



FAFSA

IS FOR

YOU

\$111
MILLION
GOES TO
WASTE
IF YOU
DON'T
CLAIM IT

WHAT IS FAFSA?

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) is how students qualify for federal grants, state aid (Ohio College Opportunity Grants for example) and many college scholarships. Some colleges in Ohio even provide free tuition for any student who completes the FAFSA and qualifies for Pell.

WHO CAN HELP ME?

Most students complete the FAFSA with help from parents. School counselors are another key resource. Because the FAFSA requires certain tax filing information, some tax experts may be helpful. The State of Ohio offers a preparation checklist and resources for students and parents at itsforyou.org.

HOW MUCH WILL I GET?

Regardless of institution, students can qualify for up to **\$6,895** in Pell grants as well as **\$2,700** in Ohio College Opportunity Grant funding (for a total of **\$9,595 combined**) or more. Awards depend on household income, enrollment status and institution, so please ask your specific financial aid office(s) for an estimate or summary. Please note: some colleges recently decided to offer **free tuition** to any student who completes the FAFSA and qualifies for Pell – a value approaching **\$12,000 per year**.

COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS



Can I apply for FAFSA if I am going to school for a trade?

YES

Every year there are many Ohio students who complete the FAFSA and get funding for career training.



Should I complete the FAFSA if I haven't been accepted to college yet?

YES

Don't wait to complete the FAFSA. It can help you decide which college makes the most sense for you, based on the resources available.



Should I apply even if I already have a plan to pay for school?

YES

By completing the FAFSA you may have access to grants, which don't need to be repaid, or to some of the best loan options out there.



Make the process easier

CHECKLIST

- Your Social Security number
- Your parent's Social Security number
- Your driver's license number if you have one
- Your Alien Registration number if you are not a U.S. citizen
- Federal tax information or tax returns
- Records of your untaxed income
- Information on cash and savings FSA 10 if eligible to have one