



Financial Aid: Assisting You in Meeting Your Costs

Student Financial Aid Office



University of
CINCINNATI

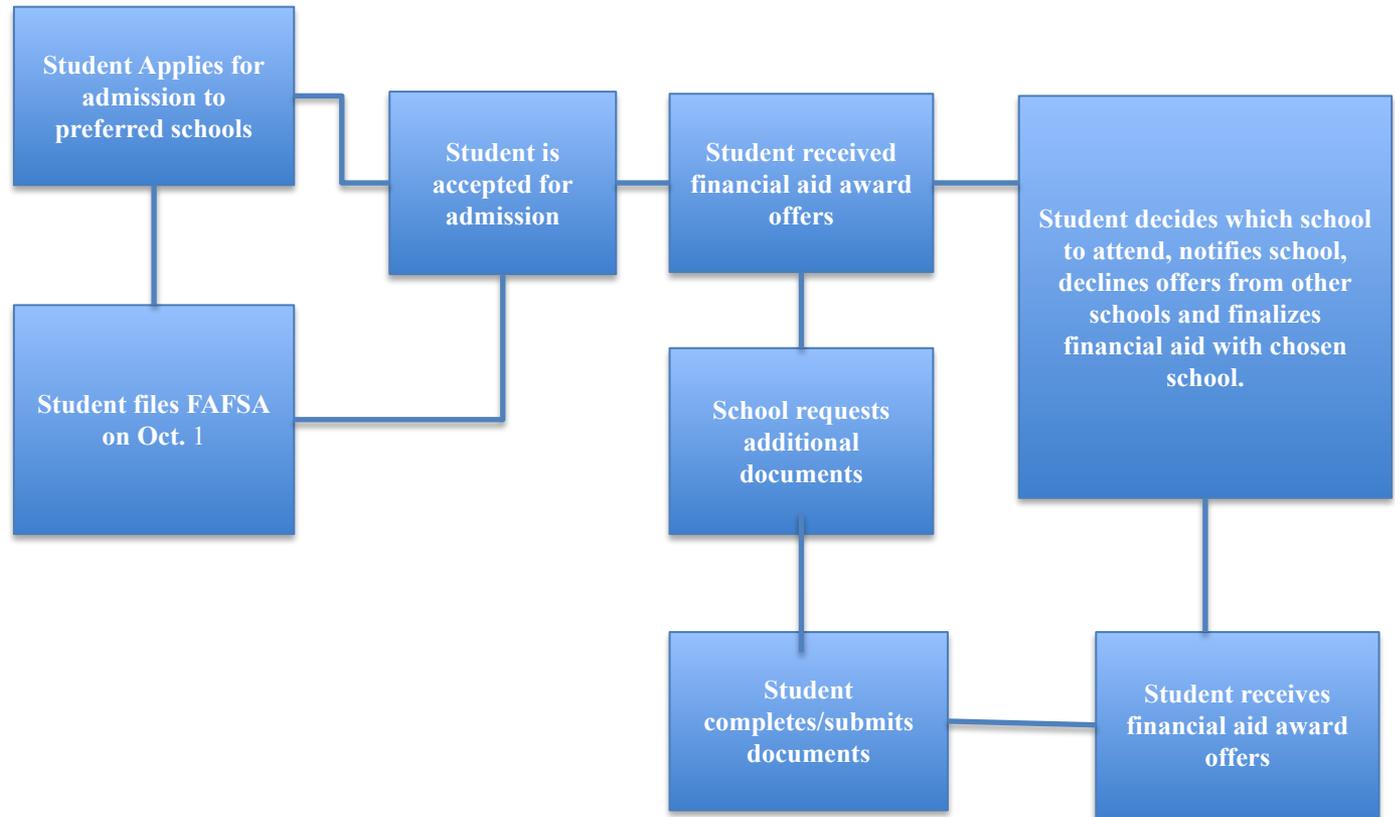


Goals of Financial Aid

- Assist students (and families) in paying for college
- Achieved by:
 - Evaluating families' ability to pay educational costs
 - Distributing resources in an equitable manner
 - Providing balance of gift aid (when eligible) and self-help aid



The Basic Process



What is Financial Aid?

- Gift assistance
 - Does not need to be repaid
 - Scholarships = Merit-based funding
 - Grants = Need-based funding
- Self-help assistance
 - Individual has a responsibility when receiving
 - Work = Earning through employment
 - Loans = Borrowed monies to be repaid (usually after graduation)





Examples of Need Based Aid:

- Federal Pell Grant (\$6,345)
- Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (\$1,200)
- Ohio College Opportunity Grant (\$2000)
- Federal TEACH Grant (\$4,000)



Federal Work-Study (FWS)

- Eligible qualifying students
 - Employment may be on or off campus
- Eligible employers:
- Schools
 - Federal, state, or local public agencies
 - Certain private nonprofit and for-profit organizations



Student Loans

- Federal Direct Loans
 - Subsidized or unsubsidized
 - 6-month grace period
 - Repay to the U.S. Department of Education's Loan Servicing Company
 - Interest rate is 2.75% (changes July 1 of each year)
- Private (Alternative) Student Loans
 - Interest rates vary by lender and loan terms
 - Credit-based (may require a cosigner)
 - Repay to lender





Parent Loans

- Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS)
- Apply at studentaid.gov
 - Parent is the borrower—not the student
 - Interest rate is 5.3%
 - Interest begins accruing as funds are disbursed
 - May choose to defer payments while student is in school
 - May have remaining funds (after school charges are paid) sent to the student for other educational expenses (books, supplies, transportation, etc.)
 - Credit-based, may use an endorser if initially denied
 - If parent is ineligible, student will have additional eligibility from the Unsubsidized Direct Loan



Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

www.fafsa.gov

- FREE (Do not pay to submit FAFSA)
- Complete the 2021-2022 FAFSA
- Eligible qualifying students
- Submit ASAP - available October 1st (annually)
- FAFSA not required for consideration for most scholarships
- Most need-based aid awarded on “first-come, first-serve” basis (especially **GRANTS!**)
- To ensure maximum aid consideration, check with school to determine:
 - -Required application materials
 - -Application deadlines



General Student Eligibility for Federal Aid

- Enrolled or accepted for enrollment in eligible program of study
- Pursuing recognized program
- U.S. citizen or “eligible non-citizen”
- High school diploma or GED
- Registered with Selective Service (males)
- Not convicted for sale of illegal drugs while receiving federal aid



Federal Student Aid ID (FSA-ID)

Federal Student Aid | PROUD SPONSOR of
AN OFFICE OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION | the AMERICAN MIND®

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.

Create an FSA ID | Manage My FSA ID

Please enter your:

Email	<input type="text"/>
Confirm E-mail	<input type="text"/>
Username	<input type="text"/>
Password	<input type="password"/>
Confirm Password	<input type="password"/>

- www.federalstudentaid.gov; student and parent need FSA-ID's to sign FAFSA electronically
- Can request FSA-ID prior to Oct. 1, 2020





FAFSA Dependency Questions

To be considered an **INDEPENDENT** student, you must be able to answer **YES** to at least **ONE** of the following:

- Born before 1/1/1998?
- Married?
- Have legal dependents?
- Legally Emancipated Minor?
- Graduate Student?
- Armed Forces Veteran?
- Orphan/Ward of the Court?
- In Legal Guardianship?
- Homeless or at Risk?
- Unaccompanied Youth?

• If student answers “no” to all of the dependency questions, he or she is considered dependent for financial aid, parents’ info would be required

• “Living on your own” or “supporting yourself” & etc. **does NOT** make you an INDEPENDENT by FAFSA standards



FAFSA Completion Materials

-Student Demographic Information

(FULL name, social security number)

-Student 2019 Tax Return Information (if *required* to file)

(or relevant income information)

-Parent(s) Demographic Information (for dependent students)

(FULL name(s), social security number(s))

-Parent(s) 2019 Tax Return Information (for dependent students)

(or relevant income information)



Determining the FAFSA Parent

Biological parents if they are married to each other, or not married but live together

For divorced parents, the FAFSA parent is the one the student lived with more during the past 12 months

- If residence was split 50/50, the parent who provided more financial support during the past 12 months is the FAFSA parent
 - If that parent is now remarried, step-parent income information should also be provided (even if they weren't married in 2019)

- Adoptive parents are considered legal parents, and therefore should complete parent section of the FAFSA, court-ordered Legal Guardians are NOT considered to be legal "parents" for FAFSA purposes
- Students raised by grandparents (whether or not they are legal guardians) should never list a grandparent as a parent. Contact the college or university for information about a dependency status appeal.



The IRS Data Retrieval Tool (DRT)



 [Return to FAFSA](#) | [Log Out](#) | [Help](#)

[Español](#)

Get My Federal Income Tax Information

See our [Privacy Notice](#) regarding our request for your personal information.

Enter the following information from your 2015 Federal Income Tax Return. [?](#) Required fields *

First Name *	<input type="text" value="GDIT"/>
Last Name *	<input type="text" value="data"/>
Social Security Number *	<input type="text" value="*** - ** - 2656"/>
Date of Birth *	<input type="text" value="01 / 01 / 1992"/>
Filing Status * ?	<input type="text" value="Married-Filed Joint Return"/>
Address - Must match your 2015 Federal Income Tax Return. ?	
Street Address *	<input type="text" value="4050 ALPHA RD TEST"/>
P.O. Box (Required if entered on your tax return) ?	<input type="text"/>
Apt. Number (Required if entered on your tax return)	<input type="text"/>
Country *	<input type="text" value="United States"/>
City, Town or Post Office *	<input type="text" value="farmers branch"/>
State/U.S. Territory *	<input type="text" value="Texas (TX)"/>
ZIP Code *	<input type="text" value="75244"/>

Select the button below to exit the IRS system and return to your FAFSA.

By submitting this information, you certify that you are the person identified. Use of this system to access another person's information may result in civil and criminal penalties.

[IRS Privacy Policy](#)

Assets

Include

- Money in cash, savings and checking
- Investments including CD's, stocks, bonds, mutual funds
- A 529 college savings plan account that is owned by the student or the student's parent
- Rental real estate including land you own but do not farm
- Trust funds
- Business you don't operate

Do NOT include

- Home you live in
- Retirement accounts
- Farm you own and farm (including land livestock, machinery, etc.)
- Value of life insurance
- Cars





Selective Service Requirement

- To be eligible for federal student aid, male citizens and male immigrants residing in the U.S. aged 18 – 25 are required to register with the Selective Service System.
- This requirement is applied to any person assigned the sex of male at birth.
- The Selective Service System and the registration requirement for males preserve America's ability to provide resources in an emergency to the United States Armed Forces.
- www.sss.gov



Expected Family Contribution

- The EFC determines the amount that a student (family) is expected to contribute toward the cost of attendance at the college or university.
- The EFC is calculated according to a formula established by law. The family's taxed and untaxed income, assets, and benefits could be considered in the formula. Also considered is family size and the number of family members who will attend a college or university during the year.
- The EFC is the determining factor in the amount of financial aid that students may receive. It is subtracted from the Cost of Attendance, before any need-based aid is awarded.



EFC=Out of pocket?

- Families often assume that the amount of the EFC will be the exact amount they are asked to contribute to college costs. But this isn't always the case.
- The actual amount your family is expected to contribute may vary for several reasons, including:
 - A college's admission and aid policies
 - The amount of aid available at a particular college





Avoid Common Errors

- Using the incorrect social security number
- Failing to list your full legal name
- Incorrect amount of federal taxes paid
- Incorrect adjusted gross income
- Failure to electronically sign application



Special Circumstances

- FAFSA uses 2019 taxes to determine eligibility
- Significant changes (particularly based on COVID-19) may allow for review but does not always change aid eligibility
- Evaluation and determination available once there is a better picture of family finances to fully project 2020-2021 income





Sample Costs

Community College

-Tuition and Fees \$6000

Public Four-Year University

-Tuition and Fees \$12,200

-Room and Board \$12,500

-Total \$24,700

Private Four-Year University

– Tuition and Fees \$32,586

– Room and Board \$13,000

– Total \$45,586





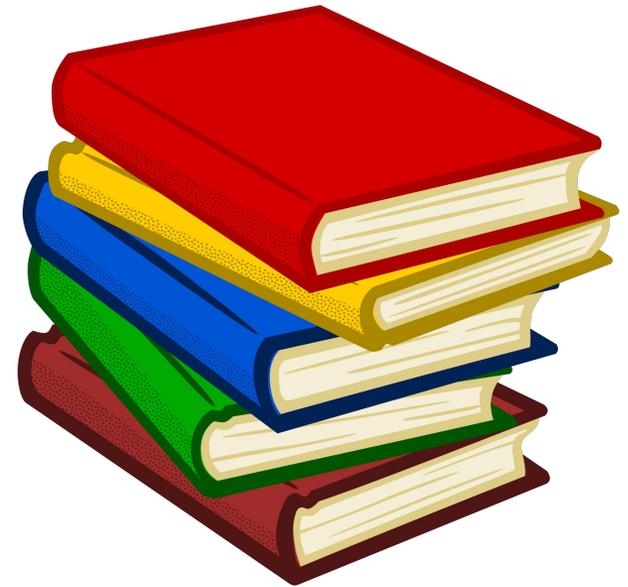
Financial Aid Offer Letters

- Schools will begin sending financial aid award letters in December-January timeframe.
- Will arrive either by U.S. Mail to the student's home or email to the student's college or university assigned email address.
- Award notifications are sent to students, not parents.



What about Books and Supplies?

- Books and supplies are usually not included with the cost of tuition and fees billed by the school. Students should be prepared to purchase books and supplies prior to the beginning of the semester. Many schools disburse remaining financial aid to students before the semester begins so that they can use these funds for books and supplies.



Multiple award letters. How do we compare?

- Determine the bottom line (“out of pocket” contribution) for each school
 - Start by determining the COA (actual charges).
 - Deduct gift aid.
 - If you know your student will need to borrow loans, deduct the student loans included in award (Federal Direct Subsidized/Unsubsidized). If your student does not need to borrow loans, perhaps you don’t want to deduct them. NOTE: I said need loans, not want loans. No student wants loans, but he may need to borrow to be able to afford an education.
 - What is left is your out-of-pocket contribution towards your student’s charges.





Other College Financing Options

- Payment Plans through the Bursar
- IRS 529 Plans
- Cooperative Education
- Military Resources
- Part time employment





Money Management Tips

- Develop a money plan
 - Plan on expenses and ways to address
 - Reduce impulse spending
- Keep loan debt to a minimum
 - Accept only what you need
 - Focus on base educational expenses (tuition) v. life recurring costs (rent and meals)
 - Think about other expenses you will have when in repayment





Money Management Tips

- Anticipate upcoming expenses
 - Set aside funds for start-up costs (books, moving, initial food)
- Part-time employment
 - Earning to meet some of your expenses
 - Helps with time-management

Easier to reduce expenses than increase income; plan to live frugally.



Scholarships

- Must have complete admissions application, HS Transcript, & test scores sent directly from agencies on file by **December 1st** of senior year
- To be considered for UC's Cincinnatus, Darwin T. Turner and College-based awards



Scholarship Searches

Information via the Web

- financialaid.uc.edu
- fastweb.com
- scholarshipamerica.org
- cincinnati-scholarship-foundation.org
- bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search
- munozfoundation.org
- scholarshipmonkey.com
- chegg.com/scholarships
- collegexpress.com
- uncf.org

Libraries, High school counselors

Local/Regional/National businesses, organizations, churches, community groups, etc.

Sororities & Fraternities

Check the FA office at the college you are attending

DO NOT PAY to send/receive scholarship information!



We're Here to Help

- One Stop Student Service Center
 - onestop@uc.edu
 - 513-556-1000
- Blue Ash Campus One Stop
 - onestop@ucblueash.edu
 - 513-745-5740
- Clermont Campus One Stop
 - clermontonestop@uc.edu
 - 513-732-5300

