

Financial Aid Newsletter

Linda Brannan, Financial Aid Advisor

March, 2024



Finding Money For College

When Will Students Receive College Financial Aid Award Letters from NC Colleges/Universities? (communication received from NCSEAA)

Due to the FAFSA delay, UNC System and NC Community College System schools will not finalize their financial aid award letters until sometime in April. The US Department of Education is still on target with their timeline for FAFSA information to be available to state agencies in early to mid-March. Once this is done, students should receive an email notifying them that their FAFSA Submission Summary (FSS) is ready for them to review and make corrections and changes. Colleges will also receive FAFSA information in March and will start processing financial aid for their students.

What does this mean for you? 🧡

- Financial Aid offices with NC universities, colleges and community colleges will not generate/send financial award letters until sometime in April. Some private institutions may also be affected.
- Students need to check their email and college portals regularly in March & April to see if additional information is needed to process their financial aid in a timely manner.

FAFSA Updates for 2024-25

- **FAFSA Submission Summary** - The Department of Education announced that it will be making the FAFSA Submission Summary (FSS) available to students starting in March. This means students can finally make changes or corrections to their FAFSA forms. Also, colleges will receive the student's FAFSA information in March for processing. Students need to check their email and college portal **frequently** for messages regarding the FAFSA application and financial aid.

What can I do in the meantime?

- Once students receive communication that their **FAFSA Submission Summary (FSS)** is available, they can log onto their studentaid.gov account to check if they have errors, need to make changes to their FAFSA Form or if they were flagged for verification. They will see instructions on how to correct the FAFSA form and supply any additional information. **Understanding the FAFSA Submission Summary** presentation - click link (only 9 slides) [fafsa_submission_summary_we.pptx \(live.com\)](https://www.fafsa.gov/understanding-the-fafsa-submission-summary-we.pptx)
- **Student Aid Index (SAI)** will be available at the same time.
 - You may desire to check your SAI to see if you might qualify for the **Next NC Scholarship**. Click link to view - [Next NC Scholarship \(2024-2025 Academic Year\) | CFNC](https://www.ncscholarship.com/) (if you are from a household with an income of \$80,000 or less and an SAI of 7,500 or less.)

Making Corrections to the FAFSA Form & FAFSA Help: The links below will help you find assistance, instructions on making corrections, and webinars offered.

- [2024-25FAFSATips.pdf \(ncfafsahub.org\)](#) - FAFSA tips regarding common error messages
- [How To Correct or Update Your FAFSA® Form | Federal Student Aid](#) - How Do I Correct My 2024-25 FAFSA Form once it is Submitted?
- [Help Center | Federal Student Aid](#)
- [2024–25 FAFSA® Help | Federal Student Aid](#)
- [Contact Us | Federal Student Aid](#)
- [How to Make FAFSA® Corrections | Chase](#) - link to article on this process
- [Understanding the SAI - Student Aid Index](#) - understanding the Student Aid Index after FAFSA submission as it relates to Pell Grants. Note: colleges often use the SAI to determine additional institutional aid given to students separate from the Federal Aid.

Updates to the NC FAFSA Hub as of 2/27/24 - NEW

- The Department of Education (DE) announced a **workaround for students with contributors without a Social Security Number (SSN) to be able to submit the online FAFSA form.** This [step-by step guide](#) will walk students through how to submit an incomplete FAFSA for the purposes of meeting non-federal financial aid deadlines. ***Note:*** This is only for students who have not submitted a paper FAFSA.
- DE stated that **FAFSA submission issues for students who have a contributor without an SSN will be resolved in the first half of March.** At that time, students will be able to submit a fully completed FAFSA that includes all contributor information.
- DE also shared that contributors without an SSN who cannot complete the TransUnion identity verification process will now receive an automated email including an assigned case number and information on next steps.
- Additional Spanish-speaking representatives will be added to the call center supporting [studentaid.gov](#) login/ FSA ID creation.
- Continue to check [ncfafsahub.org](#) for more updates and resources.

Scholarship Searches - click to view reputable sources for scholarships.

- Click the link below for scholarship search websites on [Mrs. Brannan's Financial Aid Tools:](#)
- [North Carolina College Scholarship & Grant Search \(cfnc.org\)](#)
- Two of the best resources are:
 - a. The high school scholarship listing which shows you **any** scholarship offering the school has received. If you have difficulty locating the high school scholarship listing, contact Student Services for its location on your high school website.
 - b. The college financial aid department's website will show you scholarships of all types that the college is offering - merit and other scholarships and grants. Search for the Financial Aid Dept website (not Admissions) of your favorite college and look for scholarships for "Incoming Students" or "New Students".

Financial Aid Resources:

- [Brannan's Financial Aid Tools \(google.com\)](#) - Click the link below to view Mrs. Brannan's Financial Aid Website with a plethora of resources
- [How to Pay for College: Resources to Help Pay Your Way \(cfnc.org\)](#)
 - Webinar link - [How To Pay for College | FAFSA's Done, Now Show Me the Money](#)
- [Calculate Your College Costs – BigFuture | College Board](#)
- [How Financial Aid Works | Federal Student Aid](#)

Appointments with Mrs. Brannan, our Financial Aid Advisor

Ms. Brannan works with 3 different high schools on a part-time basis. She uses a hybrid method to meet with students/families including in-person and virtual appointments. She is available to meet after-school hours, using Google Meet for virtual appointments, 2-3 days per week.

How to Make an appointment:

- To make a virtual appointment with Ms. Brannan - use this link: <https://calendar.app.google/KDNMNums4QBtA126>
Virtual appointments tend to fill quickly. If you need an appointment sooner than the calendar shows availability, then email Mrs. Brannan at lbrannan@wcpss.net
- To make an in-person appointment, please e-mail: lbrannan@wcpss.net to schedule on her regular "in-person" day at your school.