

# 7 CRITICAL FAFSA & CSS PROFILE MISTAKES

## FAFSA

1. Do **NOT** include retirement savings under parent and/or student assets/investments
2. Do **NOT** include home equity under parent savings/investments
3. Do **NOT** include business value assuming it's a family business and you have LESS than 100 full-time employees
4. Do **NOT** include 529 accounts under student savings/investments.  
529 accounts OWNED BY THE PARENT should be included under parent assets/investments
5. Do **NOT** miss an opportunity for the student to have a 'work-study' job on campus. Select 'Yes.'  
This does not obligate you to accept the job or guarantee you a position
6. Do **NOT** assume your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is what you will actually be expected to pay at each college you are accepted
7. Do **NOT** miss any deadlines

## CSS PROFILE

1. Do **NOT** feel obligated to answer any questions you are not required to answer.
2. Do **NOT** overvalue your primary residence if you are a homeowner.
3. Do **NOT** include 529 accounts under student savings/investments. 529 accounts OWNED BY THE PARENT should be included under parent assets/investments.
4. Do **NOT** overstate how much you can pay for college each year. How you answer this question CANNOT help you, but it CAN hurt you.
5. Do **NOT** overestimate future year income earnings.
6. Do **NOT** make your appeal case in the SQ section. It is typically best to wait for your acceptance and award letter before presenting your appeal case.
7. Do **NOT** miss deadlines.