

Which financial aid application should I use?

Status	Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)	Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA)
I am a U.S. citizen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
I am a permanent resident with an Alien Registration Card (I-551)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
I am a conditional permanent resident with visa type I-551C	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
I am an eligible noncitizen with an Arrival/Departure Record (I-94) showing one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refugee • Asylum granted • Parolee (for a minimum of one year) • Cuban-Haitian entrant 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
I do not meet one of the statuses above; however, I have been classified as a Texas resident and therefore am eligible to pay the Texas in-state tuition rate. My classification as a Texas resident is NOT due to an in-state scholarship or assistantship.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Note:

If you meet one of the citizenship statuses to complete the FAFSA, go to <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>. For more information on the eligibility requirements for federal student aid programs, go to www.studentaid.ed.gov.

Reminders about completing the TASFA

1. Contact the registrar's office of your college/university in order to find out what documentation is required in order to be qualified to be classified as a Texas resident.
2. If the registrar's office determines that you meet the requirements to be classified as a Texas resident, complete the TASFA and print it out for submission to the college/university you will be attending. The TASFA can be found online at <http://www.collegefortexans.com>. Make sure the TASFA is filled out completely!
3. Attach a copy of your and your parent's W-2s and income tax returns (if filed).
4. Follow up with your college's financial aid office in person, by phone, by e-mail, or on the Web to be sure your TASFA is complete.

Instructions for completing the TASFA

Section I

Were you born before January 1, 1983?

Note that if you were born on **January 1, 1983**, you should answer "No."

Are you in a graduate program of study?

You should answer "Yes" if you will be enrolled in a master's or doctoral program in the initial term you attend in the 2006-2007 academic year. If you will be finishing your bachelor's degree in the initial term of the academic year and then moving on to a master's or doctoral degree you should first answer this question as "No." Once you have completed the bachelor's degree, this answer to this question should be corrected to "Yes."

Are you an orphan or ward of the court?

You should answer "Yes" if both of your parents are deceased and you don't have an adoptive parent. If both of your parents are deceased but you have a legal guardian, you should still answer "Yes" to this question. Answer "Yes" if you are currently a ward/dependent of the court or were a ward/dependent of the court until age 18.

You are not considered a ward/dependent of the court based solely on emancipation (when a child is released from the control of a parent or guardian) or incarceration.

Are you married?

Answer "Yes" if you are married as of the date that you complete the application. Answer "Yes" if you are separated but not divorced.

In the state of Texas, common-law marriages are recognized. Therefore, if you meet the state's requirements to be considered common-law married, answer "Yes" to this question. For more information on common law marriage in Texas, go to: www.co.travis.tx.us/dro/common_law.asp.

Do you have dependents?

Answer "Yes" if you have at least one child who receives at least 50% of his or her financial support from you. An applicant whose unborn child will be born before the end of the academic year (June 30, 2007) may answer "Yes." Note that financial support is the issue here; it does not matter whether the child lives with you or not.

Section II

List the names and birthdates of ALL family members who will be supported by your parents from July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007.

If you are classified as a *dependent student* (according to Section I of this application), you should include:

- yourself
- your custodial parent (your mother or father)
- your custodial parent's spouse (e.g., your mother or stepmother, or father or stepfather)
- any dependent child under the age of 18 who lives in your custodial parent's household
- any sibling that is a dependent student attending college
- any other person receiving more than 50% of his or her financial support from your custodial parent

If you are classified an *independent student* (according to Section I of this application), you should include:

- yourself
- your spouse
- any dependent child under the age of 18 who lives with you
- any dependent child of your spouse
- any other person receiving more than 50% of his or her financial support from you or your spouse

For any *dependent student* who is attending college on at least a half-time basis, write the name of the college. Do not include your parent if he or she is going to college. Attach an additional sheet if necessary.

A *foster parent*, a *legal guardian*, or a *grandparent or other relative* is **not** considered a parent for purposes of filing this application **unless** that person has legally adopted the applicant. A person who has been granted power of attorney for a student is not a legal guardian.

Section III

STUDENT:

Did you file taxes for 2005?

Indicate whether you have already completed, are going to complete, or will not file a tax return for 2005.

Are you a male between the ages of 18 and 25?

If you are male between the ages of 18 and 25, you must register with Selective Service in order to qualify for any type of state aid (regardless of residency status). If you have a Social Security number, you can register online or obtain your registration number at www.sss.gov.

If you do not have a Social Security number, you may obtain a Selective Service registration form from any local post office. You will need to complete this form and mail it to the Selective Service office or you may turn it in to your financial aid office to be mailed for you. If you are required to register, you must provide your registration number on this application.

Have you been convicted of a felony or a crime involving a controlled substance?

This question asks whether you have been convicted of possessing or selling illegal drugs. If you have been convicted, you are not necessarily ineligible for aid. If you answer "Yes" to this question, contact your financial aid administrator for further instructions.

Do you have a visa that allows you to be employed in the U.S.?

If you have a visa and your visa type allows you to be employed in the U.S., you could be eligible for the Texas College Work-Study Program.

PARENT:

Did you file taxes for 2005?

Indicate whether your parent(s) have already completed, are going to complete, or will not file a tax return for 2005.

Marital status.

Indicate the marital status of your primary parent as "married," "single," or "widowed." If your parents are married, please include income information for both parents in sections IV and V. If your parents are divorced, but have remarried, please include income information for your primary parent and his/her spouse.

Father's/mother's highest level of education completed.

These questions do not affect your eligibility for state aid. Some institutional programs use the information provided here to offer aid to first-generation college students.

Section IV

Annual Untaxed Income

Welfare benefits (including Temporary Assistance for Needy Families [TANF]).

Enter the total amount of welfare benefits that you and either your spouse or your parents, as applicable, received, including TANF, in 2005. Report the total amount you received for the year? not monthly amounts. Do not include the annual value of food stamps or subsidized housing.

Worker's compensation.

If you and either your spouse or your parents, as applicable, received money in 2005 as a result of an injury that occurred at work, please list that amount.

Child support received.

Report child support that you and either your spouse or your parents, as applicable, received for all children during 2005. Do not include foster care or adoption payments.

Untaxed interest income.

Interest from savings, checking, or investment accounts that was not included on a tax return.

Untaxed portions of Social Security.

List any Social Security income that you and either your spouse or your parents, as applicable, received in 2005 that was not taxed. If untaxed Social Security benefits were paid to your parents on your behalf (because you were under 18 years old at the time), those benefits are reported in the parent column as your parents' income, not your income.

Housing, food, and other living allowances.

Housing, food, and other living allowances provided to you or your parents must be reported. These allowances must be reported when they are part of a compensation package that some people receive for their jobs. Include cash payments and cash value of benefits. If you received free room and board in 2005 for a job that was not awarded as federal student aid, you must report the value of the room and board as untaxed income. (For this category, "housing allowances" excludes rent subsidies for low-income housing.)

Money received or paid on your behalf not reported elsewhere on this form.

Report any **cash** support that you (the student) receive from a friend or relative. Cash support includes payments made on your behalf. For instance, if your aunt pays your rent or utility bill that you would otherwise be obligated to pay yourself, you must report those payments in this section.

Also, list any income that was paid in cash or other means for which a tax return was not filed or a W-2 form was not provided. (*Wages not listed on taxes or W-2 forms*).

Annual Income Exclusions

Child support paid.

Report any child support payments **paid** by you and either your spouse or your parents, as applicable, during **2005** as a result of divorce, separation or some other legal requirement. Keep in mind that these payments are payments made to children not living in your or your parents' household.

For purposes of this application, a child is a member of your household if you provide more than half of the child's support, whether the child lives with you or not.

Taxable earnings from State Work-Study or other need-based work programs.

These are earnings from need-based work programs and need-based employment portions of fellowships and assistantships.

Scholarships and grants reported on a 2005 tax return.

Report any student grant and scholarship aid that was reported to the IRS on your or your parents' **2005** income tax return. This includes benefits such as awards, living allowances, and interest accrual payments as well as grant and scholarship portions of fellowships and assistantships.

Assets

As of today, balance of cash, savings, and checking accounts.

Do not include student financial aid in this amount.

As of today, investment net worth (do not include the home you live in or the balance of retirement plans).

Net worth means current investment value minus current investment debt.

$$\text{Investment value} - \text{investment debt} = \text{net worth of investments}$$

If you or your parents own real estate or investments other than your principal residence, investment value equals the amount the investments are worth today. Investment debt equals how much you and either your spouse or your parents, as applicable, owe on real estate and investments other than your principal residence. Investment debt means only those debts that are related to the investments.

Investments include real estate such as rental property, land, and second or summer homes. Do not include your primary place of residence (that is, your home). Include the value of portions of multifamily dwellings that are not your principal residence.

Investments also include trust funds, money market funds, mutual funds, certificates of deposit, stocks, stock options, bonds, other securities, Coverdell Education Savings Accounts (formerly Education IRAs), college savings plans, installment and land sale contracts (including mortgages held), commodities, etc.

Do not include the value of life insurance and retirement plans (pension funds, annuities, non-education IRAs, Keogh plans, etc.).

The money in a Coverdell Education Savings Account or a college savings plan is an asset of the account owner. A Coverdell Education Savings Account is not a retirement account. It is essentially a savings account to be used for the student's educational expenses. Therefore, if you own the account, you must report the amount in your Coverdell Education Savings Account with your investments.

As of today, net worth of current businesses and/or investment farms. Business or farm value includes the current market value of land, buildings, machinery, equipment, inventory, etc. Do not include your primary home.

$$\text{Business/farm value} - \text{business/farm debt} = \text{net worth of business/farm}$$

For business or investment farm value, first figure out how much the business or farm is worth today. **An investment farm is a farming business in which you (and your spouse, if married) or your parents do not reside on the farm, nor do they materially operate the farm.**

Business or investment farm debts are what you (and your spouse, if married) or your parents owe on the business or farm. Include only debts for which the business or farm was used as collateral.

To report current market value for a business, you must use the amount for which the business could sell as of the date of the application. Also, if you are not the sole owner of the business, you should report only your share of its value and debt.

Section V

In order to accurately assess your financial situation, your college/university needs to account for all sources of income. In cases where your income falls below \$5,000, an explanation is required, as this amount is considered to be significantly below the 2005 poverty level set by the state of Texas. In the explanation that you provide to the college/university, make sure that you list all sources of income and itemize your living expenses.

If a relative claims you on his/her taxes, some schools may require that you provide a copy of his/her IRS Tax Form. Check with the school that you are planning on attending to find out specifically if this document is required.

Signatures

Parent Signature

For freshman students only: If extenuating circumstances exist that preclude your parent from signing this form, your high school counselor can sign this form. However, when a high school counselor signs this form on behalf of the student's parent, the high school counselor is attesting to the accuracy of the information provided on the application. Also, by signing the form, the counselor agrees to cooperate with the college or university's financial aid officer in providing documentation that verifies the student's family circumstances and economic situation. Most college and university financial aid officers will want to contact the high school counselor for additional information and documentation. Therefore, the high school counselor must provide the following contact information: name, title, telephone number, e-mail address, and mailing address.

If you are not a freshman student (upperclassmen), and have extenuating circumstances that preclude your parent from signing this form, contact the financial aid office of the school that you are attending for more information.

Section VI

Under Texas Education Code, Section 51.9095, if you are currently of the age and gender requiring registration with Selective Service, but knowingly and willfully fail to do so, you are ineligible to receive funds from the State of Texas.

Exemptions

Almost all male U.S. citizens, and male aliens living in the U.S. who are 18 to 25 years of age, are required to register with Selective Service. Some noncitizens are required to register and others are not. **Noncitizens not required to register include men who are in the U.S. on student or visitor visas, and men who are part of a diplomatic or trade mission and their families.** Almost all other male noncitizens are required to register, including **undocumented residents**, legal permanent residents, and refugees.

Non-Registrants

If you are not registered as required, you are presently not eligible to receive state aid and should register promptly at a United States Post Office. A Certificate of Mailing may be obtained from the Post Office at such time that you mail your registration and may be used as proof of your application until you receive your Selective Service Registration Card.

Privacy Act Statement

Because information on your registration status is essential for determining whether you are in compliance with the Selective Service law, **failure to provide the information requested by this statement will prevent you from receiving state aid.** This information is subject to verification with the Selective Service System.

False Statement Notification

A false statement may be grounds for your state aid to be suspended.

Review

Should any question arise regarding your registration or eligibility for an exemption, you may request an official “**status information**” letter from the Selective Service System by calling 1-847-688-6888. As an alternative, you may send a written request to the Selective Service System at P.O. Box 94638, Palatine, IL 60094-4638.

Section II**Household Information**

If you are a *dependent student*, please list the names of ALL family members who will be supported by your parents from July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007. If you are an *independent student*, you should include family members who are supported by you. (See instructions for additional information). Attach additional sheets if necessary.

Names [Include parent(s) and sibling(s), or spouse (if applicable)]	Date of birth	Relationship to student	Which college/university will student be attending?
		Self	

Section III**Additional Information****Student:**

Did you file a tax return for 2005?

Yes (must provide copy)

No

Will file (see instructions)

Are you a male between the ages of 18 and 25?

Yes

No

Have you been convicted of a felony or a crime involving a controlled substance?

Yes

No

Do you have a visa that allows you to be employed in the U.S.?

Yes

No

Parent:

Did you file a tax return for 2005?

Yes (must provide copy)

No

Will file (see instructions)

Marital status

Married

Single

Widowed

Mother/Stepmother's highest level of education completed

Middle school/Jr. high

High school

College or beyond

Other/unknown

Father/Stepfather's highest level of education completed

Middle school/Jr. high

High school

College or beyond

Other/unknown

Section IV

Income and Assets

If you are a *dependent student*, you should complete both the Parents and Student columns. *Independent students* should complete the Student/Spouse column only.

A. Annual Untaxed Income	Student/Spouse		Parents	
Welfare benefits (including TANF)	\$		\$	
Worker's compensation	\$		\$	
Child support received	\$		\$	
Untaxed interest income	\$		\$	
Untaxed portions of Social Security	\$		\$	
Housing, food, and other living allowances paid on your behalf	\$		\$	
Money received, or paid on your behalf, not reported elsewhere on this form	\$		XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	
Wages not listed on taxes or W-2 forms	Student	Spouse	Mother	Father
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Total Untaxed Income	\$		\$	
B. Annual Income Exclusions				
Child support paid	\$		\$	
Taxable earnings from Federal Work-Study or other need-based work programs				
Scholarships and grants reported on 2005 income tax return				
C. Assets				
As of today, balance of cash, savings, and checking accounts	\$		\$	
As of today, investment net worth (do not include the home you live in or the balance of retirement plans)	\$		\$	
As of today, net worth of current businesses and/or investment farms	\$		\$	

Section V

Was your TOTAL FAMILY INCOME less than \$5,000 in 2005?

(Total family income is the income reported on your parents' and your W-2 IRS tax forms plus the total untaxed income reported on Section IV, Part A of this form)

Yes No

If YES, please include a breakdown of your living expenses (e.g., rent, food, utilities, etc.) and provide a written explanation that explains how you were able to pay for your living expenses in 2005.

Signatures

By signing below, I certify that the information on this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand that I may need to provide additional information in order to determine eligibility for state financial aid.

Student signature _____ Date _____

Parent signature* _____ Date _____

(*Parent signature only required for *dependent students*)

<p>Administrator Use Only (See instructions to determine if applicable)</p>	
High school counselor signature _____	Date _____
Printed name _____	
Title _____	
Telephone number _____	
Address _____	
E-mail address _____	

Section VI:

Statement of Selective Service Registration Status

Certification of Registration Status

(Please check the appropriate box)

- I certify that I am **female** and, therefore, not required to register with the Selective Service System.
- I certify that I am a male age 18 to 25 and am registered with the Selective Service System.
Please provide Selective Service registration number (if known) _____
- I certify that I am not of an age required to register with Selective Service System. (over 25)
- I certify that I have been determined by the Selective Service System to be exempt from registration.
- I certify that I have not reached my 18th birthday and understand that I will be required by law to register at that time.
- I certify that I do not have a Social Security number, but have submitted my Selective Service registration form to the financial aid office for submission to the Selective Service System.

I understand that under Texas Education Code, Section 51.9095, I must be registered with the Selective Service System according to the requirements of federal law in order to receive student financial aid funds from the State of Texas. I further certify that the information provided on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that any false statements may void my eligibility for state aid and that the information provided on this form will be used only for evaluation of eligibility for state aid.

Student Signature

Date

Date of Birth

Print full name here