

## Financial Need Tips & Resources

### Filing Your FAFSA

You will be required to have a copy of the Student Aid Report produced after successful completion of your FAFSA in order to be eligible for need-based scholarships. You can utilize the articles and tips below to help you navigate filing your FAFSA correctly. **Please note that you can now file your FAFSA as early as October 1, 2016.**

- **7 Things You Will Need to Complete Your FAFSA**
  1. Your FSA ID (and an ID for your parents if you are a dependent), which you can create [here](#).
  2. Your Social Security Number. If you are not a U.S. Citizen, but meet Federal Student Aid's [basic eligibility requirements](#), you'll need your Alien Registration Number.
  3. Your Driver's License Number (if you have one).
  4. Your 2015 tax records. You will not have the option to submit your 2016 records. If you have experienced a loss in income since the 2015 tax year, you should complete the FAFSA with the info it asks for (2015), and then contact each of the schools to which you're applying to explain and document the change in income. Please also note this in your application for our scholarships.
  5. Records of your/your parent or guardian's untaxed income (info found on 2015 tax return)
  6. Current records of your/your parent or guardian's assets (savings and checking account balances, investments, stocks, bonds and real estate). You should report CURRENT amounts, not amounts from 2015.
  7. List of all schools you are interested in attending.
  
- **Student Aid Report:** After you've submitted your FAFSA, you will get a Student Aid Report (SAR) that summarizes the information you provided on your FAFSA. If you want to receive online access to a copy of your SAR, you must provide an email address when completing your FAFSA. Additional information about your SAR can be found [here](#).
  
- **Expected Family Contribution:** Your EFC is an index number that college financial aid staff use to determine how much financial aid you would receive if you were to attend their school. The information you report on your FAFSA is used to calculate your EFC. CFT uses this number to aid in determining your level of financial need and to establish eligibility for need-based scholarships.
  
- **Other Helpful Resources:**
  - [Filling Out the FAFSA](#)
  - [Five Major FAFSA Changes You Need to Be Aware Of](#)
  - [Five Common FAFSA Mistakes and How to Avoid Them](#)