**National Association of Student
Financial Aid Administrators Presents …**

What You
Need to Know
About Financial Aid

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT FINANCIAL AID ADMINISTRATORS

Topics We Will Discuss Today

- What is financial aid?

- Categories, types, and sources of financial aid

- FSA ID

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

- Special circumstances

What is Financial Aid?

Financial aid consists of funds provided to students and families to help pay for postsecondary educational expenses

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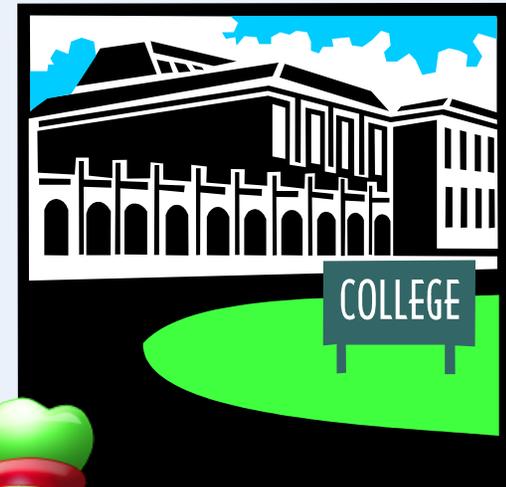
Types of Financial Aid

- Scholarships

- Grants
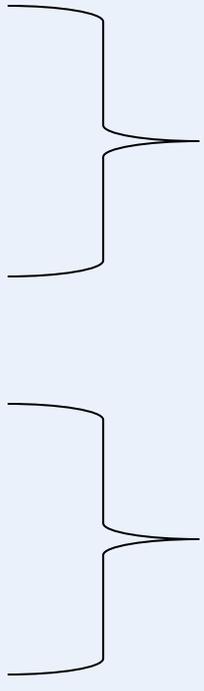
Gift Aid

- Loans

Self-Help Aid

- Employment

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Self-Help Aid: Loans

- Money students and parents borrow to help pay college expenses

- Repayment usually begins after education is finished

- Only borrow what is really needed

- Look at loans as an investment in the future

Self-Help Aid: Work-Study Employment

- Allows student to earn money to help pay educational costs.

- If you think you will want work study then mark yes when you complete your FAFSA.

Sources of Financial Aid

- Federal government

- States

- Colleges and universities

- Private sources

- Civic organizations and churches

- Employers

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Federal Government

- Largest source of financial aid

- Aid awarded primarily on the basis of financial need

- Must apply each year using the FAFSA

FSA ID

- Before you start to work on your FAFSA both the student and parent will need to create an FSA ID.

- This is your electronic signature with the Department of Education.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

- A standard form that collects demographic and financial information about the student and family

- May be filed electronically or using paper form
  - Available in English and Spanish

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FAFSA on the Web

- Website: www.fafsa.gov

  - Be sure to always go to the .gov website, never just search for FAFSA. There are sites that try to charge you to do the free application.

- The FAFSA is available starting in October each year.

  - For the 17/18 FAFSA you will use your 2015 income.
  - For the 18/19 FAFSA you will use your 2016 income.

IRS Data Retrieval Tool

- When completing the FAFSA you and your parent(s) will have to complete income information.

- The best option is to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool.

- This links the information from your tax return straight to the FAFSA, it will save a great deal of time and prevent errors.

IRS Data Retrieval Tool

- Some will be unable to use IRS DRT

- Examples include:

  - Filed an amended tax return

  - No SSN was entered

  - Student or parent married but filed separately

General Student Information

- Social Security Number

- Citizenship status

- Marital status

- Drug convictions

- Selective Service registration

- Level of parents' school completion

Student Dependency Status

FAFSA asks questions to determine dependency status for federal student aid
(not IRS) purposes:

- If all "No" responses, student is dependent

- If "Yes" to any question, student is independent

Signatures

- Required
  - Student
  - One parent (dependent students)

- Format for submitting signatures
  - Electronic using FSA ID
  - Signature page
  - Paper FAFSA

FAFSA Processing Results

- Email will be sent to student when the FAFSA has initially processed.

- Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR) sent to colleges listed on FAFSA approximately 10 to 14 days after FAFSA is submitted

- College reviews ISIR
  - May request additional documentation

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Special Circumstances

- Cannot be documented using FAFSA

- Send written explanation and documentation to financial aid office at each college

- College will review and request additional information if necessary

- Decisions are final and cannot be appealed to U.S. Department of Education

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Special Circumstances

- Change in employment status

- Unusual medical expenses not covered by insurance

- Change in parent marital status

- Unusual dependent care expenses

- Student cannot obtain parental information