Financial Aid 101

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AGENDA

- Types of Financial Aid
- How much aid can you receive?
- FAFSA Defined
- FAFSA Simplification Act
- Summary of FAFSA Updates
- Creating an FSA ID
- Applying to 2024-2025 FAFSA
- Scholarships
- Resources

What is Financial Aid?

Financial Aid is a **broad** group of funding sources that assists students in meeting the cost of attending college and can include grants, scholarships, work-study programs, and student loans.

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Types of Financial Aid

Gift Aid	Description
Grants "Need Based"	Awarded by federal and state government Ex. Pell Grant
Scholarships	Awarded by a variety of sources including the University, community groups, businesses, etc.

Self-Help Aid	Description
Student Employment/Federal Work Study	Money earned while working part-time on campus
Federal Direct Loans (student)	Subsidized/Unsubsidized Low interest loans, repaid by the student after graduation
Parent Loans (PLUS)	Loans that parents borrow, repaid by the parent after graduation or while the student is in school
Private Loans	Loans that students borrow (often needs a cosigner), repaid after graduation
Payment Plans/529 College Savings	Some institutions offer payment/installment plans or families may have college savings plans to assist with costs.

How Much Aid Can I Receive?

Cost of Attendance
- ✓ Tuition & Fees
- ✓ Room & Board
- ✓ Books & Supplies
- ✓ Equipment & Transportation
- ✓ Miscellaneous Personal Expenses

(Dependent Students)

Student Aid Index (SAI)
=
Parent Contribution
+
Student Contribution

Cost of Attendance (COA)
-
Student Aid Index (SAI)
=
$Financial Need$

What is the FAFSA?

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA, is the application that students complete to receive federal and state student financial aid. Colleges can also use the FAFSA to award additional financial aid to students.

➢ 2024-2025 FAFSA will be available in December 2023.
  ➢ Using 2022 Tax Returns
➢ Complete it as soon as it is available.
➢ Results are sent to the school
➢ Must complete every year

Studentaid.gov

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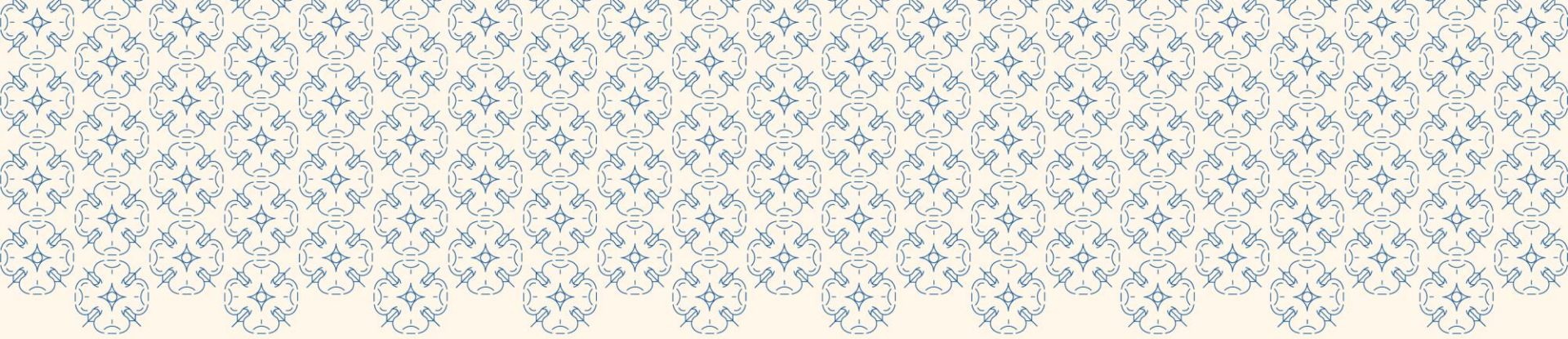
The FAFSA Simplification Act was enacted as a part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 and 2022 meant to make the FAFSA more accessible and beneficial to students

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NAME CHANGES

- **THE NEW FAFSA CHANGES A FEW NAMES**

  – EXPECTED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION (EFC) TO STUDENT AID

  INDEX (SAI)

  – DRT(DATA RETRIEVAL TOOL) - TO FA-DDX (DIRECT
  DATA EXCHANGE)

  STUDENTS AND PARENTS CONSENT TO USE OF FA-DDX

- **THE TERM "EFC" COULD BE MISLEADING, SINCE MANY**

  FAMILIES INCORRECTLY BELIEVED THAT THE EFC IS ALL THEY PAY

CHANGES TO THE FAFSA

The changes in the financial aid formula are effective starting with the 2024-2025 FAFSA

Reduces the number of questions from 108 to about 36

Align more questions on FAFSA with federal income tax returns

Reduced likelihood of verification because fewer questions and more data transferred from the IRS

<u>Required</u> consent from users to retrieve federal tax information, required for federal student aid

Dependent students must invite their parent(s) to contribute to their form if parent information is required.

"Roles" based FAFSA Form

Student, Parent, Preparer

Once all required data has been provided and all sections have been signed, any role can submit the FAFSA form

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APPLYING TO THE 2024-2025 FAFSA

INFORMATION NEEDED

- Income from prior-prior year/current asset information
- Household size & # enrolled in college
- School Codes (Can list up to 20)
- Digital Signature Student & 1 Parent
  – Create FSA ID – do this now!
  – Social security number, full name, birthday
  – Memorable username & password
  – Remains the same each year
- Data Retrieval Tool --Consent

Do I have to provide Parent's Information?

Most high school seniors are dependent students unless…

- o Married
- o Financially support a child or other dependent
- o A veteran
- o Have documented history of abuse, abandonment or estrangement between the student & parents
- o Are/were in foster care or legal guardianship
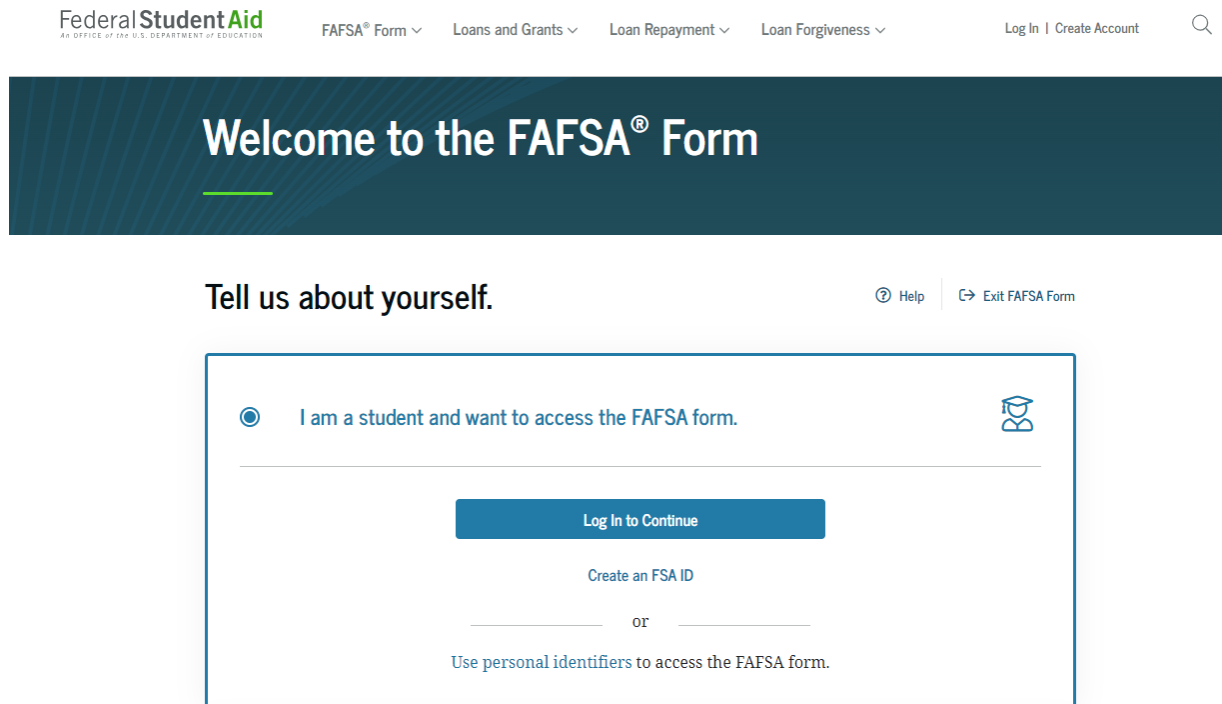
*Dependent students **must** provide parents' information or they are only eligible for Direct Unsubsidized Loans.

Not living with parents or not being claimed by them on tax forms does not make you an independent student for purposes of applying for federal student aid.

Studentaid.gov/dependency

FAFSA LOG ON

Student & Parents must have their **own** FAFSA log in

https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch

DEPENDENT STUDENT LANDING PAGE

1. Student logs in with FSA ID

2. Selects appropriate role "student" or "parent"

PROVIDE CONSENT

- This page informs the student about consent and their federal tax information.

- By providing consent, the student's federal tax information is transferred directly into the FAFSA® form from the IRS to help complete the Student Financials section.

- The student selects "Approve" to provide consent and is taken to the next page

"TELL US ABOUT YOUR PARENTS"

- As the student is considered dependent, they are asked to provide information about their parents.

- The FAFSA® form considers their "Parent" to be their legal (biological or adoptive) parent.

- The student is asked if their parents are married. The student selects "Yes" and is required to invite their parents to their FAFSA form to complete the required parent sections.

CUSTODIAL PARENT VS. FAMILY SIZE

- The custodial parent is the parent who must complete the FAFSA

- The new definition of custodial parent is not necessarily the same as the IRS definition of dependent, which is used in the determination of family size

- Which parent completes the FAFSA
  – Currently based on where the student resides the most during the 12 months ending on the date the FAFSA is filed
  – The new FAFSA will base it on whichever parent provided more financial support

- Family size
  – The student is always counted in family size
  – The new FAFSA requires the child to live with the parent for more than half the year and to not provide more than half of their own financial support, but does not require the parent to provide more than half of the child's financial support

The student is asked to enter personal information about their parents to send them an invite to their FAFSA® form. In this scenario, the student invites one parent.

- On this page, the student acknowledges the terms and conditions of the FAFSA® form and signs their section.
- After agreeing and signing, the student can submit their section of the FAFSA form. Since parent information has not been provided, the FAFSA form is <u>not considered</u> complete and can't be processed yet.

FAFSA® FORM 2024–25 👤 Student **Raya Tran**   💾 Save | FAFSA Menu ⋮

Personal Circumstances — Demographics — Financials — Colleges — 5 Signature

Sign and Complete Your Part

Summary

This page confirms you understand the terms and conditions of the FAFSA form, and that you have filled it out accurately to the best of your ability.

The FAFSA form is a legal document you will electronically sign with your FSA ID. Because this is associated with your personal information, do not share it with anyone.

By signing this application electronically using your FSA ID (username and password) and/or any other credential or by signing a signature page and mailing it to us, YOU, THE STUDENT, certify that you

- will use federal and/or state student financial aid only to pay the cost of attending an institution of higher education,
- are not in default on a federal student loan or have made satisfactory arrangements to repay it,
- do not owe money back on a federal student grant or have made satisfactory arrangements to repay it,
- will notify your school if you default on a federal student loan, and
- will not receive a Federal Pell Grant from more than one school for the same period of time.

- Upon signing the student section, the student is presented the student section complete page. This page displays information for the student about next steps, including tracking their FAFSA® form.

- The student is reminded that their form is not completed and can't be submitted until the parent completes the contributor section of the form and signs it. Next, in this scenario, the student's invited parent will enter the FAFSA form and complete the parent section.

Here's What You Can Do Next

✉ **Check Your Email**

You will receive an email version of this page at the following email address:

▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮

☰ **Your FAFSA® Form Still Needs Contributor Information**

The contributor(s) you selected will receive an email invitation to join your form every seven days until the application is complete.

--- **Things You Should Know** ---

View Your FAFSA® Submission Summary

Once your application is complete and submitted, you can view your FAFSA Submission Summary, a summary of the information you provided on your FAFSA form. You'll be able to access the FAFSA Submission Summary one to three days after you submit your application by logging back in with your account username and password (FSA ID).

Questions About Your Eligibility For Aid?

Visit the "FAFSA Help" page for more information.

Get Help >

We strongly recommend that your parent(s) complete their own section. If that isn't possible, you can manually provide their information, but you will not be eligible for federal student aid, including grants and loans, until they provide consent and sign the form.

Provide Parent Information Manually >

- Parent receives email, inviting them to log in/create account "contributor"
- Parent logs in with their FSA id
- "My Activity Page"
- Parent then completes their part of the FAFSA
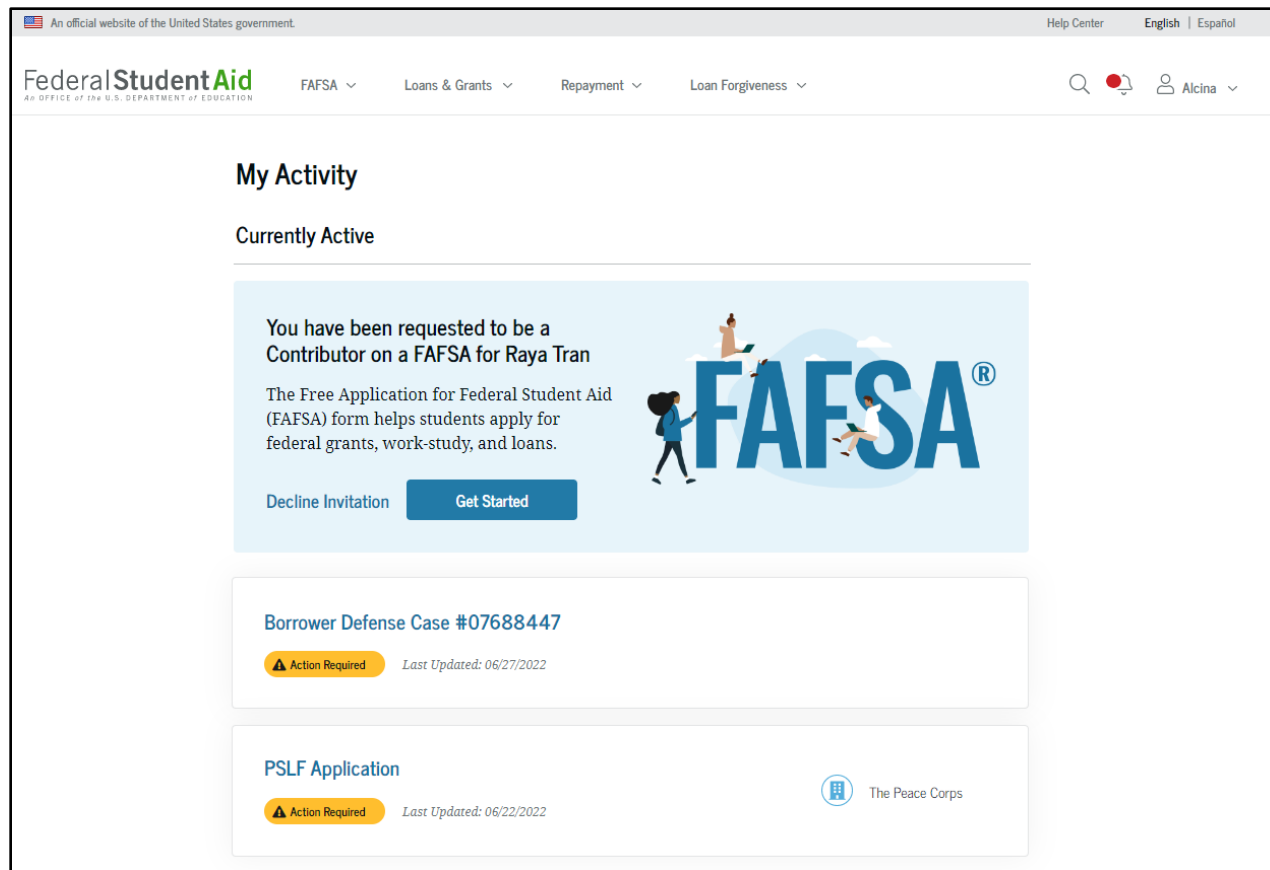
- On this page, the parent acknowledges the terms and conditions of the FAFSA® form and signs their section.

- Since all required sections are complete, the parent can both sign and submit the student's FAFSA form.

Application Process Flow

Complete the FAFSA → Government Processes Application → School receives FAFSA results

School Requests any addition documents needed

AID AWARDED ← School determines Student's awards ← **Student submit documents to school**

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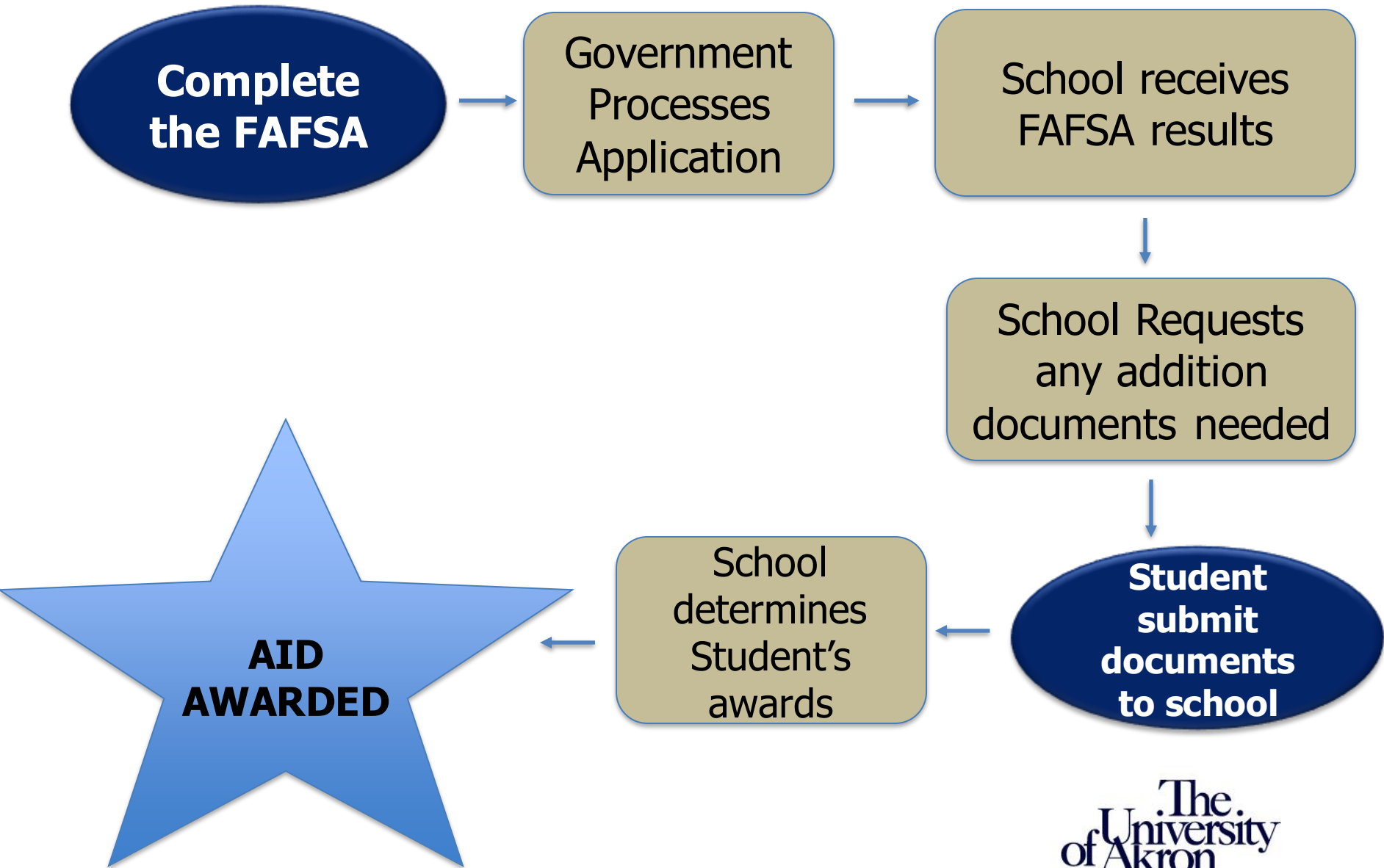
Financial Aid Offer

➢ UA currently mails to new students in March

➢ Provides **estimated** costs

➢ Details the different types of financial aid and amounts the student can receive

➢ Provides instructions on any additional steps

Special circumstance?

*Any unusual circumstances that affect a family's ability to contribute to higher education

- ✓ Loss or reduction in parent or student income or assets
- ✓ Death or serious illness
- ✓ Unusual medical or dental expenses not covered by insurance
- ✓ Reduction in child support, social security benefits or other untaxed benefit
- ✓ Financial responsibility for elderly grandparents/disabled adult children etc.
- ✓ Private School Tuition (K-12)
- ✓ Parent in college, trade school, certificate granting program

Apply to
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UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS

BE MORE THAN YOUR MAJOR.

Your major matters (of course it does), and we have 200 for you to choose from. Here, you'll also have the connections and support to make your time in college result in much more than earning a degree.

Whether you want to become an engineer or an artist, a teacher or a nurse, a biologist or an accountant, we offer an exceptional academic experience that will turn your passion into possibility.

APPLY TO BECOME AN **AKRON ZIP!**

Apply with the Common App   Apply with the UA App

Apply to UA!

❖ **No Application Fee**
❖ **Test Optional**
❖ **Ask Your Counselor to Submit your Official High School Transcript**

Robert Harris
Assistant Director, Admissions Regional Campuses
rharrisiii@uakron.edu
330-684-8980

Things To Do

- Create FSA ID **now**. Both student & parent
    - https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch

- Complete the FAFSA as soon as it is available in <u>December</u> of your senior year and provide any documents requested by the school

- Explore scholarship opportunities, complete applications and essays

- Request final transcripts from other colleges and universities for classes taken through the College Credit PLUS (CCP) program and have them sent to your school

Scholarship Deadlines

Scholarship Search

Use this tool to keep track of the scholarships for which you find and want to apply.
Cut and paste, highlight, filter and sort to customize this tool to fit your searching needs.

Priority	Scholarship Opportunities								
High, Medium or Low	Name of Scholarship	Deadlline	Amount	# of Awards	Website	Other Contact Information	Application (Online or Paper)	Essays	Letters of Recommendation	Tran

Scholarship criteria

ACADEMIC

- ✓ Grades
- ✓ Class rank
- ✓ Your TEST SCORES (ACT, SAT)
- ✓ Involvement
- ✓ Major
- ✓ Variety of other factors per individual scholarship criteria requirements
  - ✓ Example: reference letter

PRIVATE

Everything…and ANYTHING ☺

- ✓ Diverse criteria
- ✓ Providers decide on eligibility
  - ✓ Major specific?
  - ✓ Volunteer work?
  - ✓ Community involvement?
  - ✓ GPA?
  - ✓ Financial need?
- ***Always submit a FAFSA

University Awarded Scholarships

- Automatically awarded at the time of admission.

- No separate application is required.

- A variety of scholarships will be combined to offer you a scholarship package.

- Awards may range between $1,000 to $8,000

- Renewable for up to eight semesters of full-time enrollment or until you complete a bachelor's degree.

REMEMBER

- Deadlines!!!
- Too good to be true?
- Ask for help!
- Deadlines

Helpful Resources

https://studentaid.gov/

Your prospective school's financial aid website

Wayne Student Services Center

330-684-8900

WayneSSC@uakron.edu

https://uakron.edu/finaid/

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Questions?