

FAFSA

**FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID
AND OTHER WAYS TO PAY FOR COLLEGE**



PACIFIC NW
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

WHAT IS FAFSA?

Free Application for Federal Student Aid

FAFSA is the first step in the financial aid process.
It helps determine how much financial aid you
may qualify for.

Why fill out a FAFSA?

- Use it to apply for federal student financial aid, such as grants, student loans, and college work-study.
- Most states and schools use FAFSA information to award their financial aid.
- This is your first step toward getting **FREE MONEY** for your college tuition!

WHAT METHODS ARE AVAILABLE FOR COMPLETING THE FAFSA?

- **Paper FAFSA**
- **FAFSA on the Web**
- **FAFSA en Español**
- **Renewal FAFSA on the Web**
- **FAFSA de Renovación en Español**

FAFSA CHECKLIST

- ☐ **Gather** the documents you need. Start with your Social Security Number, driver's license or state ID, income tax return, bank statements and investment records.
- ☐ **Print** a FAFSA on the Web Worksheet. Write in your answers and gather your family's information then transfer the data to FAFSA on the Web.
- ☐ **Plan** how to sign your FAFSA. Sign electronically with a Federal Student Aid Personal Identification Number (PIN) or by mailing in a signature page.
- ☐ **Apply** for a PIN now! Speed up the process by signing your FAFSA electronically with your PIN. Your parent can sign electronically too.
- ☐ **Check** your eligibility for federal student aid. (Students without a social security number should NOT file the FAFSA)

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE FEDERAL STUDENT AID?

- U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen
- Undocumented students cannot fill out the FAFSA, but can fill out the California Dream Act application to get state financial assistance and scholarships
- Have a valid Social Security number
- Have a high school diploma
- Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment and working toward a degree or certificate in an eligible program at a school that participates in the federal student aid programs (this includes four-year colleges, community colleges, trade and technical schools)
- Have financial need
- Must not have certain drug convictions

FILLING OUT THE FAFSA

FAFSA on the Web

- Complete the FAFSA on the Web Worksheet.
- Many schools have help available for students who complete his/her FAFSA at school if his/her worksheet is complete.

FILLING OUT THE FAFSA (CONT'D)

FAFSA Paper Application (not preferred)

- Use black ink and fill ovals in completely
- Print clearly in CAPITAL letters and skip a box between words
- Report dollar amounts without cents as follows: \$12,356.41 should be reported as \$12,356 (no cents)
- Complete the worksheets before beginning to fill out the application
- Pay close attention to the instructions and notes in each section

HOW MUCH FINANCIAL AID WILL EACH STUDENT RECEIVE?

The amount of financial aid you receive equals your need.

Cost of attendance – EFC = Need

EFC = Expected Family Contribution

(how much money the government determines a family can afford to contribute to a student's tuition costs)

HOW DO I KNOW MY EFC AND HOW MUCH AID MY I WILL RECEIVE?

After completing the FAFSA, you will get a Student Aid Report (SAR), which will tell you your EFC and what forms of aid you qualify for.

HOW MUCH MONEY WILL EACH STUDENT RECEIVE?

A financial aid award is determined by each school based on your eligibility and the cost of attendance for the program in which you are enrolled

TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID?

- Grants – FREE money that is given by the government, public or private institution.
- Scholarships – FREE money that you must apply for.
- Work-Study – money a student works for. Part of it is paid by the school and the other part by the government.
- Loans – money that must be repaid.

GRANTS

The State of Oregon offers several grants for college that you generally do not have to pay back. These funds come from the federal and/or state government. For many grants, eligibility is based on your own and/or your family's financial need, which is determined by submitting the FAFSA or ORSAA as soon as possible after the application opens on **October 1st** each year. Some grants consider additional factors. Most grants have their own application and deadlines.

FAFSA / ORSAA | Oregon Student Aid - <https://oregonstudentaid.gov/fafsa-orsaa/>

OREGON GRANTS

College Grants

- Oregon Opportunity Grant (OOG) – Oregon's largest state-funded grant.
- Oregon Promise Grant – Students attending Community College who have completed high school or gotten their GED are eligible for this.
- Oregon Tribal Student Grant – Funding for eligible Oregon Tribal students.
- Oregon Student Child Care Grant – For parents enrolled in postsecondary education.
- Chafee Education and Training Grant – provides funding to help current or former foster care youth with postsecondary education and training.
- Deceased or Disabled Public Safety Officer Grant (DDPSO) – Supports dependents of public safety officers in the state of Oregon who were killed or disabled in the line of duty.

OREGON GRANTS (CONT'D)

- Oregon Barber and Hairdresser (B&H) Grant Program – Provides one-time grants to low-income students who are attending a licensed school of barbering, cosmetology or manicure in Oregon.
- Oregon National Guard State Tuition Assistance – Funding for current Oregon National Guard Members.

SCHOLARSHIPS

- A good place to look for scholarships is the US Department of Labor's [Free Scholarship Search Tool](#)
- To apply for OSAC Scholarships on the Oregon Students Aid website go to <https://oregonstudentaid.gov/scholarships/>
- Check all school's websites to see if they have any scholarship opportunities.
- Relatives – Sometimes the careers of your parents, grandparents, or close relatives offer scholarships. Check with unions and organizations to see what is available.
- Your local credit union! PNWFCU has one!

Apply! Write all the essays, fill out the forms, and do the interviews.

It'll be worth it!

WORK STUDY

- Federal work-study (WS) is awarded to a student in their financial aid package. A student works while attending school if they choose WS. It is only for the academic year.
- Students must find a job within the school (on-campus) or outside of the school (off-campus). The outside agencies must be approved by the university if the student wants to use their WS.

LOANS

Stafford Loans

- Subsidized: accrues interest after you graduate from school.
- Unsubsidized: accrues interest while in school.

Perkins Loans – a low interest (5%) loan for undergraduate and graduate students with “exceptional” financial need.

Private Loans – Interests are much higher because they are not regulated by the government and accrue while in school. Let this be your last resource.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

I don't have a PIN. How do I get one?

Go to www.pin.ed.gov and select 'Apply for a PIN'.

If your guardians will not file a tax return:

- Answer 'Will Not File' to question 76 (Have your guardians filed a tax return?).
- You will then be taken to question 82 (Income earned from work).
- Enter any money earned from a job that is listed as taxed on a W2 form.
- Then answer only those income questions that apply to your guardians from that point on.

FAQS

What if the student and/or guardian is undocumented?

The California Dream act allows undocumented students to receive state financial aid and scholarships and get in-state tuition cost by filling out the California Dream Act application

What if we haven't filed our taxes yet (but we will)?

Complete the FAFSA worksheet to the best of your ability (use last year's numbers if you are in the same job)—you can make changes later if you need to.

FAQS

What if the student lives with a legal guardian?

If the student lives with a court-appointed legal guardian, the student will file as Independent. This means they will not provide any parental information.

This is GREAT because it means the student will get more free money for college!

What if the student lives with someone but not their court-appointed legal guardian?

The student MUST put their parent's information. A student should never report anyone's financial information but their parents.

QUESTIONS?

Contact: kristinm@pnwfcu.org



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