

FAFSA Information

I understand this information is extremely overwhelming. A great resource is the link below. There are multiple videos on how to fill out the FAFSA. The average time to fill out a FAFSA the first time is 25 minutes, and that time reduces year after year. A new federal law goes in to effect this year and the FAFSA is open October 1st for the 2017 senior class. The sooner you apply for aid the greater your chance to receive aid for an institution. Colleges are only given a certain amount of federal assistance and once it has been disbursed it is gone.

<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/resources#complete>

First Step: FSA ID

Students, parents, and borrowers are required to use an **FSA ID**, made up of a username and password, to access certain U.S. Department of Education websites. Your FSA ID is used to confirm your identity when accessing your financial aid information and electronically signing your **federal student aid** documents.

<https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm>

You need to apply for an FSA ID before completing the FAFSA application. You can apply for your FSA ID at <https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm>. You may get this ID at any time prior to completing the FAFSA. When applying for a PIN you will provide name, Social Security number, date of birth, and address.

The student and one parent or guardian will need to get a FSA ID. You use this ID at the end of the FAFSA instead of a signature. The student and parent or guardian must enter a FSA ID for the FAFSA to be complete.

The same FSA ID will be used all four (or more) years of college so write it in a secure place where you can find it each year when you go to fill out your FAFSA.

Second Step: Complete FAFSA Form

The FAFSA form can be found online at www.fafsa.gov. An added feature to the FAFSA form is that you can instantly upload your tax documents and the information will be populated for you. This is a very simple process. Please note your one FAFSA form can be sent to multiple colleges. And if you have not completed your taxes you can estimate your information based upon the previous year forms. When you do complete your taxes you will have to go back in and update your information or use the IRS retrieval data tool.

Third Step: State of Missouri FAFSA Deadline

Each state has a set deadline for completing the FAFSA form. If your child is planning to go out of state for college they need to check that state's deadline. The overall Missouri deadline is April 1st however many colleges have an earlier deadline for completing the FAFSA form. Please check with the college(s) your child plans to apply to and their deadline. Each college or university has a certain amount of money at their disposal. The sooner you apply for the FAFSA the greater your likelihood of receiving state or federal need based aid.

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Final Step: Wait for your financial aid package.

After you submit your FAFSA information it will take each college time to formulate a financial aid package. When you do receive that package please feel free to ask the financial aid office any questions.

A+ Student Applying for Aid

As you will recall the requirements to meet the A+ Program are as follows:

1. Sign an A+ Student Participation Agreement.
2. Attend a designated A+ school for three consecutive years prior to graduation.
3. Have at least 95% attendance rate for the four years of high school.
4. Graduate with at least a 2.5 or higher GPA on a 4.0 scale.
5. Perform 50 hours of unpaid tutoring.
6. Score Advanced or Proficient on the Algebra 1 EOC or ACT Math Subscore 17 or COMPASS 43 on Pre-Algebra or 1 on Algebra
7. Maintain a record of good citizenship.
8. Register with selective services if applicable.
9. File the FAFSA (Federal Student Aid)

If your child is graduating from THS in 2016 and plans to use their A+ money the summer immediately after graduation in 2017 you will have to fill out TWO different FAFSA forms. For example for the year 2017 you will complete the 2016-17 FAFSA for courses offered in the fall of '17 and also the 2015-16 FAFSA for summer courses that are a "trailer" or part of the 2016 school year. In order to access A+ Scholarship money you are **required** to complete the FAFSA. Any questions do not hesitate to contact the school or ask your counselor for help.