

# Switch to Prepared

## Helpful FAFSA Tips

### For first-time filers

Complete the [FAFSA \(Free Application for Federal Student Aid\)](#) form to apply for financial aid for college, career school, or graduate school.



### DON'T LEAVE ANYTHING BLANK



- Too many blanks may cause miscalculations and/or an application rejection

### AN FSA ID IS REQUIRED



- Before you even complete the FAFSA, you need an FSA ID, which can take 3 days to receive. Get yours at [fsaid.ed.gov](https://fsaid.ed.gov)

### STUDENTS HAVE 3 POSSIBLE DEADLINES TO RECEIVE FINANCIAL AID FROM DIFFERENT SOURCES



- **School Deadline - August:** Most aid comes from the school directly, so the deadlines are close to admission deadlines.
- **State Deadline - September:** Usually first-come, first-serve rules apply to state-allocated funds.
- **Federal Deadline - June:** The US Department of Education has an October – June timeline, with a hard close on June 30

### DON'T MISS OUT ON MONEY



- In 2017, high school graduates left \$2.3 billion unclaimed in federal aid by not filling out the FAFSA

### HAVE YOUR DOCUMENTS READY



- Out of every 10 people who fill out the FAFSA, 3 are asked to provide documentation to support data reported on the FAFSA. Use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool on the FAFSA website to make collecting your document simpler

### Ask questions

Don't be afraid to ask 'dumb' questions. Everything is a learning experience, especially when it's something as complicated as the FAFSA.

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