

FAFSA TIP SHEET

ONLINE Version (Preferred- 8 to 10 days processing time) www.fafsa.ed.gov

- Apply for a PIN number **NOW** for electronic signature filing at www.pin.ed.gov (both parent and student need a PIN number)
- An email address is advisable for faster results.
- Read all directions.
- Complete the Pre-Application Worksheet.
- Print the confirmation page at the end. Show a copy to your Econ/Gov't teacher for extra credit.

Paper Version (Slower-4 to 6 weeks processing time, may get lost)

- Read all directions. Use **BLACK** ink.
- Watch deadlines.
- Make a photocopy before mailing and mail in envelope provided.
- Obtain a "certificate of mailing" at the post office (Use regular mail) and attach it to photocopy until you receive your Student Aid Report (SAR). Show a copy of the "certificate of mailing" to your Econ/Gov't teacher for extra credit.

Front Page

- **Green Section = Student**
- **Purple Section = Parent**
- Who to call for questions
www.studentaid.ed.gov
 - 1-800-4-FEDAID

STEP ONE

#1-3 Name must be listed as it appears on your social security card

- Will be matched with Social Security Admin. (SSA)

#8 Social Security Number (SSN)

- Required to submit the FAFSA 800-772-1213 or www.ssa.gov
- Must match with SSA

#13 Student's email address

- Advisable to provide this

#14 & 15 Citizenship Status

- If checked "U.S. Citizen," status will be confirmed by SSA match
- If checked "eligible noncitizen," must provide the Alien Registration Number (ARN)
- Precede an 8-digit ARN with a zero

15. Example

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | 0 | 2 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

#16 Marital Status as of date signing form

#17 Date of Marital Status-If single, leave blank

#18-20 State Residency

For CAL Grant purposes

- Must be a resident as of September 2004
- If applicant is under 18 AND did not indicate CA as state of legal residence, parent's state of residency will be used (#67-69)
- Active duty military considered CA residents

#21-22 Selective Service

- Males may register here by marking box

#23 College Degree/Certificate

- Student should choose description that best fits their first degree objective--DO NOT CHOOSE #'s 2, 7, or 8.

#24 Your grade level

- Student should choose #0 for never attended college (includes advanced education students)

#25 HS Diploma or GED?

- You must have received one to receive aid.

#26 First Bachelor's Degree?

- The answer is 'NO'

#27-28 Interested in Loans or Work-Study?

- Answer yes to learn of all available resources.
- A 'yes' answer does not obligate student.

#29-30 Parents' Educational Background

- Use birth parents or adoptive parents here
- Indicate highest level of school completed vs. attended.

#31 Drug Related Conviction

- Answer yes/no response. If left blank, NO financial award
- Answer "NO" if Conviction was for alcohol or tobacco Conviction was removed from record or occurred before 18, unless tried as an adult.

STEP TWO

#32-45 Income and Asset Information for Students

- Skip this for now and the questions will be answered during the same questions for the parents in Step Four

#46-47 Veterans Education Benefits--Answer if you are receiving "dependent's benefits."

- Answer "0" if you do not

STEP THREE

#48-54 Dependency Status

- If the student answers "**yes**" to any question in Step Three, skip Step Four and go to Step Five

STEP FOUR--PARENT INFORMATION

Who is considered a parent for this section?

- Biological parent(s) or Adoptive parents(s)
- Stepparent regardless of prenuptial agreement

Who is **NOT** considered a parent for this section?

- Foster parent(s)-the ward is automatically considered an independent student and should be skipping this section.
- Legal Guardian(s)-Students must still attempt to get biological parent (& stepparent if appropriate)

If there is a problem getting the parent information, the Financial Aid Officer can recertify the student as independent. See a counselor about this process.

The information provided through Step Four is the same for the questions in Step Two.

#55-56 Parents' Marital Status

- As of date FAFSA is signed
- Use the Custodial Parent--the parent the student mostly lived with in 2004 or who provided most of the financial support last year

#57-64 Parent's Information

- Information should be the same person(s) whose financial information is being reported on form
- If no SSN, write all zeros

#65 Number in Parents' Household

- Include student and parents
- Include parents' other children if parents provide more than 1/2 support from July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006 or
- Other children could answer "no" to every question in Step Three
- Other people if they now live with student's parents and parents currently provide more than 1/2 support, and parents will continue to provide more than 1/2 of their support from July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2005

#66 Number in College

- Write in number of people from question 65 who will be college students between July 1, 2005 and June 30, 2006
- Always include yourself but exclude your parents

#67-69 Parents' State of Legal Residence

- Estimate if you cannot remember the exact month

#70-72 You must get this information from your parent(s)

#73-77 Information from Tax Return 2004

- Reporting information directly from Federal 1040 form is best but if this information is unavailable, you are encouraged to use an estimate to meet your deadline. You can update this later once tax filing is completed.
- Use the custodial parent for this information and stepparent if remarried.

#78-80 Complete Worksheets A, B and C on page 8

- A and B are untaxed income
- C is exclusions from taxed income
- Parents complete **purple** area
- Students complete **green** area

#81-83 General Asset Information

- If net worth is one million plus, enter \$999,999
- If negative, enter 0
- Net worth means current value minus debt

#81 Total of Cash, Savings and Checking

- Total as of the day the FAFSA is signed and after monthly bills are paid

#82 Net Worth of Investments

- Do not include home, value of life insurance, and retirement plans
- Include other real estate, Education IRAs, CDs, money

market funds, mutual funds & college savings plans

- Trust funds must be reported

#83 Net Worth of a Business or Investment Farm

- Value means market value of land, buildings, machinery, equipment, inventory, etc.
- Debt means only debts for which business or investment farm was used as collateral

STEP FIVE

Complete this step only if you (the student) answered "Yes" to any Step Three question.

STEP SIX

#86-97 Schools to Receive Information

Federal School Codes are available in the Career Center or www.fafsa.ed.gov

Select the housing plan that best describes where student expects to live while attending that particular school

Prioritizing College Choices

- List a CA school for Cal Grant purposes even if you plan to leave the state
- List schools most likely to attend
- You can add additional colleges after the first processing of the original 6 (Speak with Career Center staff about how this works)

#98 Expected Enrollment

If in doubt, report full-time

#99-100 Date and Sign

If filing electronically, don't forget to use the PIN # or print a signature page.

If your filing status is "**dependent**" student, both student and 1 parent must sign.

If your filing status is "**independent**" student, only the student must sign.