

FAFSA: Ways to Apply

If you are planning to attend college fall 2006, target January 2006 to submit the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).

Maximize your chances of receiving financial aid, submit your FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1 of the year for which you are requesting aid. Don't apply before January 1 or without a Social Security Number, your application will not be processed.

Apply via the Internet with **FAFSA on the Web** or complete a paper FAFSA. **No charge to submit either way.**

FAFSA on the Web

Submit your FAFSA on the Web (fafsa.ed.gov) at the US Department of Education's (ED) Web site. You will be prompted to request a personal PIN. After receiving your PIN, instructions to sign the FAFSA electronically will be provided.

On-line help is available to identify potential errors. Using the Internet, your FAFSA is processed faster than the paper version—usually under five days (provided electronic signatures have been provided).

“FAFSA on the Web” Worksheet

Many prepare to complete the FAFSA on the Web by downloading the Worksheet (www.CollegeAnswer.com/FAFSA). It contains the questions on the 2006-07 application in the same order as they appear in the Web version.

Paper FAFSA

Obtain a paper FAFSA (English or Spanish version) from your high school counselor, financial aid office, public library, or call the Federal Student Aid Information Center (FSAIC) at **1-800-4-FED-AID**.

Carefully complete the paper application and mail in the pre-addressed envelope that's in your FAFSA packet. Include the return post card, so you know when your FAFSA has been received.

Collect the necessary info...

Student Information

- Marital status
- Citizenship & state residency
- Education history
- Major course of study
- Expected course workload
- Interest in student loans & work study
- Income taxes & deductions (including spouse's)
- Spouse's income
- Assets
- Dependency status
- Household
- List of schools you are interested in attending

Parent Information

- Level of education
- Income taxes & deductions
- Household assets
- Family members
- State residency
- Age