

# 4 PAYING FOR COLLEGE: ALL ABOUT FAFSA

**WHAT IS THE FAFSA?** The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the first step to apply for **financial aid**. **Completing the FAFSA is free and gives you access to the largest source of financial aid** to pay for vocational, technical, 2-year and 4-year colleges. Based on the info you provide, each college will calculate your financial aid **award**.

## WHEN SHOULD I APPLY?

As early as **October 1** of your senior year.

Make sure you **know the financial aid priority deadlines** for the colleges you are interested in.

You need to **submit the FAFSA every year** while in college.

## WHAT INFO DO I NEED TO PROVIDE?

**Basic info**, such as legal name, birthdate, etc.

Parent and student **tax/income information**

Your **list of colleges**

## DO I NEED A FSA ID? (FEDERAL STUDENT AID ID)

**An FSA ID gives you access to your FAFSA info and serves as your legal signature.** You AND one parent (biological or adoptive) will need to create an FSA ID (username and password). Be sure you and your parent use separate email addresses. If your parent is undocumented they should not create an FSA ID. They will instead print, sign and mail a signature page.

**What information do I need to create an FSA ID?** Basic info, such as social security number (SSN), legal name, birthdate, contact info, etc.

An FSA ID gives you access to your FAFSA info and

## \* DON'T FORGET:

Be sure to write down the answers to your challenge questions in the application and store them in a safe location with your FSA ID.

## HOW DO I COMPLETE IT?

1. Create a Federal Student Aid Identification (FSA ID) at [fsaid.ed.gov](https://fsaid.ed.gov)
2. Use your FSA ID to log in and complete the FAFSA at [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov)
3. Check for an email confirming you have successfully submitted the FAFSA.

**MAY:** GRADE 11  
**SEPT:** GRADE 12

