

Steps to a College Choice

When exploring colleges, should cost be the primary consideration? Important as the cost is, minimizing or ignoring other considerations can be a mistake. Students who choose a college that fits them and their abilities, that challenges them academically, and who pursue a major or course of study that inspires and motivates them are more likely to finish college and earn a degree.

What can students do to increase their chances of attending a college that is both a perfect match and affordable?

► Learn about the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Completing the FAFSA qualifies students and their families for federal loans (which typically have lower interest rates than private loans) and is required for most forms of financial aid. For an early estimate of eligibility for federal student aid, visit the FAFSA4caster at <http://federalstudentaid.ed.gov/students.html>.

► Research as many scholarships as possible. In addition to need-based and merit scholarships and grants, search for scholarships that

fit a student's particular interests and talents. Even small scholarships or grants can add up.

► Research and visit colleges and universities near home. A student attending a college that is not far from home can save money by living at home or save on travel costs if living on campus. New York State's 100+ independent colleges and universities are located in nearly every region of New York State.

► Take a course or attend a workshop on personal finance. Middle schools, high schools, and community centers are increasingly offering information on money management and presenting financial aid nights for students and their families that offer advice on saving and budgeting for college.

► Learn about part-time jobs at colleges. In addition to federal work-study programs, there are often other employment opportunities on campus.

► Seek out as many credible sources of information about college as possible. Media stories about student debt or first-generation students who get scholarships and grants that pay for everything at a highly selective institution can be inspiring – or in the case of debt – frightening – but they are certainly not reliable guides to follow when planning for college.

Sources:
Sandy Baum and Michael McPherson, "Get Smart About College," *The Wall Street Journal*, September 19, 2011, <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB100001424053111904332804576538312219660354.html>; Becky Supiano, "Top Ten Myths About Scholarships," *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, September 23, 2011, http://chronicle.com/blogs/headcount/top-ten-myths-about-scholarships/28862?sid=pm&utm_source=pm&utm_medium=en.

GoCollegeNY.org



GoCollegeNY.org is a new Web site designed especially for under-represented groups and students at risk of not attending college to provide encouragement and develop the skills and preparation to pursue a college education.

GoCollegeNY.org features informative and entertaining videos, an interactive workbook and other tools to help high school students along every step of the way toward the goal of attending college.

At **GoCollegeNY.org**, students will:

- Understand the advantages of completing high school and getting a college education.
- Learn step-by-step what to do freshman year through senior year of high school.
- Learn how to prepare for the SAT and/or ACT.
- Get help discovering their interests, exploring careers and finding the right college.
- Be guided through the steps of applying to college.
- Become familiar with the financial aid process and how to pay for college.
- Be inspired by videos about students who also overcame their challenges and attended college.

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Grants and Scholarships

Scholarships and grants are forms of student aid that, unlike loans, do not have to be repaid. Hundreds of thousands of scholarships are awarded each year. Here are 5 tips on how to begin your scholarship search:

- 1) Practice your writing skills as many scholarships require the student to submit an essay.
- 2) Start searching for scholarships early in high school. Don't wait until late in your senior year of high school.
- 3) Use a free online scholarship search service such as FinAid! or FastWeb!. The College Board and New York State Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC) also offer
- 4) Look for local scholarships at your school's guidance office, on school bulletin boards, at your local library, in your local newspaper, and through community organizations.
- 5) Apply for every scholarship for which you are eligible.

information about scholarships; see "Scholarship Search Resources" below.

Scholarship Search Resources

GoCollegeNY!

<http://GoCollegeNY.org/>

Sponsored by NYS Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC) and funded by the federal College Access Challenge Grant (CACG) program, this site is designed to help students to prepare to attend and succeed in college. Students can also learn about the different types of financial aid and how to search for scholarships.

College Board Scholarship Search

http://apps.collegeboard.com/cbsearch_ss/welcome.jsp

Students can complete an online questionnaire that helps them find scholarships suited to their academic achievements, talents, and backgrounds from a database of more than 2,300 sources offering a total of nearly \$3 billion in financial aid.

ACT

www.actstudent.org/finaid/grantsandscholarships.html

ACT offers advice on how to search and apply for scholarships and grants along with links to a number of financial aid resources.

FastWeb!

www.fastweb.com/

With links to information about more than 1.5 million scholarships worth more than \$3.4 billion, this site offers a large and frequently-updated database. Students can register and search for scholarships suited to their individual backgrounds and aspirations.

Federal Student Aid: Grants

<http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/grants.jsp>

<http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/spanish/grants.jsp>

This page provides links to information on a number of federal grants, money that, as with scholarships, does not have to be repaid. Awards include the Pell Grant (maximum award: \$5,550), the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (\$100 to \$4,000), and the Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education Grant (TEACH).

Federal Student Aid: Scholarship Search

<https://studentaid2.ed.gov/getmoney/scholarship/>

At this site, students can estimate college costs, search for scholarships, and locate scholarships that match their particular interests and accomplishments.

FinAid!

www.finaid.org

A portal with links to comprehensive information about scholarships, loans, college savings plans, and other types of financial aid.

Hispanic College Fund (HCF)

www.hispanicfund.org/

The Hispanic College Fund is a nonprofit organization with a goal of developing the next generation of Hispanic professionals. The HCF offers scholarships, advisory phone calls to college students, and webinars on

such topics as time management, the high school to college transition, and networking.

Hispanic Scholarship Fund

www.hsf.net/

The HSF has awarded more than \$335 million in scholarships and has supported programs to help Latinos attend and complete college.

New York State Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC)

www.hesc.org

This site offers information on New York State grants and scholarships, among them the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP), NYS Aid for Part Time Study, Military Service Recognition Scholarships, NYS Scholarships for Academic Excellence, and NYS Aid to Native Americans. There are also links to information about other types of financial aid, such as the 529 College Savings Program.

UNCF (United Negro College Fund)

www.uncf.org/forstudents/scholarship.asp

This page offers tools that students can use to search all scholarship programs administered by UNCF. Students fill in the state(s) where they attend or hope to attend college, their major, their SAT score, and other information about themselves to find scholarships that fit their needs, qualifications, and interests.

Grants and Scholarships from NYS Independent Colleges and Universities

New York's independent colleges and universities are committed to helping students and their families. In addition to state and federal aid, each year independent colleges award more than \$3.2 billion dollars of their own money in the form of grants and scholarships. Aid from a college may range up to \$40,000, and sometimes more per year, covering all or part of tuition, fees and other related costs. Eligibility is

determined primarily by financial need as calculated from the financial aid forms you complete (need-based awards). Colleges may also take into account academic achievement, or talent in music, athletics or other fields (merit awards). Check with the financial aid office at each college or university you are interested in to determine which forms you need to complete to be considered for all need-based and merit-based aid. Be sure to meet the deadlines!

Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP) at New York's Independent Colleges and Universities

The Arthur O. Eve Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP) is available at many independent college and universities (a similar program exists at SUNY and CUNY institutions). It is a program funded jointly by the participating colleges and universities and the State of New York. HEOP provides financial assistance and supportive services such as academic tutoring and personal and educational counseling to New York State

students who, because of academic and economic circumstances, would otherwise be unable to attend college. For additional information about HEOP, visit www.highered.nysed.gov/kiap/colldev/HEOP/. The colleges and universities listed below have HEOP programs on their campuses. For more information about their programs, contact the college's admissions office or the HEOP office.

Alfred University
(607) 871-2283
Bard College
(845) 758-7491
Barnard College
(212) 854-3583
Boricia College
(212) 694-1000 Ext. 608
Canisius College of Buffalo
(716) 888-2575
Cazenovia College
(315) 655-7161
Clarkson University
(315) 268-7974
Colgate University
(315) 228-7375
The College of Saint Rose
(518) 454-5280
Columbia University: Columbia College & School of Engineering & Applied Science
(212) 854-7052
Cornell University
(607) 255-6384
Daemen College
(716) 839-8249 or 839-8255
Dowling College
(631) 244-3262 or 244-3263
D'Youville College
(716) 881-7775
Fordham University: College at Lincoln
(212) 636-6238 or 636-6235
Fordham University: Rose Hill Campus
(716) 817-4205
Hamilton College
(315) 859-4399 or 859-4398
Hobart & William Smith Colleges
(315) 781-3319

Hofstra University
(516) 463-6982 or 463-6976
Ithaca College
(607) 274-3381
LeMoyne College
(315) 445-4190
Long Island University Brooklyn Campus
(718) 488-1043
Long Island University C.W. Post Campus
(516) 299-2241 or 299-2397
Manhattan College
(718) 862-8000 Ext 7958
Marist College
(845) 575-3204
Marymount Manhattan College
(212) 517-0591 or 517-0592
Mercy College
(914) 674-7212
Molloy College
(516) 678-5000 Ext 6241
Mount Saint Mary College
(845) 569-3245
Nazareth College
(585) 389-2513
The New School
(212) 229-8996
New York Institute of Technology-Manhattan Center
(212) 261-1545
New York University
(212) 998-5670
Niagara University
(716) 286-8068
Nyack College
(845) 358-1710 Ext. 560
Paul Smith's College
(518) 327-6480

Polytechnic University
(718) 260-3031
Pratt Institute
(718) 636-3524
Rochester Institute of Technology
(585) 475-2221 or 475-6617
Russell Sage College
(518) 244-2208
Sage College of Albany
(518) 292-1764
St. Bonaventure University
(716) 375-2402 or 375-2404
St. John Fisher College
(585) 385-8036
St. Lawrence University
(315) 229-5580
St. Thomas Aquinas College
(845) 398-4026
Siena College
(518) 783-2335
Skidmore College
(518) 580-5770
Syracuse University
(315) 443-3867 or 443-4260
Syracuse University Continuing Education
(315) 443-3261
Trocaire College
(716) 827-2476
Union College
(518) 388-6115
University of Rochester
(585) 275-0651
Utica College
(315) 792-3209
Vaughn College of Aeronautics & Technology
(718) 429-6600 Ext 160

Affording College/Cómo pagar la universidad now available!



Affording College and its Spanish equivalent *Cómo pagar la universidad* are concise guides to the financial aid process that include a locator map and contact information for

New York's 100+ private colleges and universities. The new editions are available for free download at www.nycolleges.org/resources.php. A limited number of print copies are available. To order, e-mail outreach@cicu.org.



The official Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form is found at www.FAFSA.gov. Remember, the first F in FAFSA stands for – free – so be sure to use the official government site to submit your application.

Visit www.studentaid.ed.gov/completefafsa/ to learn how to complete either the paper or online FAFSA.

You and your parent will need a PIN to file your FAFSA online. If your FAFSA application contains parent information, at least one parent whose information is provided must also sign with their own unique PIN. Remember, the PIN is your electronic signature and provides access to your personal Federal Student Aid records. Do not share your PIN with anyone! To obtain a PIN, visit www.pin.ed.gov.

If you or your parent(s) have any questions about the FAFSA process, contact the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243)

Private Scholarships to Explore

Grant/Scholarship	Eligibility Age/Grade	Description	Award Range
AIA/AAF Minority Disadvantaged Scholarship Program www.aia.org/education/AIAB081881	12th grade; 1st year of college; transfer from community college	Renewable scholarship for minority students of architecture with financial need	\$3,000 to \$4,000 per year
AICPA Scholarship for Minority Accounting Students www.aicpa.org/Career/DiversityInitiatives/Pages/smas.aspx	College students	Renewable scholarship for minority students of accounting	\$3,000 per year
Alpha Kappa Alpha Scholarships www.akaaf.org/undergraduate_scholarships.htm#merit	2nd year of college or beyond	One-time scholarship open to college students	Varies
American Chemical Society (ACS) Scholarships www.acs.org	12th grade; 1st, 2nd, and 3rd years of college	Renewable scholarship for African-American, Latino, and Native American students of chemistry	Up to \$5,000 per year
American Indian Graduate Center Scholarships www.aigc.com/Home.aspx	11th and 12th grades; college students	Scholarships for Native American students	Varies
American Meteorological Society (AMS) Minority Scholarships www.ametsoc.org/amsstudentinfo/scholfeldocs/industryminorityscholarship.html	12th grade; 1st year of college	Two-year renewable scholarship for Latino, Native American, and Black students of atmospheric sciences	\$3,000 per year in 1st and 2nd year of college
American Meteorological Society (AMS) Freshman Undergraduate Scholarship www.ametsoc.org/amsstudentinfo/scholfeldocs/freshundergradscholarhip.html	12th grade; 1st year of college	Two-year renewable scholarship for students of atmospheric sciences	\$2,500 per year in 1st and 2nd year of college
American Nuclear Society (ANS) Scholarships www.new.ans.org/honors/scholarships/	12th grade; 1st, 2nd, and 3rd years of college	Renewable scholarship for students of nuclear engineering except for one-time Incoming Freshman Scholarship	\$1,000 and up per year
American Physical Society (APS) Minority Scholarship www.aps.org/programs/minorities/honors/scholarship/	12th grade; 1st, and 2nd years of college	Renewable scholarship for Black, Latino, and Native American students of physics	\$2,000 to \$3,000 per year
Asian and Pacific Islander American Scholarships http://apiasf.org/scholarship_apiasf.html	12th grade	Renewable scholarship for Asian-American and Pacific Islander-American students	\$2,500 to \$5,000 per year
AXA Achievement Scholarship www.axa-equitable.com/axa-foundation/AXA-achievement-scholarship.html	12th grade	One-time scholarship open to high school students	\$10,000 to \$25,000
Boy Scouts of America Scholarships www.scouting.org/About/FactSheets/scholarships.aspx	12th grade	One-time and renewable scholarships open to students who are Boy Scouts	Varies
Brower Youth Awards www.broweryouthawards.org/	Ages 13 to 22	One-time grant open to students living in North America	\$3,000
Brown and Caldwell Minority Scholarships www.browncaldwell.com/Scholarships.asp?id=1	3rd year of college; post-graduate students	Renewable scholarship open to minority students of civil, chemical, or environmental engineering	\$3,000 per year
Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI) Scholarships www.chci.org/scholarships/	Community college and 4-year college students; post-graduate students	One-time scholarship open to Latino students	\$1,000 to \$5,000
Earl Warren Scholarships for Law Students http://naacpldf.org/earl-warren-scholarships	College graduate planning to attend law school	Renewable scholarship open to law students	\$3,000 per year
The Garden Club of America (GCA) Scholarships www2.gcamerica.org/outreach-scholarships.cfm	Varies depending on scholarship	One-time and renewable scholarships open to students of botany and related fields	Varies
Gates Millennium Scholars www.gmsp.org/	12th grade	Renewable scholarship open to minority students	Varies depending on financial need of student
Girl Scouts of America www.girlscouts.org/gs_central/scholarships/default.asp	12th grade	One-time and renewable scholarships open to students who are Girl Scouts	Varies
Have It Your Way Foundation/Burger King Scholars Program www.haveityourwayfoundation.org/bksp_faq.html	Employees of Burger King who are in 12th grade or older	One-time award	Up to \$1,000

Grant/Scholarship	Eligibility Age/Grade	Description	Award Range
The Herbert Lehman Education Fund Scholarship http://naacpldf.org/herbert-lehman-education-fund-scholarship	12th grade; high school graduate; 1st year of college	Renewable scholarship open to students planning to attend a 4-year college or university	\$2,000 per year
The Jackie Robinson Foundation Scholarship Program www.jackierobinson.org/apply/application.php	12th grade	Renewable scholarship open to minority students	Up to \$7,500 per year
Jack Kent Cooke Young Scholars Program www.jkcf.org/scholarships/young-scholars-program/	7th grade	Renewable aid for students with strong academic records	Varies depending on financial need of student
Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarships www.jkcf.org/scholarships/undergraduate-transfer-scholarships/	Community college students transferring to a 4-year institution	Renewable scholarship for 2 to 3 years	Up to \$30,000 per year
KFC Colonel's Scholars http://kfc-scholars.org/	12th grade	Renewable scholarship open to high school students	Up to \$5,000 per year
McDonald's Scholarships for Employees www.aboutmcdonalds.com/mcd/student_zone/scholarships.html	12th grade	One-time award open to students employed by McDonald's	\$2,500 to \$5,000
Microsoft Scholarships for Students of Computer Science http://careers.microsoft.com/careers/en/us/internships-scholarships.aspx	College students	One-time scholarships for outstanding students, women, minorities, and students with disabilities	Varies
NAACP Scholarships http://uncf.org/forstudents/scholarship.asp	12th grade through college, depending on scholarship	Varies, depending on scholarship	Varies
National Action Committee for Minorities in Engineering Pre-Engineering Student Scholarships www.nacmebackme.org/NBM_C.aspx?pageid=153	12th grade	One-time scholarship for Latino, African-American, and Native American students planning to study engineering	\$1,500
Project Vision/Proyecto Vision Scholarships for Students with Disabilities www.proyectovision.net/english/opportunities/scholarships.html	Varies, depending on scholarship	Varies, depending on scholarship	Varies
Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) Scholarships: U.S. Air Force www.afrotc.com/scholarships/	12th grade	Renewable scholarship; student promises to serve in U.S. Air Force for specified term	Varies, but can cover tuition, books, college fees, and other expenses
ROTC Scholarships: U.S. Army www.goarmy.com/rotc/scholarships.html	12th grade	Renewable scholarship; student promises to serve in U.S. Army for specified term	Varies, but can cover tuition, books, college fees, and other expenses
ROTC Scholarships: U.S. Marine Corps www.nrotc.navy.mil/marine.aspx	12th grade	Renewable scholarship; student promises to serve in U.S. Marine Corps for specified term	Varies, but can cover tuition, books, college fees, and other expenses
ROTC Scholarships: U.S. Navy www.navy.com/joining/education-opportunities/nrotc.html	12th grade	Renewable scholarship; student promises to serve in U.S. Navy for specified term	Varies, but can cover tuition, books, college fees, and other expenses
Ron Brown Scholar Program www.ronbrown.org/Apply/EligibilityRequirements.aspx	12th grade	Renewable scholarship for African-American high school students	\$10,000 per year
RMHC (Ronald McDonald House) Scholarships http://rmhc.org/what-we-do/rmhc-u-s-scholarships	12th grade	Renewable scholarships for all students, with 3 designated for Latino, Asian-Pacific-American, and African-American students	Varies; up to \$25,000 per year
Udall Scholarship www.udall.gov/OurPrograms/MKUScholarship/MKUScholarship.aspx	2nd and 3rd year of college	Scholarship renewable for a second year for students committed to career related to environment and Native American students pursuing careers in tribal public policy or health care	Up to \$5,000 per year
W. Wesley Eckenfelder Scholarship www.brownandcaldwell.com/Scholarships.asp?id=2	3rd year of college; post-graduate students	One-time scholarship for engineering students	\$5,000
Whitney M. Young, Jr. Memorial Scholarship www.nyul.org/nyul_scholarships.html	High school graduate or GED recipient entering college	One-time award for Black, Latino, Asian-American, or Native American students living in New York City	\$3,500
Young Naturalist Awards www.amnh.org/nationalcenter/youngnaturalistawards/	7th through 12th grades	One-time award for essays on student science project	\$500 to \$2,500

Six Steps to Financial Aid

Visit www.nycolleges.org, New York's 100+ private colleges and universities' admissions and financial aid Web site.

Choosing where to go to college is an important decision! There will be many options to weigh and choices to make. When you begin considering which colleges to attend, never let "sticker price" stop you from looking at colleges that may be right for you. The key to paying for college is knowing what is available and how to apply for all possible help. Very few students actually pay the full cost of attendance. If you need financial aid to help meet college costs, you are very likely to receive it.

Step 1

Check with each college's financial aid office to determine which forms you need to file to be considered for all types of financial aid. Every college is different. If you intend to file your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online (it's quicker), you and your parent(s) (if you are a dependent student) must apply for your PIN (Personal Identification Number), which serves as your electronic signature for the FAFSA on the Web. For more information, visit www.pin.ed.gov. Don't wait to be accepted to a college before filing an application for financial aid. File as early as possible.

The most important financial aid application forms are:

- **FAFSA** (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) – Everyone applying for federal and most other financial aid must complete this free form. File online at www.fafsa.ed.gov or by mail. To request a paper FAFSA, call 1.800.4.FED.AID.
- **NYS TAP Application** – NYS residents attending a college in NYS use this free form with the FAFSA to apply for a NYS TAP grant and to request payment of NYS scholarship awards. Complete the online TAP application by linking to it directly from your FAFSA Confirmation Page. Even if you use a paper FAFSA, you can still do your TAP application online. You will be prompted to get a NYSHESC PIN (Personal Identification Number) to "sign" your online TAP application. If you don't apply for TAP online you can request an Express TAP Application (ETA) by contacting the New York State Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC) at www.hesc.org or by calling

1.888.NYSHESC. HESC is the state agency that processes the TAP application. The ETA will be pre-filled with information from your FAFSA. If you provide your e-mail address on your FAFSA, HESC will be able to process your TAP application faster. If no e-mail is provided you will be notified by letter.

- **PROFILE** – Some colleges may ask you to file the CSS Financial Aid PROFILE form to be considered for college-funded aid (the college's own grants and scholarships). Visit <https://profileonline.collegeboard.com>. There is a fee for filing this form.
- **College-specific financial aid application** – Some colleges may ask you to complete the college's own financial aid application to be considered for their college-funded grants, scholarships and loans. Check with each college for applications, requirements and deadlines.

Step 2

Complete and mail the FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1 (of your senior year in high school) to ensure that you're considered for all available funding. If your family hasn't yet completed its income tax returns, estimate your family's income as accurately as possible (from end-of-year pay stubs or W-2 forms). You'll have the opportunity to make corrections later in the process. If you're a NYS resident applying to colleges in the state, make sure you include a New York college on your FAFSA to begin application for a NYS TAP grant. Complete any other financial aid forms required by the colleges. It is very important to meet all deadlines and to keep a copy of all the forms you file.

By filing the FAFSA, you will be considered for:

- Grants and scholarships from private colleges and universities (some colleges may require an additional form)
- Federal Pell Grant
- Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG)
- Federal Work-Study (FWS)
- Job programs from private colleges and universities
- Federal Perkins Loan
- Federal Stafford Loan

Step 3

You will receive your Federal Student Aid Report (SAR) via e-mail after submitting your FAFSA on the Web (recommended). If you file the FAFSA by mail, you will receive your SAR in approximately 30 days. A paper SAR acknowledgment will be sent if a valid e-mail address is not provided. Review your SAR's information carefully. Follow the directions to correct any errors.

Step 4

In the spring (usually March or April), you'll receive financial aid "awards" or "packages" from the colleges that have offered you admission, each with a different combination of grants, scholarships, work-study and loans to help you meet college expenses. Determine your "net cost" by subtracting from tuition and fees and room and board (if you're living on campus) all grants and scholarships plus the total amount of your student loans.

Step 5

Review your financial aid award letters and compare your net costs. Decide which college to attend and let the college know by the deadline they have indicated - usually by May 1. Then, review your financial aid with your chosen college. In particular:

- If federal student loans are part of your package, the college will send instructions about the loan application process. You will need to complete and sign a form called the Master Promissory Note (MPN) in order to receive federal student loans (e.g., Stafford Loan funds). Keep track of how much you are borrowing and the loan repayment terms and conditions.
- NYS students attending college in the state: Follow up on your NYS Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) grant. Visit www.hesc.org to review, and if necessary, correct the data on your TAP application.

Step 6

Make sure you know what you need to do to keep your financial aid, such as required grades and coursework. And, you must apply to renew your financial aid each year – on time – or risk losing it! Check your college's deadlines.

FAFSA Filing Pitfalls

by Michele Rizzo, Assistant Director, Student Financial Aid, Canisius College

Filing a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the first time can stress even the most capable student and family. With a bit of organization and patience, the process can be tackled. However, there are several questions on the FAFSA that, when completed incorrectly, can make the process a nightmare.

Here are just a few “pitfalls” that have plagued students over the years, and some ways to avoid them!

► **Missing Deadlines** – Students should take care to contact each school for guidance on FAFSA deadlines. A late application can result in a loss of aid for even the neediest student because funds have been exhausted. Remember that you can ESTIMATE your income on the FAFSA, file in a timely manner and then return after taxes are filed to make corrections. The IRS Data Retrieval Tool on the FAFSA website can make this correction process much easier.

► **Using Incorrect Social Security Numbers/Nicknames** – Remember to check all data that is entered on the FAFSA as this information must successfully match with the school’s records as well as the Social Security Administration, Homeland Security and

Selective Service. Incorrect names and numbers can result in lengthy delays and corrections that are difficult to make.

► **Filing Without a Signature** – Be sure to obtain a federal PIN (Personal Identification Number) for both the student and one parent. This serves as your signature to allow the FAFSA to move through the secure process. A FAFSA with no signature is invalid and can’t be used by a school.

► **Dependency Status** – Some students erroneously list themselves as having a legal guardian when they are actually referring to their parents. Some live with a relative or friend other than parents without the benefit of legal guardianship. These errors result in false claims of independence which can delay the process.

► **Taxes Paid** – Many families complete the “federal taxes paid” with the amount that was withheld from their wages, rather than the actual tax liability. These two amounts can be significantly different and result in an incorrect financial aid award.

► **Parent vs. Student Information** – Each page of the FAFSA online is referenced

on the left-hand side with a banner indicating “Parent” or “Student.” Occasionally, families will confuse the two and list parent income under the student. Always check the banner to reorient yourself as you complete the FAFSA or make corrections.

► **Parent Marital Status** – When a student’s parent has been divorced or widowed, those designations only apply if that parent has not remarried. A parent who is remarried is “married” for purposes of the FAFSA despite the fact that the marriage is to a step-parent.

► **Failing to Re-file Annually** – Remember that a student must re-file the FAFSA each academic year to reflect the new income information. Returning filers are reminded in January that a new application is available for the upcoming year. At the FAFSA Web site www.fafsa.gov, the student is directed to update the required items and submit the form quickly and easily.

The online FAFSA has become more streamlined and user friendly. With online guidance and knowledgeable financial aid administrators just a phone call away, students and their families can avoid the stumbling blocks to achieve a successful FAFSA application process!

Student Loan Repayment and Loan Forgiveness Plans

Always know what you are borrowing and the terms of your loans. There are several repayment calculators on the Web that can help you estimate your payments. For more information about borrowing and repayment, these sites are helpful:

Repayment plans for federal student loans:

www.studentaid.ed.gov/repaying

Repayment plans and calculators:

<http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/OtherFormsOfRepay.jsp>

Repayment plans:

www.finaid.org/loans/repayment.phtml

Interest rates on federal student loans:

www.studentaid.ed.gov/interestrates

Repayment of student loans begins six months after graduation or if the student leaves school or drops below half-time status. Federal PLUS loan and most private loan repayment begins 60 days following disbursement of loan funds unless the borrower requests and is granted a six month deferment. There are several repayment plans available for federal student education loans. Repayment terms, for eligible borrowers, range from 10 to 30 years. Here are some of the options:

Standard Repayment Plan

- Fixed monthly amount for a loan term of up to 10 years
- \$50 minimum monthly payment
- Extended Repayment
- Loan term range from 12 to 30 years, depending on amount borrowed (reduced monthly payments but increased lifetime loan amount)

Graduated Repayment

- Early low payments that slowly increase
- Loan term ranges from 12 to 30 years (depending on amount borrowed)
- Monthly payment is no less than 50% and no more than 150% of what the payment would be under Standard Repayment and at least \$25

Income-Contingent Repayment

- Available only for Direct Loan borrowers
- Payments calculated in relation to borrower’s income, family size and amount borrowed
- 25-year loan term after which remaining balance is discharged
- \$5 minimum monthly payment

Income-Sensitive Repayment

- Some private lenders may offer private (alternative) loan borrowers a repayment plan tied to a percentage of the borrower’s gross monthly income.
- Loan term is 10 years

Income-Based Repayment

- Available for Direct and FFEL loans
- Monthly payments are based on Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) and family size
- 25-year loan term after which remaining balance is discharged

The Public Service Loan Forgiveness program

- Involves the forgiveness of Direct Loan (only Direct Loans) balance after 120 monthly, on-time, full payments for those who work in public service

Loan Consolidation

- Combine one or more of federal student loans with various repayment schedules into one Direct Consolidation Loan with one single monthly payment

New York State Loan Forgiveness Programs

- Loan Forgiveness Programs are available for qualifying District Attorneys and Indigent Legal Services Attorneys, Licensed Social Workers and Nursing Faculty. For more information about eligibility and service requirements, please visit www.hesc.org, click ‘Paying for College’ and then ‘Loan Forgiveness.’



**Visit www.nycollges.org,
New York's 100+ private
colleges and universities'
admissions and financial
aid Web site**

- Find campus locations
- Search the online database to find academic programs offered
- Read campus profiles
- Learn more about financial aid
- Request more information from the colleges
- Download helpful college admission and financial aid awareness publications



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New York's 100+ Private Colleges and Universities

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| <p>Adelphi University
Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences
Albany Law School
Albany Medical College
Alfred University
American Academy McAllister Institute
Bank Street College of Education
Bard College
Barnard College
Boricua College
Bramson ORT College
Canisius College
Cazenovia College
Clarkson University
Cochran School of Nursing
Colgate University
College of Mount Saint Vincent
The College of New Rochelle
The College of Saint Rose
Columbia University
Concordia College
Cooper Union
Cornell University
Crouse Hospital School of Nursing
The Culinary Institute of America
D'Youville College
Daemen College
Dominican College
Dorothea Hopfer School of Nursing
Dowling College
Ellis School of Nursing
Elmira College
Excelsior College
Fei Tian College
Finger Lakes Health College of Nursing
Fordham University
Hamilton College
Hartwick College
Helene Fuld College of Nursing
Hilbert College
Hobart and William Smith Colleges
Hofstra University
Houghton College
Institute of Design and Construction
Iona College
Ithaca College
Keuka College
The King's College
Le Moyne College
Long Island University
Manhattan College
Manhattan School of Music
Manhattanville College
Maria College
Marist College
Marymount Manhattan College
Medaille College</p> | <p>Memorial Hospital School of Nursing
Mercy College
Metropolitan College of New York
Molloy College
Mount Saint Mary College
Nazareth College
The New School
New York Chiropractic College
New York College of Podiatric Medicine
New York Institute of Technology
New York Medical College
New York School of Interior Design
New York University
Niagara University
Nyack College
Pace University
Paul Smith's College
Phillips Beth Israel School of Nursing
Polytechnic Institute of NYU
Pratt Institute
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Richard Gilder Graduate School at the American Museum of Natural History
Roberts Wesleyan College
Rochester Institute of Technology
The Rockefeller University
The Sage Colleges
Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing
Sarah Lawrence College
Siena College
Skidmore College
St. Bonaventure University
St. Elizabeth College of Nursing
St. Francis College
St. John Fisher College
St. John's University
St. Joseph's College
St. Joseph's College of Nursing at St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center
St. Lawrence University
St. Thomas Aquinas College
Syracuse University
Touro College
Trocaire College
Union College
Union Graduate College
University of Rochester
Utica College
Vassar College
Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology
Villa Maria College of Buffalo
Wagner College
Watson School of Biological Sciences at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory
Webb Institute
Wells College
Yeshiva University</p> |
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