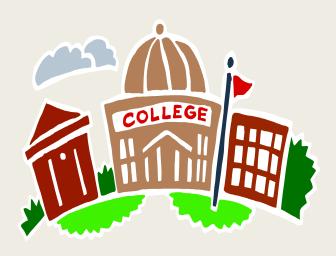
# What You Need to Know About Financial Aid 2020-2021

#### Topics We Will Discuss Tonight

- What is financial aid?
- Cost of attendance (COA)
- Expected family contribution (EFC)
- Financial need
- Categories, types, and sources of financial aid
- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- Special circumstances

#### What is Financial Aid?

Financial aid consists of **funds** (scholarships, grants, loans, workstudy) provided to students and families to help pay for postsecondary **educational expenses.** 





## What is Cost of Attendance (COA)?

#### COA includes:

- Tuition & Fees
- Room & Board
- Books & Supplies
- Transportation
- Personal Expenses

Direct v. Indirect Costs

COA Varies widely from college to college

# What is Expected Family Contribution (EFC)?

- Amount family can reasonably be expected to contribute
- Stays the same regardless of college
- Two components
  - Parent contribution
  - Student contribution
- Calculated using data from a federal application form and a federal formula

#### What is Financial Need?

Cost of Attendance

Expected Family Contribution

= Financial Need

### Types of Financial Aid

#### Gift Aid

- Scholarships
- Grants

#### Self-Help Aid

- Loans
- Employment

### Sources of Financial Aid

- Federal government
- States
- Colleges and universities
- Private sources
- Civic organizations and churches
- Employers

#### What's Out There for Students?

- Pell Grants Based on EFC
  - Automatic with eligibility
  - Range from \$296 to \$5,920 for 2017-2018
- FSEOG
  - Supplemental grant for the neediest of students
  - Based on availability



### What's Out There . . . (continued)

- Federal Work Study
  - Federal dollars paid in exchange for part-time employment in designated jobs

WORK STUDY

**FEDERAL LOANS** 

- School comes first
- Federal Direct Loans
  - Subsidized
  - Unsubsidized
  - Freshman Annual Loan Limit = \$5500
  - 2018-19 Interest Rate = 5.05%

### What's Out There . . . (continued)

- Federal Direct Loans (cont'd)
  - Parent PLUS Loans
  - 2019-20 Interest Rate = 7.60%
- Private/Alternative Loans
  - Exhaust federal aid options first



#### Now - How Do I GET It?

■ FAFSA – FREE Application for Federal Student Aid



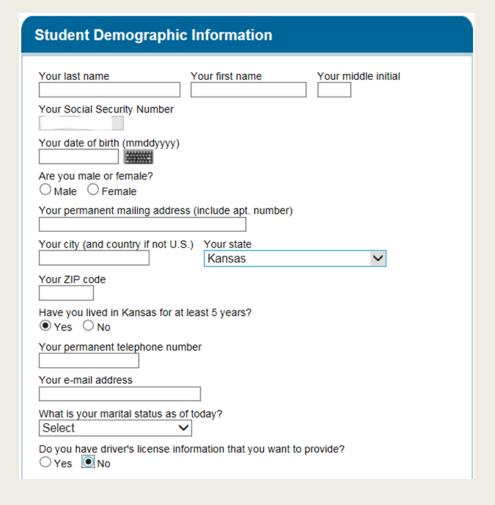
https://fafsa.gov

#### **FAFSA**

- Information used to calculate the expected family contribution (EFC)
- 2020–21 FAFSA becomes available on October 1, 2019 & Deadline for California to complete is March 2, 2020
- Most colleges set FAFSA priority filing deadlines
- 2018 Tax Data
- Paper application available

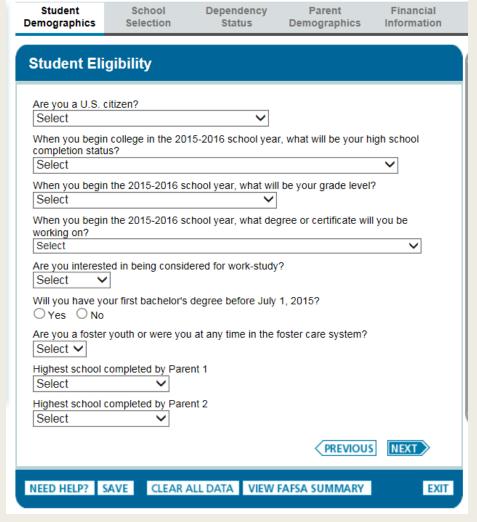
#### Student Demographic Section

- Students must use their LEGAL name
- Social Security Number
- Why does it ask my gender?
  - Selective service



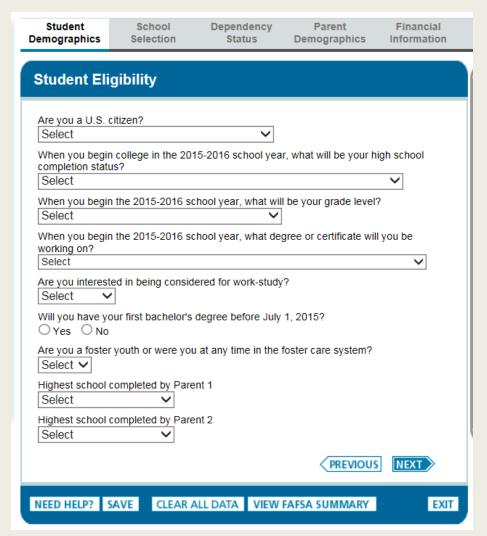
#### Student Eligibility Section

- Citizenship
  - US Citizens will have an SSN tied to their legal name
  - Eligible Non-Citizens will have both an SSN & Alien Registration Number
- Grade Level
  - Not Graduate Students or Seniors
- Degree they are seeking
  - Associate, Bachelor before Master's or PhD
- Foster Care



### Student Eligibility Section (cont'd)

- Students can select up to 10 colleges to receive their FAFSA results
- Housing Questions
  - Helps to determine
    Cost of Attendance
    - At Home with Parents
    - On-Campus
    - Off-Campus
  - You can change your mind



### Dependent or Independent: That is the question

- Born before Jan. 1, 1995 •
- Veteran
- Active duty military
- Married
- Children or other dependents
- Both parents deceased Graduate student
- Foster care past age 13

- Dependent/ward of court past age 13
- Legal guardianship
- Emancipated minor
- Homeless or at risk of homelessness

- ■If the answer to all is NO they' re Dependent
- ■If the answer to ANY is YES they' re Independent

#### Parent Information on the FAFSA

- Who is my parent when it comes to the FAFSA?
  - If parents are living together, regardless of marital status, include their combined financial information
    - This includes same-sex partners
  - If parents are divorced or separated, include the financial information for the parent you lived with more during the past 12 months. If that parent is remarried, you must include your stepparent's financial information.

Grandparents, foster parents, and legal guardians are NOT considered parents unless they legally adopted you

# What information do I need to have with me to complete the FAFSA?

- Taxes, Income information, benefit summaries
- Asset information
  - NOT 401(k) or IRA balances
  - NOT the value of your <u>primary</u> residence
- Untaxed income such as child support received



#### IRS Data Retrieval Tool

- Real-time request in the FAFSA to import IRS tax data
  - Important! You will not see the actual IRS data on the IRS website or inserted into the FAFSA.
  - Reduces documents requested later.
  - Parents filing a joint tax return will need to enter income from work manually on the FAFSA.
- IRS DRT will not work for families who:
  - Do not have a Social Security Number
  - Are married but file taxes separately

#### Frequent FAFSA Errors

- Social Security numbers
- Divorced/remarried parental information
- Income earned by parents/stepparents
- Untaxed income
- U.S. income taxes paid
- Household size
- Number of household members in college
- Real Estate and investment net worth
- What assets to include

Make corrections online at www.fafsa.gov or on the paper Student Aid Report



#### FSA ID



- The FSA ID (username and password) is required for students, parents and borrowers accessing FSA systems.
  - https://fsaid.ed.gov
  - The FSA ID
    - Provides secure access to user's information
    - Offers self-service capability (name change)

# Each FSA ID Requires a Different E-mail Address

#### What Happens After I File?

- A summary of your application is created for your review & sent to your selected schools electronically
  - Summary is called a Student Aid Report (SAR)
  - Students with FSA IDs may view SAR online at <a href="https://fafsa.gov">https://fafsa.gov</a>
- If schools require further information or documentation, they will contact the student directly
  - Make sure students know how each school communicates with them
  - FERPA
- Watch for award notifications
  - Many schools won't begin awarding aid for 2019-20 until late December or January.

#### Special Circumstances

- Cannot be documented using FAFSA
  - Change in employment status
  - Unusual medical expenses not covered by insurance
  - Change in parent marital status
- Send written explanation and documentation to financial aid office at each college
- College will review and request additional information if necessary
- Decisions are final and cannot be appealed to U.S. Department of Education

#### Satisfactory Academic Progress

- Time Frame
- Grade Point Average
- Pace

### How Do Scholarships Work?

- Scholarships are considered "gift aid" similar to grants
  - Some have restrictions on what they will pay
    - Direct costs only?
    - Are there enrollment restrictions?
  - They come from multiple sources
    - Institutions
    - Organizations
    - Employers
    - The list is growing every day

#### Where Do I Find Them?

#### Institutions

- Is there an application?
  - Are there MULTIPLE applications?
- When do I apply?
  - What is the deadline?
- Is it based on Merit or Need?
  - What do they need to determine eligibility?
- Does it require follow-up?
- Is it renewable?
  - What are the requirements for renewal?



### Where do I go from here?

- Obtain and review admissions and financial aid Web sites and materials for each school to which you are applying.
- Meet all application deadlines.
  - Complete FAFSA and other application materials.
    Submit all requested follow-up documents.
- Investigate other sources of aid.

### QUESTIONS?