Financial Need Tips & Resources

Filing Your FAFSA

You will be required to have a copy of the Student Aid Report produced after the successful completion of your FAFSA 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 the Department of Education will release the 2024-2025 FAFSA form in December 2023.

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.** View resources for creating your FSA ID: **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 2022 tax records. You will not have the option to submit your 2021 records. If you have experienced a loss in income since the 2023 tax year, you should complete the FAFSA with the information it asks for, 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 2022 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 2022.
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**.

Student Aid Index: Your SAI 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 SAI. 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**
- **Common FAFSA Mistakes and How to Avoid Them**