

Benefits of Completing the FAFSA

(Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

FAFSA is the application you complete to be eligible for many different kinds of aid.

Federal and State Grants and Aid Programs like Workstudy

Many financial aid programs require students to file this application in order to award any type of institutional scholarship or grant. Many state agencies and colleges require the FAFSA to award grants and scholarships.

Institutional Aid

Many colleges use the information on the FAFSA as a deciding factor when evaluating applications from students who are on the borderline for merit scholarships. Colleges have limited funds that they allocate to students based on several different factors. They require the FAFSA to make sure that the student has first maximized their federal aid.

Outside Scholarship Qualification

Many outside scholarships and grants will require that students have filed the FAFSA in order to qualify for their opportunity. Scholarship sponsors want to give awards to deserving, and needy students, so requiring the FAFSA to be filed is one way to ensure that.

Federal Student Loans with Lower Interest Rates

Most students will almost certainly need to borrow some amount of money to cover the cost of education over four years or beyond. Filing the FAFSA qualifies you for federal student loans, both subsidized and unsubsidized, which have a much lower rate of interest as compared to the interest rate you would pay on private student loans.

Forgivable Student Loans

If you meet certain requirements and if you have made 120 qualifying monthly payments, the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program forgives the remaining balance on your Direct Loans. In general, joining the military, becoming a public school teacher in a low-income area, or working in public service, the government or a non-profit organization are some of the criteria to become eligible for forgiveness.