

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) FAQ's and Worksheet www.fafsa.ed.gov

What is it? It's an educational grant, or loans, that the U. S. Department of Education provides for students that are interested in obtaining a college degree. FAFSA helps with your college costs.

Who can apply? Any graduating senior who is a **U.S. Citizen or Eligible Non-Citizen** (you must have an alien registration number, I-94, or Green Card).

How does it work? Once you complete the form **on-line** and submit it for review, the Federal government will determine how much aid they will provide based on your (if you worked) and your parents' or guardians' income during the previous year (2016).

How much money will I get? That depends on your family's income and other assets and the school of your choice.

How do I get it? Federal financial aid is generally offered in three different forms:

Grants – Money that you do not have to pay back including the Pell grant that can be up to a maximum of \$5,815 per year.

Student Loans – These are low interest government loans. Some types do not need to start being repaid until you graduate from college (as long as you are a full-time student).

Work/Study – Job opportunity on campus in which you will receive a paycheck that is yours to spend as you wish.

How will I know what I received? After submitting your completed FAFSA on-line you will receive (6-8 weeks) something called a Student Aid Report (SAR) from FAFSA confirming your information. You will receive a letter or email notification from the college(s) you listed on your form with a financial aid offer. It will include the categories of aid listed above as well as any additional aid offered by the college itself.

When should I apply? You can begin the application on **October 1st!!!** NAU's first priority deadline is November 15th, 2017, ASU's first priority deadline is January 1st, 2018, and UA's is January 8th, 2018.

What can I do before October 1st? Do your best to encourage your parents or guardians to gather their tax materials as soon as possible (see required info on the back of this handout). You may also go to the web site and obtain your and your parents **FSA ID Usernames and Passwords** now to speed the process. **Quick Tip: If you take a picture of the front page of yours and your parent's income tax copies it can help with the "IRS Data Retrieval Tool" process in the "Financial Section" of the online form.**

What if I don't live with my parents? Your parents' information is required until you are 23 years old (with a few exceptions). If you are a "Designated Homeless Youth", an "Emancipated Minor", are in a "Court Ordered Legal Guardianship", or have been in "Foster Care" you **DO NOT** have to provide parent information.

2017-2018 FAFSA Worksheet

(Use this to gather some of the info you will need for your FAFSA)

Student FSA ID Username:	
Student FSA ID Password:	
Parent FSA ID Username:	
Parent FSA ID Password:	

1. Your Social Security (SS) # _____
2. Your father's/stepfather's SS # _____
3. Your father's date of birth _____
4. Your mother's/stepmother's SS # _____
5. Your mother's date of birth _____
6. Non-citizens Alien Registration # A _____
7. Highest grade your parents completed: Father _____ Mother _____
8. **Date** your parents were **married, separated, divorced, or widowed** _____ (month/year)
9. How many total people in your household (including you) _____
10. How many of those people will be college students next year _____

11. Estimate 2016 income information if income taxes have not been filed:

	<u>Yours</u>	<u>Parents/Step-Parents</u>
A. Adjusted Gross Income*	_____	_____
B. Total income from wages*	_____	_____
C. Amount paid in taxes	_____	_____
D. Balance of cash in bank accounts	_____	_____
E. Investment accounts balances	_____	_____
F. Any income from SS or Welfare	_____	_____

G. Income from child support _____

H. Any other non-taxable income _____

I. Tax Form Used (1040/1040A/EZ) _____