

BASICS OF FINANCIAL AND THE FAFSA PROCESS

Linda Brannan, Financial Aid Advisor

Email: lbrannan@wcpss.net

Phone: 919-438-0330

Click this link to make a free appointment: [Financial Aid Advisor Appointment Sign-Up](#)

(Full link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A4EAEA823A75-financial3>)

Appointments are for students at Apex Friendship High School, Green Hope High School & Apex High School

THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID OR FAFSA is a form the federal government uses to determine the types and amount of financial aid you might qualify for. The FAFSA is the key to unlocking financial aid from the federal government, states, and colleges. This application is used to award grants, scholarships, work study and student loans.

The screenshot shows a dark blue background with white text. On the left, it says 'Complete the FAFSA® Form' with a subtext: 'Use the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) form to apply for financial aid for college or graduate school.' On the right, there are two sections: 'New to the FAFSA® Process?' with a 'Start Here' button, and 'Returning User?' with a 'Log In' button. There are also links for 'Correct info | Add a school' and 'View your Student Aid Report (SAR)'.

THE FREE APPLICATION FOR STUDENT FINANCIAL AID (FAFSA) is available online on **Oct. 1 – June 30**.

The state of NC and some colleges give out limited award money on a first come first serve basis. Recommendation: File during month of October and no later than December.

1. Access the FAFSA by going to www.fafsa.ed.gov.
2. One parent and the student must create an **FSA ID (Federal Student Aid ID)**. The student and parent FSA ID's are required for the FAFSA to be processed. <https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm>
Keep your FSA ID's where they are secure to guard against identity theft and can always be located. You will need them each time you apply.
3. **Complete the 2021-2022 FAFSA using 2019 tax information.** (or previous year, if 2019 is not available)
4. Use the **IRS Data Retrieval Tool** to transfer IRS Tax return data from the IRS directly into the FAFSA.
5. Use your FSA ID to sign your application electronically. When you sign your application electronically using your FSA ID, your application is processed within 3-5 days.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Student Aid Report (SAR) - The SAR summarizes your FAFSA info. To view the SAR online, log on to fafsa.ed.gov with your FSA ID. Review it carefully to make sure it is correct and complete. If you are selected for verification, there will be an asterisk next to your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) on your (SAR). If you fail to provide the requested information you may not receive financial aid.

Financial Aid Award Package/Letter. After you receive college acceptance letters, you will get a financial aid award letter from each school. Award letters include cost of attendance and what financial aid is offered. Just because you are eligible for a certain type of aid does not mean that you must accept it. Accept all the free money and work-study before any loans. If you must tap into loan dollars, borrow only as much as you truly need.

Appeal for More Financial Aid. If your current financial circumstance is not reflected in the 2019 tax information on the FAFSA, make an appeal to the Financial Aid Office for more aid. Contact them, after you have applied for admission, to find out what the appeal process is at their school, if they offer emergency financial aid grants, and if they have CARES Act funds for which you can apply.

CSS Profile: Find out from the Financial Aid Office if there are any **other financial aid forms** that you complete like the [CSS Profile](#) (College Scholarship Service Profile) and the deadlines to submit them. Add deadlines to your calendar. Good overview article on [How to Complete the CSS Profile](#)



Residency Determination Service: To receive the benefits of in-state tuition and state financial aid, a residency determination is required. <https://ncresidency.cfnc.org/residencyInfo/>



SCHOLARSHIP- A Scholarship is awarded based specified criteria. It can include a combination of academic achievement, character, extracurricular activities, leadership, and/or other criteria

WORK STUDY – Employment/Work Study opportunities are part-time jobs-usually on the college campus.

GRANT- A grant is money that does not have to be repaid.

LOAN- A loan must be repaid, but repayment is usually required after the student is no longer enrolled.

DON'T GET SCAMMED - Do not pay for a scholarship search or to have a FAFSA application completed or filed. Here are signs you are being scammed:

- 1) Scholarships guaranteed or your money back.
- 2) You can't get this information anywhere else.
- 3) "May I have your credit card # to hold this scholarship?"
- 4) "We'll do all of the work."
- 5) "This scholarship will cost some money."



SCHOLARSHIP AND FINANCIAL AID WEBSITES

www.scholarshipplus.com/wake/ - WCPSS online scholarship guide. Students & parents can access info about hundreds of scholarships including Wake County high schools.

[Your High School's Counseling and Student Services Department](#) - Scholarship bulletin and web site.

www.cfnc.org – College Foundation - Access to scholarships and college info. Helps you plan and apply to colleges. You can create your FSA ID here.

www.studentaid@ed.gov – Information about financial aid from the federal government.

www.finaid.org - Gives Expected Family Contribution estimator. Financial aid site with links to free scholarship search programs.

www.collegeboard.com - Free on-line scholarship search service. Gives Expected Family Contributor estimator.

<https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/> - CSS financial aid profile. (Duke, Davidson, Elon, Wake Forest, Chapel Hill).

U. S. Department of Education: <https://www.fafsa.ed.gov>

Federal Student Aid: <https://studentaid.ed.gov>

View and download publications: <https://studentaid.gov/resources>

Federal Student Aid Information Center (US Dept. of Education)

Hours: Monday-Friday 8 AM – 11 pm; Saturday-Sunday 11 AM – 5 PM

Phone: 800-433-3243

Email: studentaid@ed.gov

Live Chat:

https://studentaidhelp.ed.gov/app/chat/chat_launch/chat_data/cv9pZD0xJnN0YXRlPTYmJmhhc2g9MTU2MjY5OTAwNDcxMmo1czJ5Zw../request_source/7

