

NIH Work/Life Center Resources

- Free Resource & Referral Benefit
 - *Child Care*
 - *Adoption*
 - *Schools/Colleges*
 - *Elder Care*
 - *Legal*
 - *Financial*
- “Faces & Phases of Life” Seminars
- Career Counseling & Workshops

Secrets of Paying For College



Brought to you by the
NIH Work/Life Center
February 23, 2006

Objectives

- Why go to college?
- Financial assistance options
- Requirements for eligibility
- Applying for financial aid
- Myths and truths about financial aid
- Helpful hints along the way!



Types of Aid

NEED BASED

- FAFSA
- ProFile
- Certain grants & loans
- Tax treatment of loans
- Work/Study

NON-NEED BASED

- Grades/Scores
- Affiliations/Memberships
- Parents' Employer
- Ethnicity/Religion
- Talents
- ROTC
- Private scholarships
- Certain loans (PLUS)
- Service academies
- Certain chosen professions

Alternate Sources of Funding

- Federal Student Aid
- State Aid
- Grants
- Scholarships
- Loans
- Veteran's benefits
- IRS - tax credits

Scholarships

- 40 % - \$2,001 average – Government/Pell Grants - 750,000 scholarships earmarked for qualified students, totaling \$1.2 billion (NCES, 2002)
- 6 % - private scholarships average \$2,051 and are awarded to both needy and non-needy students alike
- Deadlines for scholarships generally don't come due until students are high school seniors; but start researching opportunities now
- Use the Internet – there are several search tools

Requirements

- Financial need
- Educational requirement
- Legal residency
- Not on loan default
- Selective service registration
- Not convicted of felony
- Not incarcerated

Time Is Essential

- Visit Colleges During Junior Year
- Select Five
- Devise A Plan To Pay For College

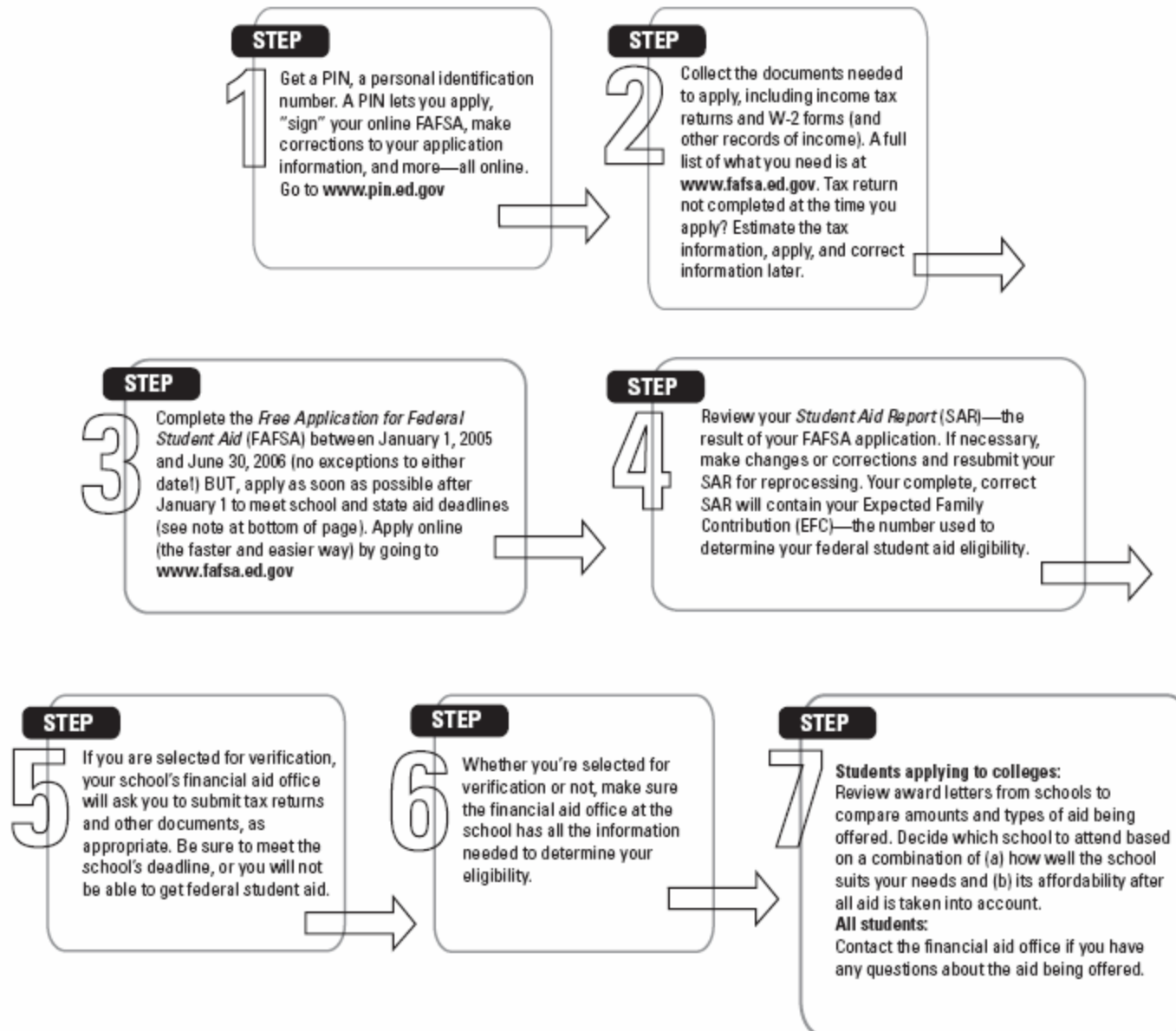


You Must File A Financial Aid Form

- FAFSA
- CSS Profile Form

This is the first step toward receiving any form of aid.

Federal Student Aid Application Process Summary



Applying for Financial Aid

- FAFSA – Free Application for Federal Student Aid
- Web or paper
- Only application needed
- FAFSA also serves as the application for state aid
- Free help available 1-800-4-FED-AID

Timing Becomes Crucial

- **October:** Order and complete Profile Form, if necessary.
- **November:** Inquire about college supplemental forms.
- **January:** Mail the FAFSA on the 2nd.
- **February:** Have taxes prepared. The majority of colleges will require a copy by March 15th.

Watch The Mail

- **January:** SAR by the end of the month.
- **February:** College's inquiry or instructions.
- **March through May:** Aid packages arrive.

Factors that Influence Costs

- Where assets reside
- FAFSA vs. Profile schools
- School's endowment funds
- FastWeb and other scholarship resources
- How kids spend their time
- NMSQT/Academic excellence
- Loans
- State scholarships
- Custody

Myths

- “My parents make too much money, so I won’t qualify”
- “My grades are not good enough”
- “Only minorities are eligible”
- “The form is too difficult to complete”

Truths

- Colleges and universities are receiving less money from the Federal and State governments
- Trend towards less FREE money and more loans being given out to help fund a college education
- Some schools have more flexibility when it comes to negotiating for a better financial aid package

5 Secrets - Randall F. Rothstein, CPA, PFS, CCPS

1. Start out at a state school and then transfer to a private college
2. Consider a college that offers cooperative education
3. Take the military route
4. Look into outside scholarships
5. Try borrowing from an innovative loan program

Helpful Hints

- Keep copies of all paperwork
- Be careful not to miss deadlines
- Borrow only what is needed
- Watch out for scams and identity theft
 - <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/online/edcams/scholarship/>
- Keep expenses low
 - bring your own lunch
 - live with roommates
 - look for sales, specials and coupons

Resources

- www.fastweb.com
- www.salliemae.com
- www.FAFSA.ed.com
- www.ed.gov
- www.students.gov
- www.studentaid.gov

