

Financial Aid Information

The FAFSA opens on **October 1st** but you can complete step 1 prior to October 1.

Each college has their own deadline for the FAFSA so check their websites. Generally, if you apply later, some funding may already be unavailable. It is best to apply early, even well before a college deadline. You only apply for the FAFSA once, but list each college you are applying to on the FAFSA

Some private colleges and universities may require the CSS Profile in addition to the FAFSA. [CSS Profile](#)
Watch for their deadline and check your college websites to see if required. Locally, SU requires this form to be completed)

Basic Steps to completing the FAFSA and NYS Forms

Step 1. Create FSA IDs- Both the Student and the Parent need an FSA ID, This is your electronic signature for the FAFSA [FSA ID- create account](#) Students should use Personal Email Accounts!

Step 2. Student completes the FAFSA Free Application for Federal Student Aid (with help from parent) [FAFSA Form](#)

Step 3. Parent/guardian will receive an Email from Federal Student Aid asking for their input. Parent/guardian completes their form which is linked in the email.

Step 4. Create a HESC PIN for NYS Aid if planning to attend college in NYS. [HESC PIN Account Creation](#).

Step 5. Complete NYS Aid application called TAP tuition assistance program or HESC Higher education services corporation. [NYS Aid](#)

Step 6. Complete the NYS Excelsior Scholarship when it opens in the spring [Excelsior](#) if you meet income requirements.

Next Steps!!! Watch for emails from Federal Student Aid, HESC(NYS Aid) and your colleges and Universities!

It is very important to read these emails, follow up with any additional information requested and review all of the information you receive.

You will receive an email from Federal Student Aid with your SAI, Student Aid Index, which determines your level of financial need.

You will receive an award letter, usually electronically, from each college providing you with their cost of attendance and any financial award you may receive.

You will need to accept or decline any financial aid offers from the college you plan on attending.

Keep reading your emails and following up on all steps. These emails mostly go to the students, not the parents/ guardian.