# UNDERSTANDING FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID

The **Free Application for Financial Student Aid (FAFSA)** is a form that allows students to apply for federal student aid, such as scholarships, grants, work-study, and loans for college, career/trade school, or graduate school.

## Financial Aid 101 with Hofstra University
### January 8th, 2025

Click **HERE** to review the presentation

## BE PREPARED

Both students and parents must provide the following:

- Drivers License Social Security Number
- Tax returns from two years prior to the
- FAFSA application year (2023) Records of other untaxed income, such as child
- support received, veterans' benefits, or military allowances. personal E-Mail address
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## FAFSA IS A YEARLY PROCESS

Your financial aid package supports one academic year. A new FAFSA form must be completed **each year** to continue receiving financial aid

## SIMPLE FAFSA CHECKLIST

Click on the link below to find the FAFSA Checklist for incoming college students. Please note that the student and parent tax forms must be from two years prior to the date of the completed FAFSA form (e.g. 2023 records for the 2025 school year).

FAFSA Checklist

## 2025-26 Application

This year, the FAFSA form is expected to be released on **December 1, 2024** for all students. For updated information about the release of the application, please use the link below.

Click Here for 2025/26 FAFSA Application

FAFSA STEP BY STEP (w/ Screenshots)
*(NYSACAC Presentation)*

Click HERE for Known FAFSA Issue Alerts

## FSA ACCOUNT NEEDED

The Federal Student Aid account is **required** for the FAFSA application to be completed. Students and parents must create individual accounts. ***Make sure to write down your account info!!!!!!!!!***

- Create Your FSA Here
- FSA ID Creation Virtual Events

# CSS PROFILE

Many colleges universities **require** families to complete a CSS account in addition to the FAFSA form. CCS asks families to provide additional financial information, so more financial aid packages can be provided. The link below will send you to their home page where you can find the list of institutions that require it to be completed.
***There is a fee associated with the CSS***

https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/

## HELPFUL TOOLS

HESC FACT Sheets (NYS)
Understanding the Student Aid
Index SUNY FAFSA Completion
Workshops IRS – Your Tax Records
FAFSA What to bring Dependency
Status Loan Repayment Simulator
NYS Private Colleges – Fin Aid
Resources for all students/families

## FINANCIAL AID WAIVER FORM

If you do not wish to complete the FAFSA form or the DREAM Act application, seniors and their legal guardians **must submit this waiver below**. The waiver form acknowledges your awareness of FAFSA and the DREAM Act and your choice not to complete either federal financial aid applications. Please see your school counselor before completing this waiver form.

**Waiver Form**

FOR ANY ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PLEASE REACH OUT TO THE FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID OFFICE: 1-800-433-3243
HTTPS://STUDENTAID.GOV/HELP-CENTER/CONTACT