduate (as well as professional & graduate students).
- Intended for the parents of an undergraduate (as well as professional & graduate students).
- Have higher limits, up to the full cost of attendance (minus any additional aid a student is receiving).
- Available regardless of need.
- Parent borrower must pass a credit check to prove creditworthiness.

College Savings Accounts

College savings accounts are types of investment accounts created for the benefit of offsetting future education expenses. Tax-free distributions can be taken to pay for qualified educational expenses.

529 Savings

- Tax-deferred, for education savings.
- Tax-free distributions can be used on both higher education & K-12 private expenses.

Coverdell

- Tax-deferred trust created by U.S. Gov.
- Beneficiary must be 18 yrs. or younger at time of account establishment.

Uniform Transfers to Minor Act (UTMA)

- Allows minors to receive gifts.
- Not limited to educational expenses.
- Owned by a minor, but parent/custodian manages account.

KEY

Financial Aid & Loans

Types of College Savings Accounts

Tuition Rates, Admissions Tests & Housing