



FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) Instructions for MIPS families

Each year, in October, the Federal Government releases the new FAFSA application. This is important documentation that allows your student to qualify for Federal grants and loans all dependent upon student need. Parents and guardians are required to submit their tax information. If a parent refuses, a student will NOT be eligible for anything other than an unsubsidized student loan. I have included a glossary of terms at the end of this document for things that may be new to you.

The items below will take you to appropriate links and/or helpful videos to assist in the navigation process. Anything underlined is a hyperlink that, if clicked, will take you elsewhere. I have tried them all. Read through this document before beginning as it may answer questions that will come up.

1. This site is your first step. Begin filling out the form. <https://fafsa.ed.gov/> (if you enter this it will redirect you to the longer <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa> URL)
 - a. No other websites need to be used.
 - b. Never pay for any Financial Aid for College service.
2. Each student AND parent requires their own [FSA ID](#). This is what will be used to electronically sign the FAFSA forms. This link is for basic info on this along with links to create one. <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/help/fsa-id> This [video](#) is about creating the FSA ID.
3. Required Documents for completing the FAFSA.
 - a. Social Security Number
 - b. W-2 Forms from past tax year. (they call this prior-prior year)
 - c. Permanent resident card (i.e. driver's license)
 - d. Filed Tax Information
 - i. Filling out the form. Note: many families are eligible to transfer their tax information from the IRS directly into the FAFSA form. Keep your eye out for that option as it saves time. Here is a link to info on that. <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/help/how-use-irs-drt>
4. Playlist of helpful videos put on by FAFSA people
 - a. <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL23B9A23CD8DD82DD&feature=plcp>
 - b. This list (and the recordings) is a year or two old but most if not all the information is still valid.

5. The link below is for a new website from the Collegeboard to help parents navigate the college-going world.
 - a. <https://parents.collegeboard.org/?excmpid=ph44775-st-1>
6. This link <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/prepare-for-college/checklists> is to a series of checklists by grade level or group. Senior year (unless a student intends on graduating early) is the time to fill out FAFSA for the following school year. i.e. this is the 2018-2019 school year. You will fill out the 2019-2020 form (unless you graduate in December of 2018 and plan to go to college in January).
7. This [link](#) is for support materials from the FAFSA organization.
8. This [link](#) is about searching out scholarships to help pay for college

What application to use?

If you are applying for financial aid for the 2019-2020 school year, you should file a 2019-2020 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

If you are applying for financial aid for the 2018-2019 school year, you should file a 2018-2019 FAFSA.

If you plan to attend summer classes, you should contact your college's financial aid office to determine which application they accept for summer sessions.

This link is all about eligibility questions

<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/eligibility/basic-criteria>

This link is for FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) in case there are any issues.

<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/filling-out/help>

This link walks you through the entire app though it is put on by a different state. The information is still pertinent for us. There a couple of spots that talk about their specific state services.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RRXJYBRawfs>

Live help from MIPS Staff?

I will be hosting a series of FAFSA help sessions. If you go through this information and just want more assistance, please visit one of our virtual scheduled sessions below for support and guidance from our Director of Curriculum and Instruction.

The link to join any of these sessions is <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/613917197>

Scheduled Sessions:

Thursday, October 11 at 2 pm

Thursday, October 11 at 8 pm

If more support is needed after this, we will add additional times.

Glossary of Terms

Unsubsidized Student Loan - The interest either is paid by the student or family along the way or it accrues in their final loan total.

Subsidized Student Loan - The interest is paid by the Government until 6 months after not being enrolled in college (ideally after you complete your degree)

Pell Grant (or any grant) - Totally free money dependent upon student need based upon parent and guardian tax information.

FAFSA - Free Application for Federal Student Aid. It is what the Government AND colleges of all types use for determining eligibility for financial aid.

FSA ID - This is the electronic signature information for both students and parents so they can finalize the application