

## **FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) FAQ's and Worksheet** **[www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)**

**What is it?** The FAFSA most likely will be your single most important source for financial aid to attend college. Almost all colleges and universities require it to be completed before admitting you and/or offering you financial help. You **must** fill it out each year you are in college.

**Who can apply?** Any graduating senior entering college in the Fall 2017 and/or Spring 2018 semesters 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 **online** 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 (**2015**).

**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 \$5,920 per year (amount changes yearly).

**Student Loans** – Various 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 may not begin the application until **October 1<sup>st</sup>** of the year you will first attend college. The sooner you submit the FAFSA, the better!

**What can I do before October 1<sup>st</sup>?** 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 PIN # now to speed the process.

**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 truly "independent" you may ask to be declared so by a financial aid officer at the college of your choice.

***If you have any questions, visit the Regional College Access Center website at [www.metedu.org/rcac](http://www.metedu.org/rcac) and make an appointment to meet with a staff member.***

## 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 # \_\_\_\_\_
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. **2015** Filing Status (i.e. Single, Head of Household, Married-Joint, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_
9. **2015** Tax information (You may estimate)

	<u>Yours</u>	<u>Parents/Step-Parents</u>	
A. Adjusted Gross Income*	_____	_____	*(Separate totals
B. Total income from wages*	_____	_____	for Mom/Dad)
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)	_____	_____	

10. **Date** your parents were **married, separated, divorced, or widowed** \_\_\_\_\_ (month/year)
11. How many total people in your household (including you) \_\_\_\_\_
12. How many of those people will be college students next year \_\_\_\_\_