

FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION

FAFSA Related Sites and Information:

FINAID – An important aspect of applying for Financial Aid is the ability to maximize your eligibility. Please carefully and thoughtfully read the FINAID site and resolve to use it wisely. www.finaid.org/fafsa/maximize.phtml

FEDERAL STUDENT AID PORTAL

Students and parents each need separate PIN numbers to complete the FAFSA online process. Get these before January of the graduating year. Visit the www.fafsa.ed.gov/ site to check on the kinds of information you should collect in order to finish the form. The form for students starting college in the fall of 2012 will be available online as of January 1, 2012. Finish the form as soon as possible thereafter. Do it online – it's faster and they'll catch the mistakes for you.

<http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/index.jsp>

- As the FAFSA filing season approaches, students and parents can better inform themselves about the application process by viewing *Do You Need Money for College?* at www.studentaid.ed.gov/pubs.
- *Steps to Federal Student Aid* explains the FAFSA application and submission process in seven steps. Students can view this handout at www.studentaid.ed.gov/pubs.
- A personal identification number called a Federal Student Aid PIN can be used to electronically sign the FAFSA, drastically decreasing the application's processing time. To save time, students and parents should request PINs before students apply for aid. A Federal Student Aid Pin also may be used to sign other forms and to access student information. PINs must be requested online at www.pin.ed.gov.
- The *FAFSA on the Web Worksheet* is a useful tool in preparing to complete the online FAFSA. The worksheet lists the FAFSA questions and provides boxes for students' (and parents') answers. The order of the questions on the worksheet follows that of *FAFSA on*

the Web, which differs from the paper FAFSA. Students and parents can view and download the worksheet PDF at www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov/worksheet.

- **VERY IMPORTANT - Students should visit www.fafsa.ed.gov to complete the online FAFSA. Please remember that if a Web site requests credit card information or some other form of payment to complete the FAFSA then that Web site is not the official government (FREE) Web site.**

For a listing of audio files explaining the FAFSA resources click:

http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/publications/student_audio_guide/Dec2009/audio.html

SENIORS ONLY

Start at the PIN link below in order to get your PIN numbers for you and a parent. This will allow you to find out your expected family contribution (EFC) from the FAFSA site when you complete their form in January.

The PIN Web Site <http://www.pin.ed.gov/PINWebApp/pinindex.jsp>

JUNIORS ONLY

The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Federal Student Aid is pleased to announce the release of the FAFSA4caster, a new web tool designed to assist high school juniors and their families in planning for education beyond high school. Students can receive an estimated Expected Family Contribution (EFC) by entering their information into FAFSA4caster, a simplified version of the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA). The FAFSA4caster also provides guidance on the next steps to take for applying for admission, applying for federal student aid, and paying for education beyond high school.

FAFSA4caster Benefits

FAFSA4caster is a companion piece to the official FAFSA on the Web. The free FAFSA4caster tool will assist high school juniors and their families in the following ways:

- Instantly calculate an estimated EFC
- Inform the student of potential Federal Pell Grant (Pell Grant) eligibility
- Reduce the time needed to complete the FAFSA when the student applies as a senior

FAFSA4caster Access

Students and families interested in assessing their eligibility for federal student aid can access FAFSA4caster by visiting <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/> and click the FAFSA4caster link on the lower right of the page. Please note that completing this process is advance preparation for filling out the real FAFSA in January of the year you are graduating. If you start this, it will feed into your official application and speed up your completion of this vital step.

MyFSA

MyFsa is an online account that provides students with access to college and scholarship searches, career and self-assessment tools, and other valuable resources regarding college and financial aid. Students can set up MyFSA accounts by visiting <http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/index.jsp>, then click on the following link: <https://studentaid2.ed.gov/newuser.asp?nextpage=/newuser.asp>. For more information on what MyFSA can do for you and how to use it click on their https://studentaid2.ed.gov/xap_pack/Default.asp link.

CSS Financial Aid Profile

Some schools require an even more detailed summary of your finances. The College Board provides a site to help you complete that summary. Click the <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/pay/scholarships-and-aid/8374.html> link in order to access that site.