

# Filing the FAFSA & CSS Profile®

**Presented by:**

**The NHHEAF Network Organizations'  
Center for College Planning**

**1.888.7.GRADUATE x119**

**[www.nhheaf.org](http://www.nhheaf.org) • [collegeplanning@nhheaf.org](mailto:collegeplanning@nhheaf.org)**



# The Center for College Planning

## *A Free Resource for New Hampshire Students and Parents*

- Free Financial Aid Counseling
- College Planning Library – Concord
- Monthly e-newsletters
- Special Events and Programs  
[www.nhheaf.org/events.asp](http://www.nhheaf.org/events.asp)
- Presentations to NH K-12 schools



# Agenda

- Understanding Financial Aid Philosophy
- Applying for Financial Aid
- FAFSA Overview
- CSS Profile® Overview
- Putting Together the Award Package
- Managing the Cost of Post-Secondary Education
- Searching for Scholarships
- Resources



# Goal of Financial Aid

## Financial Aid Philosophy:

While financial aid can make college more affordable, parents & students are expected to take *primary responsibility* for paying for post-secondary education.

## Primary Goal:

To assist students in paying for college.

## Achieved by:

- Evaluating a family's ability to pay for educational costs.
- Distributing limited resources in an equitable manner.
- Providing a balance of gift aid and self-help aid.



# Application Forms

- **FAFSA** (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)  
[www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)
- **CSS Profile**<sup>®</sup>  
[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)
- **Institutional Form**

In order to ensure maximum consideration for federal, state & institutional aid, check with each school to determine:

- All required application forms
- Application deadlines



# Comparing the Forms

## FAFSA

- About 100 questions
- Free to file
- Online or paper filing
- Income Driven
  - Tax Return – 1040, 1040A or 1040EZ
  - Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) of both the student and parent(s)
- **Asset Information**
  - Asset protection for parents
- **Special Circumstances**
  - Can't be reported on FAFSA, must talk with each school separately

## CSS Profile®

- About 300 questions
- Charged a fee to file
- Online filing only
- **Income Information**
  - Same as for FAFSA
- Asset Driven
  - Home Equity & Retirement Savings
  - Assets in sibling's name
  - Prior Year & Future Year Income (est.)
- **Special Circumstances**
  - Open narrative box to add your own information or circumstances

# FAFSA Overview



# Never Pay To File The FAFSA!

Completing and processing the FAFSA is  
FREE.

If filing FAFSA on the Web, go directly to:  
**[www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) or [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov)**

## CAUTION

Avoid being charged a fee to file the FAFSA

**CCP is Here to Help!**  
Contact the Center for College Planning @  
**888.7.GRADUATE x119**  
for free assistance in completing the FAFSA.



# FAFSA

## *Free Application for Federal Student Aid*

### **The Goal of the FAFSA:**

To collect a family's personal and financial information to calculate the student's *Expected Family Contribution* or EFC.

**The EFC** is the amount of money, as determined by federal methodology, that represents the family's ability to pay for one year of college.



# FAFSA on the Web

[www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

- 1 Before Beginning a FAFSA
- 2 Filling Out a FAFSA
- 3 FAFSA Follow-Up

## Special Announcements

[Updated information available for the new TEACH grant.](#)

Looking for an early start on the financial aid process?



You can use FAFSA4caster to learn about the financial aid process and get an early estimate of your eligibility for federal student aid.

[Link to FAFSA4caster](#)

## Federal Student Aid FAFSA

[English](#) | [Español](#)

We have simplified the process of filling out the FAFSA. You can follow each section all of the way through for a comprehensive set of instructions.

### 1 Before Beginning a FAFSA

Get organized!  
To simplify the application process, gather required documents and other information ahead of time.

- [Determine Your Dependency Status](#)
- [FAFSA on the Web Worksheet](#)
- [Search for School Codes](#)
- [Students & Parents Apply For a PIN](#)
- [Check Application Deadline Dates](#)

### 2 Filling Out a FAFSA

Fill out the application!  
The FAFSA contains questions that ask about you, your financial information, your school plans, and more.

- [Fill Out Your FAFSA](#)
- [Open Your Saved FAFSA or Correction Application](#)
- [Sign Electronically With Your PIN](#)

### 3 FAFSA Follow-Up

View your results online!  
You can check the status of your application, make corrections to a processed FAFSA, and get other information.

- [Check Status of a Submitted FAFSA or Print Signature Page](#)
- [Make Corrections to a Processed FAFSA](#)
- [Add or Delete a School Code](#)
- [View and Print Your Student Aid Report](#)

#### FAFSA ALERTS:

##### FAFSA Deadlines:

Submit 2009-2010 FAFSA on the Web Applications by **midnight Central Daylight time**, June 30, 2010. [More»](#)

State deadlines are normally much earlier than Federal deadlines. To find your state's deadline, select [state deadlines](#).

#### Scheduled Maintenance:

FAFSA on the Web will be unavailable every Sunday from 5 a.m. to 11 a.m. (Eastern Time). We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. [More»](#)

A paper application may be ordered by calling the Department of Ed  
**800-4-FED-AID**



# Getting Ready to File

Starting January 1, 2010  
you can print out a worksheet  
to help you prepare for the  
questions ahead of time.

## Before Beginning a FAFSA

**Get organized!**  
To simplify the application  
process, gather required  
documents and other  
information ahead of time.

- [Determine Your Dependency Status](#)
- [FAFSA on the Web Worksheet](#)
- [Search for School Codes](#)
- [Students & Parents Apply For a PIN](#)
- [Check Application Deadline Codes](#)



2010–2011

FAFSA ON THE WEB WORKSHEET  
[www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov)



## DO NOT MAIL THIS WORKSHEET.

You must complete and submit a *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA) to apply for federal student aid and to apply for most state and college aid. Applying online with *FAFSA on the Web* at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov) is faster and easier than using a paper FAFSA.

This worksheet has been designed to provide a preview of the questions that you may be asked on *FAFSA on the Web*. Write down notes to help you easily complete your FAFSA anytime after January 1, 2010.

See the table to the right for state deadlines. Check with your high school counselor or your college's financial aid administrator about other deadlines.

- This Worksheet is optional and should only be completed if you plan to use *FAFSA on the Web*.

### STATE AID DEADLINES

Check with your financial aid administrator for these states and territories:

AL, AS \*, AZ, CO, FM \*, GA, GU \*, HI \*, MH \*, MP \*, NC, NE, NM, NV \*, PR, PW \*, SD \*, TX \*, UT, VA \*, VI \*, VT \*, WA, WI and WY \*.

**Pay attention to the symbols that may be listed after your state deadline.**

AK	April 15, 2010 (date received)
AR	Academic Challenge - June 1, 2010 (date received) Workforce Grant - Contact the financial aid office. Higher Education Opportunity Grant - June 1, 2010 (fall term) (date received) - November 1, 2010 (spring term) (date received)
CA	Initial awards - March 2, 2010 + * Additional community college awards - September 2, 2010 (date postmarked) + *
CT	February 15, 2010 (date received) # *
DC	June 30, 2010 (date received by state) # *
DE	April 15, 2010 (date received)
FI	May 15, 2010 (date processed)



# Documents You Need

- ✓ **Social Security Numbers & Birthdates** for both the parent(s) and student
- ✓ **2009 Tax Return** use 2008 if you have not completed your 2009 tax return yet
- ✓ **All W-2 forms or last paystubs for 2009** for both the parent(s) and student
- ✓ **Balance(s) of checking & savings accounts** for both the parent(s) and student
- ✓ **Balance(s) of all non-retirement investments** such as: money markets, mutual funds, CD's, stocks, savings bonds, 529 college savings accounts, trusts, UGMA or UTMA accounts (DO NOT include IRA's, 401k or 403b etc.)
- ✓ **Value of any property OTHER THAN YOUR PRIMARY RESIDENCE** If you own any property(s) IN ADDITION to the home that you live in (i.e. a vacation home, rental property, camp, time share etc.) you need to calculate the equity (current value *minus* what you owe) of the EXTRA property(s).
- ✓ **A list of all the schools** the student is applying to.



# Register for a PIN

[www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov)

**PIN** - a four digit number used to electronically sign the FAFSA

## Tips:

- You can get your PIN in “Real Time”.
- Both the student and one parent need a PIN.
- Use the name on your Social Security Card to sign up for your PIN.
- If you already have a PIN, use the same one.

The screenshot shows the Federal Student Aid PIN website. At the top left is the Department of Education logo with the text "START HERE GO FURTHER FEDERAL STUDENT AID". To the right is the text "Federal Student Aid PIN". Below this is a navigation bar with links: "PIN Home", "Help", "Contact Us", "FAQs", and "About Us". The main content area features a large heading "Welcome to the Federal Student Aid PIN Web site" with a blue dot graphic. Below the heading is a paragraph: "This Web site is your source of information for the Federal Student Aid PIN. Your PIN can be used each year to electronically apply for federal student aid and to access your U.S. Department of Education records online. If you receive a PIN, you agree to not disclose or share your PIN with anyone. Your PIN serves as your electronic signature and provides access to your personal records. You should never give your PIN to anyone, including commercial services that offer to help you complete your FAFSA. Be sure to keep your PIN in a safe place." To the right of this text is a blue box titled "Apply For a PIN" with the text "The PIN Application is for students and parents to apply for a new Federal Student Aid PIN." and a blue button labeled "APPLY NOW". On the left side of the page is a vertical menu with the following items: "Apply For A PIN", "Check PIN Status", "Request A Duplicate PIN", "Change My PIN", "Update My Personal Information", "Disable My PIN", "Reestablish My PIN", and "Activate My PIN". Below the menu is a section titled "Helpful Links" with two links: "Student Aid on the Web" (Information you will need to receive aid for school. Go ») and "Links to Federal Student Aid Electronic Services".



# Begin Filing

- To begin filing the **FAFSA**, click here and then pick the option 2010-2011 FAFSA
- You can **SAVE** each page as you go. To open a **SAVED** but not submitted FAFSA, click here.
- If you have saved your FAFSA and only need to go back in and **SIGN** and **SUBMIT** it, click here.

## Filling Out a FAFSA 2

Fill out the application!  
The FAFSA contains questions that ask about you, your financial information, your school plans, and more.

- [Fill Out Your FAFSA](#)
- [Open Your Saved FAFSA or Correction Application](#)
- [Sign Electronically With Your PIN](#)



# Asset Information

## Notes for questions 42 and 43 (page 4) and 90 and 91 (page 7)

Net worth means current value minus debt. If net worth is negative, enter 0.

Investments include real estate (do not include the home you live in), trust funds, UGMA and UTMA accounts, money market funds, mutual funds, certificates of deposit, stocks, stock options, bonds, other securities, installment and land sale contracts (including mortgages held), commodities, etc.

Investments also include qualified educational benefits or education savings accounts (e.g. Coverdell savings accounts, 529 college savings plans and the refund value of 529 prepaid tuition plans). For a student who does not report parental information, the accounts owned by the student (and/or the student's spouse) are reported as student investments in question 42. For a student who must report parental information, the accounts are reported as parental investments in question 90, including all accounts owned by the student and all accounts owned by the parents for any member of the household.

Investments do not include the home you live in, the value of life insurance, retirement plans (401[k] plans, pension funds, annuities, non-education IRAs, Keogh plans, etc.) or cash, savings and checking accounts already reported in questions 41 and 89. Investments also do not include UGMA and UTMA accounts for which you are the custodian, but not the owner.

Investment value means the current balance or market value of these investments as of today.

Investment debt means only those debts that are related to the investments

Business and/or investment farm value includes the market value of land, buildings, machinery, equipment, inventory, etc. Business and/or investment farm debt means only those debts for which the business or investment farm was used as collateral. **Business value does not include** the value of a small business if your family owns and controls more than 50 percent of the business and the business has 100 or fewer full-time or full-time equivalent employees. For small business value, your family includes (1) persons directly related to you, such as a parent, sister or cousin, or (2) persons who are or were related to you by marriage, such as a spouse, stepparent or sister-in-law. **Investment farm value does not include** the value of a family farm that you (your spouse and/or your parents) live on and operate.

While the FAFSA is an income-driven form, *some assets* are included in the family's EFC calculation.

Include the net worth of each investment.

DO NOT include your mortgage debt on your primary home or other loan/credit card debt!!!

### NOTE

- 529 college savings accounts for each child are a PARENT Asset
- UGMA and UTMA accounts for the student are a STUDENT Asset

Do not include your primary residence as an asset!

Do not include retirement account balances such as IRA's or 401k/403b's



# Frequently Asked Questions

- When is the deadline to complete the FAFSA?
- How and when can a student be considered independent?
- How do divorced parents file the FAFSA?
- My student has some government savings bonds, how can I find there current value?

[www.savingsbond.gov](http://www.savingsbond.gov)

- This form does not accurately reflect our current situation, how can I communicate that to the colleges?



# FAFSA Processing & Corrections

## If FAFSA was filed online:

- CPS notifies the student of processing results by an e-mail **Student Aid Report** (SAR) if the student's e-mail address was provided.
- Corrections may be made by using "**Corrections on the Web**" or by contacting the college's Financial Aid Office.

## If FAFSA was filed by paper:

- CPS notifies the student by mailing a paper Student Aid Report (SAR)
- Corrections may be made **correcting and mailing back the SAR** or by contacting the college's Financial Aid Office

### FAFSA Follow-Up

3

View your results online! You can check the status of your application, make corrections to a processed FAFSA, and get other information.

- [Check Status of a Submitted FAFSA or Print Signature Page](#)
- [Make Corrections to a Processed FAFSA](#)
- [Add or Delete a School Code](#)
- [View and Print Your Student Aid Report](#)



# CSS Profile<sup>®</sup> Overview



# Does Your School Require The CSS/Profile®?

HELP | STORE | SEARCH: Site Colleges [input] STUDENTS | PARENTS | EDUCATORS

CollegeBoard.com for Students

College Board Tests | Plan for College | Find a College | Apply to College | Pay for College

## Pay for College

Home > Pay for College > CSS/PROFILE

### CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE®

The fast, easy, convenient secure way to apply for financial aid

Welcome to PROFILE, the financial aid application service of the College Board -- a national, not-for-profit membership association whose mission is to connect students to college success and opportunity. Many of the member colleges, universities, graduate and professional schools, and scholarship programs use the information collected on PROFILE to help them award nonfederal student aid funds.

Completing PROFILE Online requires you to have a secure browser and either a valid credit card or checking account.

**NEW for 2009-10** - If you submitted a 2008-09 PROFILE Application and sign in using your user name from last year, we will pre-fill some of your information using last year's application. If you have forgotten your user name or password, click on "PROFILE 2009-2010" below then click on "Forgot your user name?" or "Forgot your password?" and follow the directions.

➤ | **PROFILE 2009-2010** Click here to register for and complete your PROFILE Online Application for 2009 - 2010. You should file this application if you are entering or returning to college in the fall of 2009 or the spring of 2010.

➤ | **PROFILE 2008-2009** Click here to register for and complete your PROFILE Online Application for 2008 - 2009. You should file this application if you are entering or returning to college in the fall of 2008 or the spring of 2009. **The last day to submit a 2008-2009 PROFILE Application is December 9, 2008.**

Click to view the [2009 - 2010 PROFILE Student Guide](#).

Click to view the [list of colleges, universities, and scholarship programs](#) that will use the 2009 - 2010 PROFILE, Noncustodial PROFILE (NCP), and IDOC Services.

Seleccione aquí para ver [2009 - 2010 La Guía del Estudiante](#).

- Check each school's financial aid website
- Check online at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)



# About the CSS Profile®

- You MUST have the student's CollegeBoard USER NAME and PASSWORD in order to file the CSS Profile®
  - Parents can't make their own user name/password, they **MUST** use the student's
  - This is the same **USER NAME** and **PASSWORD** they used to register for the SAT's
- This form can only be filed online
- It is a "Smart Application"
- It is not a "Living Document"
- This form is not free.
  - \$25 for registration and first school
  - \$16 reporting fee for each additional school
  - Fee Waivers are confirmed during registration
- You can not submit the CSS Profile® if your school does not require it



# Documents You Need

## All the TAX and ASSET information you need for the FAFSA

(it may even help to have your completed FAFSA in front of you)

### PLUS...

- ✓ 2008 Tax Information
- ✓ Medical and dental expenses for 2009 and expected for 2010
- ✓ Current market value of all property (including primary home)
- ✓ Monthly mortgage payment (without property tax)
- ✓ Value of all retirement funds
- ✓ Information on all children in family: age & school they are attending  
(if at college you will need – tuition amount, room & board expenses, grants and scholarships they receive and what the family pays each year)
- ✓ Employer information for parent(s)
- ✓ Dependent care expenses

**Note:** Additional supplemental questions may be asked by each school.  
Ex: Make & Model of Cars, Monthly Car Payments, Religious Affiliation



# Ready to Start Registering

1. Go to: [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) and Click on “For Parents”



For Students >>

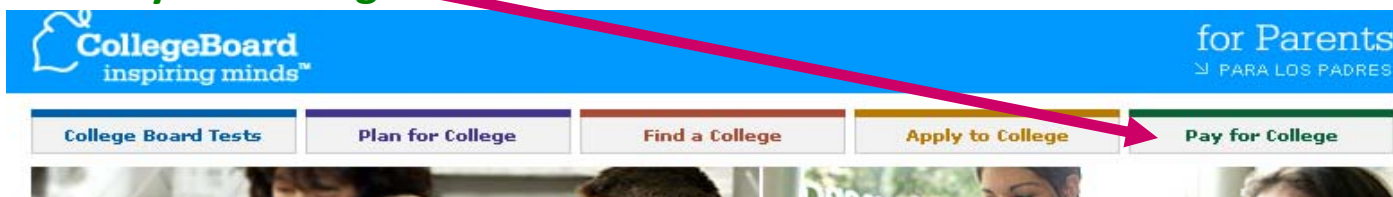


For Parents >>



For Professionals >>

2. Click “Pay For College”



3. Then, on the LEFT side of the screen, under Student Tools, click on “CSS/Profile”

4. On the next screen, click on “Profile 2010-2011”

▼ | PROFILE 2010-11

▼ | PROFILE 2009-10

Click here to register for and complete your PROFILE Online Application for 2010 - 11. You should file this application if you are entering or returning to college in the fall of 2010 or the spring of 2011.  
Click here to register for and complete your PROFILE Online Application for 2009 - 10. You should file this application if you are entering or returning to college in the fall of 2009 or the spring of 2010. **The last day to submit a 2009-10 PROFILE Application is January 17, 2010.**

5. Then use the STUDENT’S Username & Password to login and start registering for the CSS/Profile®



# Frequently Asked Questions

- How do I answer the question in the student section that reads: “How much do your parents expect to contribute to your education for the 2010-2011 academic year?”
- What do I include as “medical/dental expenses” for my family?
- In the parent’s section, can we include property tax as part of the monthly mortgage payment?
- How do schools analyze the information collected on the Profile? How do they view debt?
- What is the Non-Custodial form? Can the non-custodial parent view the custodial parent’s info and vice versa?



# Institutional Application



# Institutional Application

- An extra form used by some colleges to better assess students' and parents' ability to pay for college.
- To determine if a school requires an institutional form, simply go to the school's website or call the financial aid office directly.
- The form must be completed in order to determine eligibility for institutional aid.



# After You Have Filed...



# Role of the Financial Aid Office

- Reviews financial aid applications
- **Verifies information** provided by both students and parents

NOTE: May ask for copies of tax return and W-2's

- Determines student's eligibility for federal, state and institutional financial aid
- Packages aid and mails or e-mails the *Award Letter*



# Calculating “Demonstrated Need”

Cost of Attendance (COA)

– Expected Family Contribution (EFC)

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= Demonstrated Financial Need \*

\* *Need* refers to a student’s maximum eligibility for financial aid



# Managing the Cost of Post-Secondary Education



# Funding Options

- Institutional Aid
  - Scholarships & Grants from the college or university
- Federal Grant Program(s)
  - Federal Pell Grant
- Federal Student Loans
  - Federal Perkins Loan
  - Federal Stafford / Direct Loan
- Federal Work-Study
  - Campus-based paid employment for students
- Current Income and Savings
- Tuition Payment Plan
- Federal PLUS Loan (Parent Loan for Undergraduate Student)
- Institutional Loan or Private (Alternative) Student Loan



# Scholarship Search

## National Search Engines

- FastWeb Scholarship Search  
[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)
- College Board Search  
[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

### CAUTION

Do not pay money  
to get money!

## Local Search

- NH93.com Scholarship Superhighway  
[www.nh93.com](http://www.nh93.com)
- New Hampshire Charitable Foundation  
[www.nhcf.org](http://www.nhcf.org) or 1-800-464-6641
- Check your local library or civic organizations
- Check student's or parent's employer(s)
- Check with school guidance department



# Financial Aid Calendar

## Senior Year Timeline

### January

File all financial aid forms required by the school(s)

### Late February-March

Schools perform verification and request financial documents

### March-April

Acceptance letters and financial aid award letters sent

### April

Compare award letters from different schools

### May

May 1 - Decision deadline, notify school & pay deposit(s)

### July

Receive bill for the fall semester

Sign promissory note(s) for any student or parent loans



# Resources



# Need Help?

- Set up a free appointment with a College Counselor to complete the FAFSA or simply ask our professionals questions by calling:

The Center for College Planning  
(800) 525-2577 ext. 119

- FAFSA Hotline (800) 4-FED-AID
- CSS/Profile® Hotline (305) 829-9793



# Understanding the Award Letter

Still overwhelmed on how to manage the cost of post-secondary education?

The Center For College Planning can help you this Spring!

1. Attend “**Understanding the Award Letter**”, a free college planning workshop in our Concord office. This session helps families understand the offer of financial aid (Award Letter) and financing options. Register at: [www.nhheaf.org/events.asp](http://www.nhheaf.org/events.asp).
2. If you can't attend a workshop, listen in on our free webinar, “**Understanding the Award Letter**”. Register at: [www.nhheaf.org/events.asp](http://www.nhheaf.org/events.asp).
3. Make an **Funding Options Appointment** to meet one-on-one with a College Counselor to discuss and compare your student's Award Letters. We will discuss all of your funding options. Call [800-525-2577](tel:800-525-2577) ext. 119.



# NHHEAF Resources for You!



follow us on  
**twitter**

 Find us on  
**Facebook**



# Questions?

Center for College Planning  
1.888.7.GRADUATE X119  
[collegeplanning@nhheaf.org](mailto:collegeplanning@nhheaf.org)

