FAFSA Instructions – Application opens OCTOBER 1!

FAFSA: Free Application for Federal Student Aid

ALL SENIORS SHOULD APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID!

1. Use **_only_** this website – it is free: https://fafsa.ed.gov/

An FSA ID is required by each individual completing and signing the FAFSA. You use the FSA ID to:
- Log into FAFSA.gov
- Sign the FAFSA
- Log into NSLDS.ed.gov to track loan history
- Log into Studentloans.gov to manage student loans
- You will use the SAME FSA ID EVERY YEAR when you apply for the FAFSA.

Record your info in a safe place:

FSA ID for student	**FSA ID for parent**
Email: _____	_____
Username:_____	_____
Password: _____	_____

2. Log in to the FAFSA.   Must have an FSA ID (username and password)
   - One PARENT needs an FSA ID and
   - The STUDENT needs an FSA ID

You can create one, if you don't have one yet.

Create a New FSA ID

New to FSA? **Create an FSA ID** account below. An FSA ID gives you access to Federal Student Aid's online systems and can serve as your legal signature.

Only create an FSA ID using your own personal information and for your own exclusive use. You are not authorized to create an FSA ID on behalf of someone else, including a family member.

You are not allowed to have an employee or agent of a commercial entity, or other third party, create an FSA ID for you for any purposes including but not limited to: payment reductions, debt consolidation or applying for aid. Misrepresentation of your identity to the federal government could result in criminal or civil penalties.

Need help creating an FSA ID?

Important: When you are done click the CANCEL button to clear your data, even if you did not finish creating your FSA ID. Just closing your browser window or going to another website may not be enough to prevent other people using this computer from seeing your information until the session expires.

3. Go back to the FAFSA site and click the button Start a New FAFSA.
   ALWAYS save your work as you go. You can always come back and complete the form later.

4. When complete, check and then submit your report. If you discover an error later, you can log in and make corrections and resubmit.

5. You will receive an estimate of your award if you qualify at the end of the application process, and an estimated **EFC, Expected Family Contribution** (this is the estimated amount that the family/you are responsible for).

6. You will receive a financial letter **from your college** that will include the Pell Grant (if you qualify) and any other scholarships that you might have applied for through the college. Usually the letters are mailed in April from the college.

7. ANALYZE all offer letters from the colleges to determine what your final cost will be. Notify the school where you plan to attend by MAY 1.

FINANCIAL AID NIGHT at Alameda International

Thursday, October 11, 2018 (during Conferences)

"Drop in event" 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Library – Arrive by 6 p.m. to allow for enough time.

Experts will be available to help you complete the FAFSA
Bring your 2017 Tax Returns

Items you may need before you begin:
- ☐ Driver's License (if you have one)
- ☐ Social Security Number** for yourself (and your parent, if they have one)
- ☐ Student and parent income tax returns
- ☐ Earnings statements (W-2 forms, recent pay stubs)
- ☐ Bank and investment account statements
- ☐ Records of untaxed income like Social Security, contributions to a 401(k) or tax-deferred pension.

** If you are DACA, then you do NOT qualify for financial aid; your Social Security Number is for employment/work purposes only.

Some Common questions regarding DACA/Citizenship:

➡ What if my parents are concerned about providing their information because of their citizenship status?

Your parents' citizenship status does not affect your eligibility for federal student aid. In fact, the FAFSA form doesn't even ask about your parents' status.

➡ How should we report information about my noncitizen parents on my FAFSA® form?

Here are some tips for students with noncitizen parents:

- If your parent does not have a Social Security number (SSN), you should enter all zeroes for him or her on the FAFSA form where it asks for that information. Do NOT enter a Taxpayer Identification Number in the SSN field.

- If your parent doesn't have an SSN, he or she won't be able to create an FSA ID (which requires an SSN) and therefore won't be able to sign your FAFSA form electronically. You'll need to select the option to print a signature page when you get to the end of the application. Print the page, have your parent sign it, and then mail it to the address indicated so that your FAFSA form can be processed.

- If your parent doesn't live in the U.S., select "Foreign Country" from the dropdown box for the question that asks about the parents' state of legal residence.

- If your parents live and file taxes in a foreign country and don't file U.S. taxes, you'll have the opportunity to indicate that they have filed their taxes.

  ○ Then, when the FAFSA form asks whether your parents filed a Puerto Rican or foreign tax return, you should select "Yes."

  ○ Convert the amounts on the foreign tax return into U.S. dollars as directed by the FAFSA help and hints.

  ○ If your parents live in one of the Freely Associated States, they should enter the Amount of Wages Earned from their Freely Associated States tax form in the field where the FAFSA form asks for adjusted gross income.

- If your parent doesn't file taxes at all, select "Not going to file" for the question that asks whether the parent(s) have filed taxes. Then you'll be asked for information about how much your parent earned from work, rather than being asked for information about specific items on the tax form.