

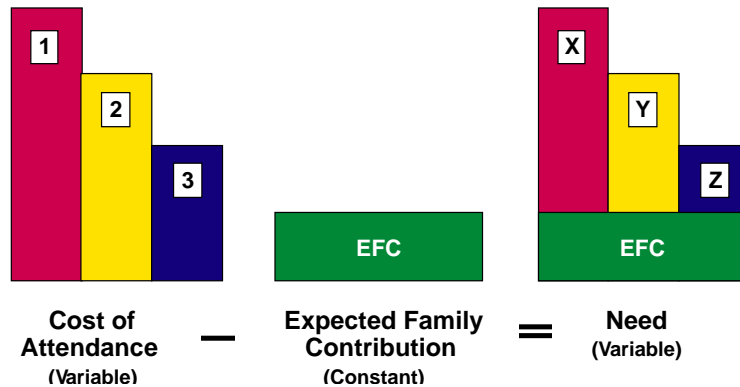
# FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION

## How Does This Work?

The FAFSA will determine your Expected Family Contribution (EFC).

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Cost of Attendance (COA)} \\ & - \text{Expected Family Contribution (EFC)} \\ & = \text{Eligibility for need-based financial aid} \end{aligned}$$

The COA is different at each school, but a student's EFC stays the same. A student's need will vary from school to school.



## What Should I Do and When Should I Do It?

- Apply for scholarships now. Continue to search and apply for scholarships.
- Apply for admission to your school(s) of choice.
- Apply for your PIN number.
- Complete the FAFSA (each year) as soon as possible after January 1.
- Review your Student Aid Report (SAR) for accuracy.
- Respond if your school requests more information. You may be selected for verification and asked to submit copy of federal tax form(s).
- Respond to financial aid award notice and complete any loan promissory notes.
- If awarded work-study, obtain work-study job and begin working once school begins.

## How Do I Apply For Aid?

- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) – [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)
  - Completing and processing the FAFSA are **free!**
  - Apply for a PIN so you can sign it electronically – [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov)
  - Contact your school's financial aid office if you need help.
- Complete school financial aid application (if required)
- Meet application deadlines
- Apply for scholarships
- Contact your financial aid administrator if you have special circumstances

## Avoid These Common Application Errors

- Put your name and SSN on FAFSA exactly how it appears on your social security card.
- Refer to completed federal income tax return and consult instructions for proper line references.
- If entry is zero or none, enter 0. Don't leave blank.
- Enter school code(s).
- Student and one parent must both sign dependent student's FAFSA.

## What Makes a Student "Independent"?

- At least 24 years old
- Married
- In Graduate or Professional School
- On active duty or a Veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces
- Have children or other dependents who receive at least half their support from student.
- Orphan, in foster care or ward of the court after age 13, emancipated minor, homeless unaccompanied youth

**Apply after January 1 at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)**

# Types of Financial Aid

## Grants

- **Pell Grant** – Need-based award with annual awards ranging from \$523 - \$4,731.
- **Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG)** – Must have completed rigorous secondary curriculum, GPA requirement. Freshman/Sophomore award range from \$750 - \$1,300.
- **National SMART (Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent) Grant** – Must be enrolled in a degree program in one of the following academic fields – computer science, critical foreign language, engineering, life science, mathematics, physical science, and technology. Junior/Senior grant award up to \$4,000.
- **Federal SEOG Grant** – Limited funding with priority given to students with exceptional need. Annual awards range from \$100 - \$4,000.
- **Minnesota State Grant** – Must be a Minnesota resident enrolled at an eligible Minnesota school. Awarded to students from low and moderate income families. Annual awards range from \$100- \$8,661.
- **Minnesota Achieve Scholarship** – Must be a Minnesota resident who completes a rigorous high school curriculum and has family income of less than \$75,000. One-time \$1,200 grant.
- **Institutional Grants** – College or university funds awarded to students.

## More Information

- U.S. Department of Education: [www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov) and [www.college.gov](http://www.college.gov)
- MN Office of Higher Education: [www.ohe.state.mn.us](http://www.ohe.state.mn.us)
- Internet System for Education and Employment Knowledge: [www.iseek.org](http://www.iseek.org)
- Finaid – The Financial Aid Information Page: [www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org)
- FastWEB scholarship search: [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)

## Scholarships

- **Where to look** – Web, library, high school guidance counselor's office or career center, in the community, your college of choice.
- **Help With Avoiding Scams** – Minnesota Attorney General's Office, Federal Trade Commission, U.S. Department of Education

## Loans

- **Federal Perkins Loan** – 5% interest, no fees; interest and repayment begins nine months after school
- **Federal Stafford/Direct Loan** – Fixed interest rate at 6% subsidized, 6.8% unsubsidized; 0-2% fee; repayment begins six months after school. \$5,500 first year max.
  - **Subsidized:** no interest charged while in school
  - **Unsubsidized:** interest accrues while in school-can be deferred
- **Federal PLUS Loan for parents of dependent students** – Fixed interest rate of 7.9% at Direct lending schools and 8.5% at FFEL schools, 2.5 - 4% fee; repayment may be deferred until six months after school. Max of COA less FA.
- **Minnesota SELF Loan** – Variable interest rate, 3rd Qtr. '08 = 5.8%; no fees; quarterly interest payments required while in school; repayment begins after school; requires credit worthy co-signer. \$7,500 annual max.
- **Alternative/Private Loans** – Terms & rates vary by lender.

## Work Study

- Part-time student employment
- Earnings paid to student
- Work-study earnings not included when determining EFC on next year's FAFSA

## Other Resources

- **Reciprocity programs** – Wisconsin, North and South Dakota, Manitoba. MSEP: Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska
- **Federal tax benefits for higher education** – Deduction for Qualified Education Expenses, Employer Paid Tuition Assistance, Hope and Lifetime Learning Tax Credits, Student Loan Interest Deduction
- **Other Government Programs** – Americorps Program, Bureau of Indian Affairs Grants, Dislocated Worker Programs, ROTC Scholarships and/or Stipends, Veterans Benefits, Vocational Rehabilitation Programs

**Get free help completing your FAFSA. Times and locations at: [MNCollegeGoalSunday.org](http://MNCollegeGoalSunday.org)**