

# Do You **Need Money** for College or Career School?

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A **practical guide** on understanding  
how you can **pay for school**.

# Apply for Federal Student Aid

## ✓ THE FAFSA IS FREE!

There's no cost to complete a FAFSA form. It's FREE, quick and easy!

### What is federal student aid?

It's money from the federal government that helps you pay for college, career school, or graduate school. Money is available through grants, work-study, and/or loans; regardless of your age or family income.

### Why should I apply?

You'll save money. Paying for school through the federal government is a cheaper alternative than borrowing money from your local bank (i.e. private financing). The reason why is because the terms and conditions are set by law; and include many benefits such as fixed interest rates and income-driven repayment plans.

### How do I apply for aid?

It's easy. You'll need to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) form and to create an account at [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov). There you will be given an FSA ID. You'll need this FSA ID to submit an application and to access information about your financial aid on U.S. Department of Education websites.

### When should I apply?

Each October, the FAFSA form is available for the next school year. You'll need to reapply for aid every year you are in school. Here's a summary of key dates for submitting the FAFSA form depending on when you plan to go to school:

- *If you plan to attend college from July 1, 2019–June 30, 2020 or July 1, 2020–June 30, 2021*
- *Submit the 2019–20 or 2020–21 FAFSA form.*
- *You can submit the FAFSA form from Oct. 1, 2018–June 30, 2020 or Oct. 1, 2019–June 30, 2021.*

### Can I get federal student aid?

Every student who meets the most basic eligibility requirements, can get some type of federal student aid. The basic requirements are that you must:

- ✓ Demonstrate financial need (for most programs).
- ✓ Be a U.S. citizen or an eligible noncitizen.
- ✓ Have a valid Social Security number (some exceptions apply).
- ✓ Be registered with Selective Service if you're a male between the ages of 18 and 25.
- ✓ Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment in an eligible degree or certificate program.



Looking for a full list of eligibility requirements?

[View List](#)

# Types of Aid

✓ **FILL OUT YOUR FAFSA FORM**  
Go to [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov) today to learn more and get started.

There are 3 types of federal aid. Here's what you need to know about **Federal Grants, Federal Work-Study, and Federal Student Loans**. All amounts are subject to change.

## 01 Federal Grants—Money that does have to be paid back!

### Federal Pell Grant

*Up to \$6,195*

- For undergraduate students only.
- Must have a financial need.

[Learn more >](#)

### Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)

*Up to \$4,000*

- For undergraduate students only.
- Must have an exceptional financial need.
- Federal Pell Grant recipients take priority.
- Funds depend on your school's availability.

[Learn more >](#)

### Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant

*Up to \$6,195*

- For undergraduate students only.
- You are not Pell-eligible, and
- Your parent or guardian has died as a result of military service in Iraq or Afghanistan after the events of 9/11.

[Learn more >](#)

### Teach Grant

*Up to \$4,000*

- For all levels of students.
- Must be enrolled or plan to complete coursework to become a teacher.
- Must agree to teach in a high-need field at a school that serves low-income families.

[Learn more >](#)



## 02 Federal Work-Study—Money is earned through an on campus job and doesn't have to be repaid.

### Your total work-study award depends on:

- ✓ When you apply,
- ✓ your level of financial need, and
- ✓ your school's funding level.

## 03 Federal Student Loans—Borrowed money that accumulates interest. Must be repaid. See current interest rates below.

### 4.53% Direct Subsidized Loan

The interest rate is fixed at 4.53% for the life of the loan. Rates can change annually.

### 4.53% Direct Unsubsidized Loan

or  
6.08% For undergraduates, the interest rate is fixed at 4.53% for the life of the loan. Rates can change annually. For graduate or professional students, the interest rate is fixed at 6.08% for the life of the loan. Rates can change annually.

### 7.08% Direct PLUS Loan

The interest rate is fixed at 7.08% for the life of the loan. Rates can change annually.

### ? DO I HAVE TO REPAY ALL MY LOANS?

Yes. Student loans, unlike grants and work-study, are borrowed money that must be repaid with interest – just like car loans and home mortgages. So, think about the amount you'll have to repay before you take out a loan and only borrow the amount you need. Looking for more information on loan repayment?

[Learn more](#)

### ? WHAT IS INTEREST CAPITALIZATION?

Capitalization increases your loan balance by adding unpaid interest to the total amount of your loan. If you have unsubsidized or PLUS loans, interest accumulates on these loans while you are in school. Because of this, you may want to consider paying interest on your federal student loans while you're in school, or during grace, deferment, and forbearance periods to avoid capitalization.



# Financial Aid Offers

## What's an aid offer and how much aid will I get?

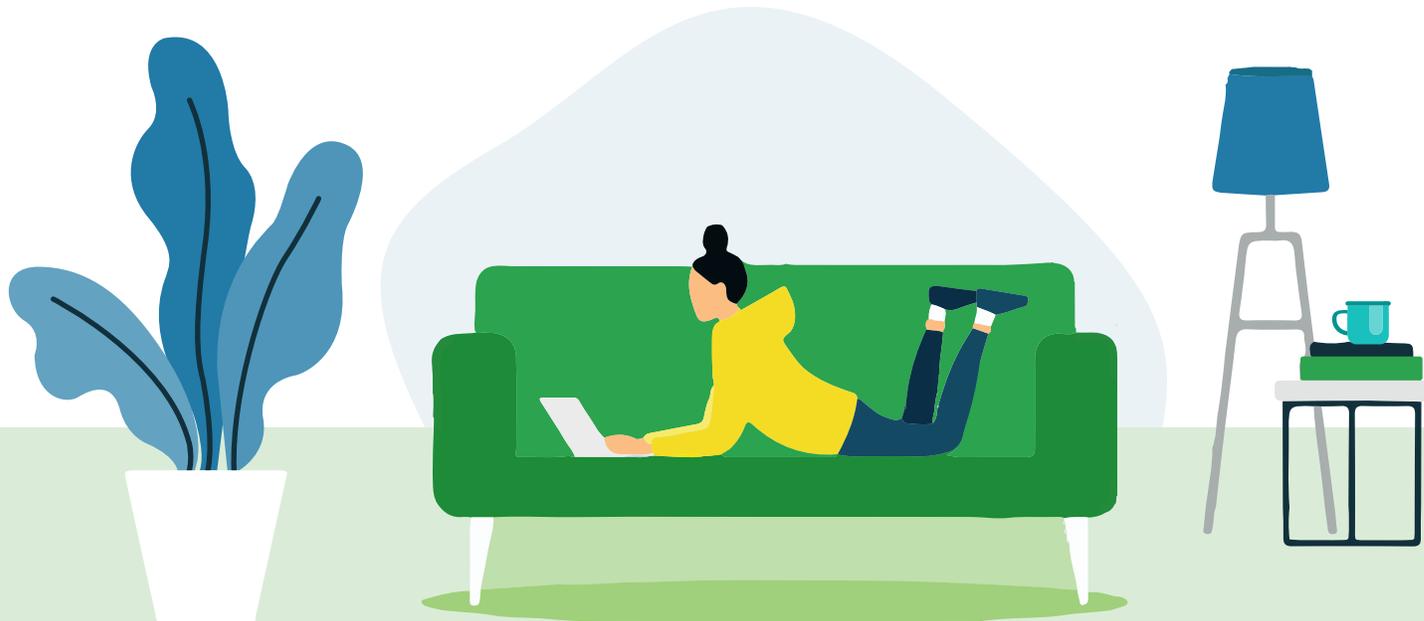
The aid offer will tell you how much aid you're eligible to receive at that school. It will also tell you the types of financial aid you may receive from federal, state, private, and school sources. Most schools will wait to send you an aid offer only after they accept you for admission. How much aid you receive depends on some factors, including:

- ✓ Cost of attendance at school.
- ✓ The Expected Family Contribution (EFC)— a number used to calculate how much financial aid you're eligible to receive based on your FAFSA information.
- ✓ Year in school
- ✓ Your enrollment status (e.g., full-time, half-time, etc.).

Compare school aid offers and see which school is most affordable once financial aid is taken into account. Contact the school's financial aid office if you have any questions about the aid being offered to you. For more information on how aid is calculated, visit [StudentAid.gov/how-calculated](https://studentaid.gov/how-calculated).

### ? HOW WILL I RECEIVE MY AID?

**Your college or career school will distribute your aid.** In most cases, your federal student aid will be applied directly to your school account. The financial aid staff at your school will explain exactly how and when your aid will be disbursed (paid out).



# What's next?

## I completed the FAFSA® form. Now what?

After you submit your FAFSA form, you'll receive a **Student Aid Report (SAR)** that summarizes the data you submitted. Next, you'll receive an email with instructions on how to access an online copy of your SAR within three days (if you apply at [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov)) or three weeks (if you mail in a paper FAFSA form). Once you receive your SAR, review it to make sure you didn't make any mistakes on your FAFSA form.

- If you don't need to modify any information on your SAR, just keep it for your records.
- To find out how to correct mistakes, or to update other information in your FAFSA form, visit [StudentAid.gov/fafsa/next-steps/accept-aid](https://StudentAid.gov/fafsa/next-steps/accept-aid).

The information in your SAR will be provided to the schools you listed on your FAFSA form. You will receive an aid offer from the schools at which you were accepted for admission.

### ✔ STILL NEED HELP?

Contact your school counselor, the financial aid office at the school you plan to attend, the [U.S. Department of Education](https://www.ed.gov) or call 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243).

### What else do I need to remember when applying for federal student aid?

- ✔ Only borrow what you need and what you can afford to pay back.
- ✔ Your FAFSA information has to be correct to ensure that you receive your aid promptly and in the right amount.
- ✔ Always respond to (or act upon) any correspondence your school sends you — and meet all deadlines.
- ✔ Contact the school if you're interested in school or state grants.



### Contact Us

(1-800-433-3243);  
TTY for the deaf or hard of  
hearing: 1-800-730-8913  
U.S. Department of Education  
Federal Student Aid Information  
Center (FSAIC)  
Box 84, Washington, DC  
20044-0084

### Stay Connected



Access your federal student  
loan information at  
[StudentAid.gov/login](https://StudentAid.gov/login).