



**College Aid Pro™**

# OUR MISSION

TO **END THE STUDENT LOAN CRISIS** BY  
EMPOWERING FAMILIES TO **SHOP SMARTER FOR COLLEGE**

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## Your Presenters!

**Peg Keough**  
Director of Education

**Matt Carpenter**  
Chief Revenue Officer

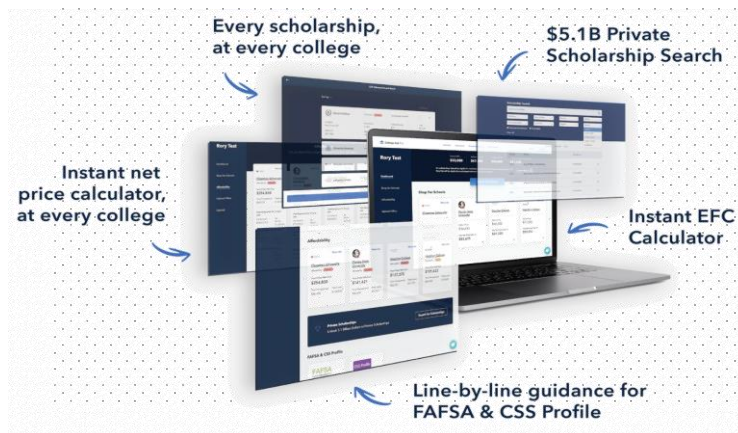
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## WHERE DO WE START?



Website:

[mycap.collegeaidpro.com](http://mycap.collegeaidpro.com)



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## WHAT IS FINANCIAL AID?

A Discount To The Sticker Price  
(Cost Of Attendance)

### NEED BASED GRANTS



Free money awarded based on student's **financial** profile.

### MERIT-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS



Free money awarded based on student's **talent** profile.

### SELF-HELP



Loans, and work-study.  
**NOT** free money.

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# NEED-BASED FINANCIAL AID

Will We Be Eligible?  
(COA - EFC = Need)

Cost Of Attendance



"Sticker Price"

Expected Family  
Contribution



What Colleges/Government Think  
You Can Pay Annually

Need



Amount Of Financial Aid Family Is  
**Potentially** Eligible

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## WHAT SHOULD WE KNOW ABOUT OUR EFC

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### WHAT IS CONSIDERED AN ASSET?

Everything But Your Retirement  
Accounts  
(401k, IRA, 403b)



### PARENTAL ASSETS VS STUDENT ASSETS

Parent Assets Factored Into EFC At  
Lower % (529s)



### IS DEBT CONSIDERED?

No, But...



### HOW SHOULD WE VALUE OUR HOME?

IRS Quick Sale Value -20%

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## WHAT INCOME DO COLLEGES CONSIDER?

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Tax Year Used For Base Income Year

### “Prior Prior” Tax Year

Class of 2023 = 2021 tax returns

Class of 2024 = 2022 tax returns

Class of 2025 = 2023 tax returns

### Income

**Parents –**

Line 11 on 1040 AGI

**Students –**

Income Allowance of ~\$7000



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## WHAT IF I DON'T QUALIFY FOR NEED-BASED AID?

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### MERIT AID AND COMPETITION

1. Identify where the student will be eligible for scholarships
2. Some colleges require FAFSA/CSS in order to qualify for scholarships
3. [MYCAP.COLLEGEAIDPRO.COM](https://mycap.collegeaidpro.com)
4. School-by-school basis; some more generous than others

*\*Ivy League, NESCAC, etc. do not give merit-awards*

5. Apply to competing college

### VALUE SCHOOLS

1. Lower end of tuition range = [value](#)  
-Ex: James Madison (VA) COA = ~\$40,000  
-Public School [Honors Programs](#)



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## MERIT-BASED AID

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Office of Admissions –  
Not Financial Aid



Enticement For  
Student To Attend



Usually All 4 Years



Usually Based On  
Grades / Test Scores



Different Awarding  
Methodologies



Private Colleges

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## MERIT BASED AID

## NEED BASED AID

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### Merit Based Aid



### 100% of Need Met



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## HOW DO YOU APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID

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### NO ONE SCHOOL IS ALIKE



### DEADLINES ARE PARAMOUNT



### EVERY COLLEGE REQUIRES THE FAFSA

Many Private Colleges Require the CSS Profile and/or Their Own Institutional Form in Addition to the FAFSA



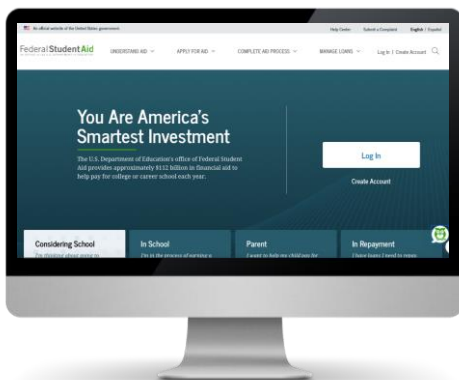
### IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STUDENT/PARENT TO KNOW DEADLINES/REQUIREMENTS

Most Colleges are not Proactive and Sometimes Only Communicate with the Student

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## FAFSA (<https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>)



Accessible On  
Oct. 1st Each Year



"Prior Prior" Is  
Base Income Year



2021 Is Base Income  
Year For Class Of 2023



Custodial Parent  
Submits

### Login Procedure

Create FSA ID

<https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account>

Required By Each Student And One Parent  
Needed To Access And Submit FAFSA  
Username/Password (Replaced PIN number System)  
Save Key

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## 7 CRITICAL FAFSA MISTAKES

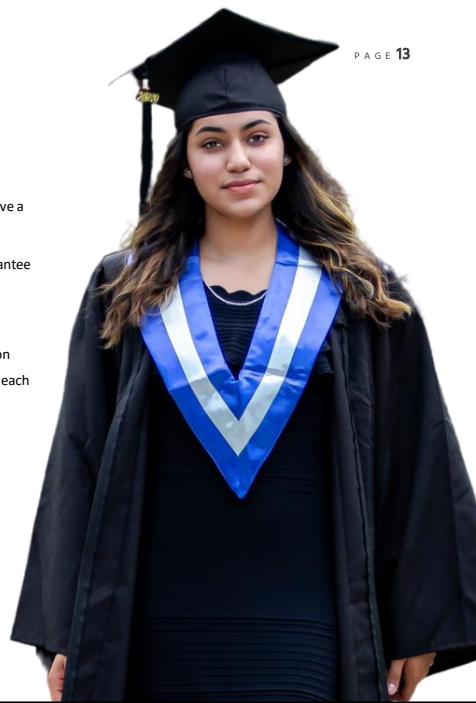
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### FAFSA

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

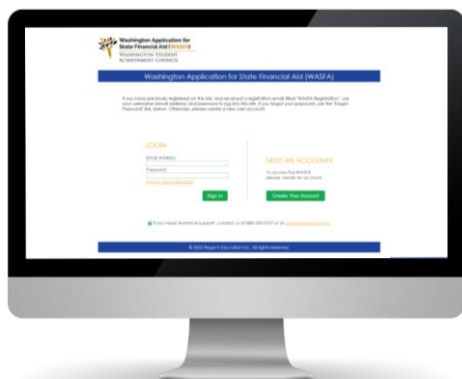
5. Do NOT miss an opportunity for the student to have a 'work-study' job on campus. Select 'Yes.'  
This does not obligate you to accept the job or guarantee you a position
6. Do NOT assume your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is what you will actually be expected to pay at each college where you are accepted
7. Do NOT miss any deadlines

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## WASFA (<https://wasfa.regenteducation.net/>)



*Have Questions?*

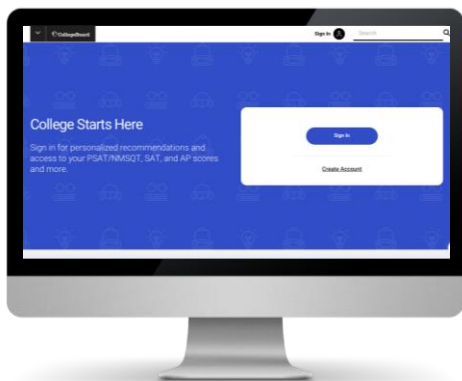
Student Financial Assistance  
wasfa@wsac.wa.gov  
888-535-0747, option 2

### Should I complete the FAFSA or WASFA?

- ✓ If you are eligible to submit the FAFSA, it will be used to assess Federal and State aid eligibility.
- ✓ If are not eligible to submit the FAFSA, you should submit the WASFA.
- ✓ If you are not sure, complete the WASFA Questionnaire to determine eligibility - <https://wsac.wa.gov/WASFAelig>
- ✓ WASFA completion will determine your WA state aid eligibility
  - State Grants
  - College Bound Scholarships
  - State Work Study

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## CSS PROFILE ([cssprofile.collegeboard.org](https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org))



~200 Colleges Require This Additional Application



Divorced & Separated Families



Home Equity Treated As Liquid Asset



Business Owners



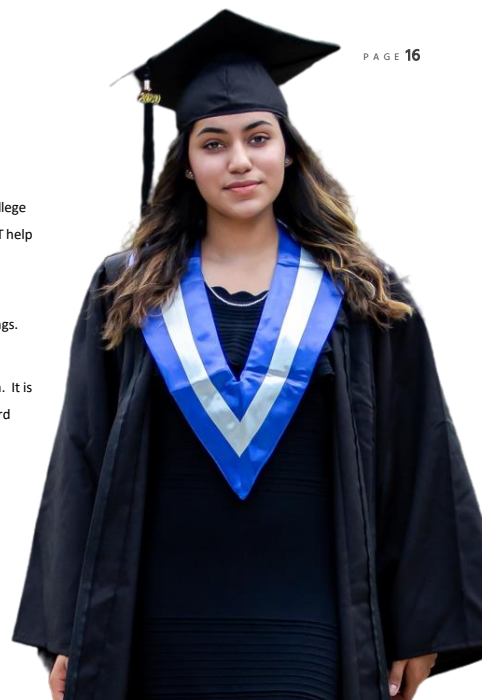
Much More Invasive And Complex With A Lot More Questions Than The FAFSA

## 7 CRITICAL CSS PROFILE MISTAKES



### CSS Profile

1. Do NOT feel obligated to answer any questions you are not required to answer. You are only obligated to answer questions that say Required.
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 SC section. It is typically best to wait for your acceptance and award letter before presenting your appeal case.
7. Do NOT miss deadlines.





# PROS AND CONS OF THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR FAFSA CHANGES

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## PROS

More resources for low-income families

Easier to qualify for PELL

Less Questions; ~100+ questions vs ~35 questions

Child support treated as asset, NOT income

Most untaxed income eliminated from formula

- Workman's Comp, Veteran Benefits, 401(k) & 403(b) pre-tax contributions, "other" untaxed income

## CONS

Families with multiple children in college will no longer receive discount

Parent that provides the most financial support in 2-household families will be required to complete FAFSA

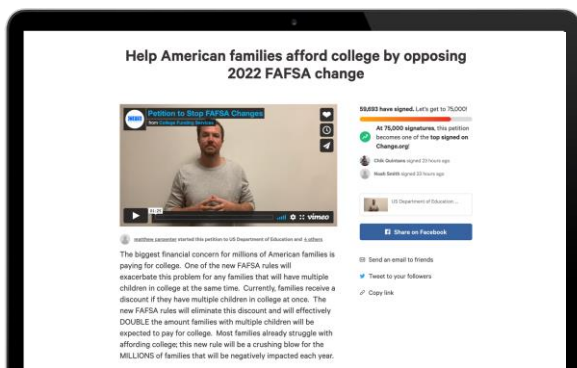
- Previously completed by custodial parent/s

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Help Us, Help You.  
[Sign & Share.](#)

Help American Families Afford  
College By Opposing FAFSA Changes

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## How To Appeal For The Best Possible Package

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Bring Color / Background  
To Your Story



Ask For Specific Amount  
Of Financial Aid



Show Awards Offered  
By Other Colleges



Challenge Expenses Not  
Considered On Taxes



Be Persistent

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## NEXT STEPS

Keep The Ball Rolling!

**FEELING  
GREAT  
AND  
READY TO  
ROLL**

Look up the priority  
financial aid  
deadlines and submit

**FEELING GOOD, BUT  
WOULD LOVE  
TO GET SOME  
SUPPORT**

Book an hour with one of  
our experts

**CAP TAKE THE  
WHEEL**

Talk with us about Wake Me  
When It's Over

*Sign Up For Office Hours*

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