



FAFSA

OPENS DECEMBER 1
2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

THE FAFSA

FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID allows college students to access financial aid for college, including grants, scholarships, work-study and federal student loans

The 2025-26 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) will be available to all students on or before December 1, 2024. The application will be released in phases, with a limited number of students and institutions able to access it on October 1.

Who can get federal student aid?

U.S. citizen/national

High school diploma or equivalent

Eligible degree/certificate program in college/career school

Student has a Social Security number

Eligible Non-Citizen

Generally, if you have a “green card” (in other words, a permanent resident alien)

***HOW
MUCH
MONEY DO
I NEED?***





THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA SYSTEM

2024-25 Cost of Attendance NC Resident

Tuition, Books and Supplies, Housing, Other Expenses and Fees

Actual cost varies by student selections - collegesimply.com

	Resident/In-state
NC State University	25,753.00
UNC-Chapel Hill	25,249.00
East Carolina University	23,813.00
NC A & T State University	19,372.00
UNC Charlotte	23,660.00
UNC Greensboro	20,550.00
UNC Wilmington	26,466.00
Appalachian State University	24,793.00
Fayetteville State University	17,521.00
NC Central University	26,002.00
UNC Pembroke	22,030.00
Western Carolina University	19,341.00
Winston-Salem State University	22,412.00
UNC Asheville	21,600.00
Elizabeth City State University	14,673.00



NC PRIVATE COLLEGES (SELECTED)
2024-25 Cost of Attendance NC Resident
Tuition, Books and Supplies, Housing, Other Expenses and Fees
Actual cost varies by student selections - collegesimply.com

<u>Brevard College</u>	\$45,650
<u>Campbell University</u>	\$60,554
<u>Davidson College</u>	\$75,865
<u>Duke University</u>	\$82,749
<u>Elon University</u>	\$59,627
<u>Greensboro College</u>	\$35,500
<u>Johnson C Smith University</u>	\$34,254
<u>Meredith College</u>	\$57,774
<u>Methodist University</u>	\$55,016
<u>Shaw University</u>	\$29,734
<u>Wake Forest University</u>	\$82,988



2024-2025

FALL AND SPRING Tuition and Fees

\$2,982



**16 Credit
Hours
Tuition/Full
Time**



**Computer
Use/Tech Fee**



**Student
Activity/
Athletics Fee**



**Campus
Access Fee
Total**

Other estimated costs:

Textbooks Access Fee \$864 Other Fees \$336 off Campus Living \$10,000
Other Miscellaneous Expenses throughout the year \$4,600



HOW MUCH?

Students attending a community college will receive at least **\$3,000**. Those attending a public university in North Carolina will get a minimum of **\$5,000**.

Students with the greatest need for financial aid could qualify for even more funding to help make paying for college more manageable.

ELIGIBILITY

- NC resident who is eligible for in-state tuition
- A high school graduate
- From a household with an annual Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) of \$80,000 or less**
- Enrolled in an eligible undergraduate curriculum program for the 2025-2026 academic year
- Taking at least 6 credit hours per semester (part-time students will receive a partial award)
- Meeting the Satisfactory Academic Progress standards of the school you plan to attend
- A student who has completed the 2025-2026 FAFSA, with a resulting Student Aid Index (SAI) at or below 7,500 (once complete, the financial aid office at the college/university you plan to attend will determine and confirm eligibility.)



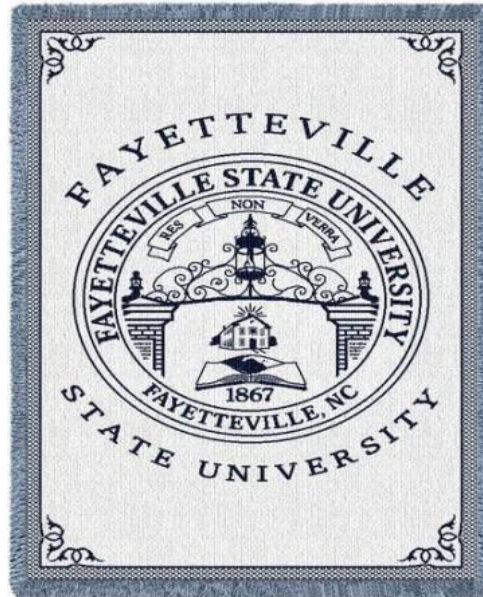
UNC-Chapel Hill offers free tuition and required fees to incoming undergraduate students from North Carolina whose families make less than \$80,000 a year.



Duke offers free tuition for students from families in North and South Carolina making \$150,000 or less and extra housing, food, and other expense assistance for students from families making \$65,000 or less.

NC Promise Institutions

All resident undergraduate students enrolled can attend for \$500 per semester tuition. Campus related fees and on-campus residency costs are to be added to tuition to understand the full cost of attendance.



How do I apply?



Free Application for Federal Student Aid

FSA ID

- The students and contributors (biological or adopted parent, stepparent) are required to have an FSA ID.
- Parents without a social security number are still required to have an FSA ID.
- An email address is required.
- Information entered for the FSA ID must match what is entered into the FAFSA.

Users need to update FSA ID and FAFSA information if there is a change in address, phone number, email, etc.


Don't give your FSA ID to anyone or allow anyone. Sharing your FSA ID could put you at risk of identity theft!





MULTI-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION (MFA)

This all-electronic process will allow contributors who do not have SSNs to obtain an FSA ID. Contributors will have their identity verified through the TransUnion Credit Bureau, or, if they do not have documents in that system that can be used to verify their identity, they will be able to upload their documents to the FSA website.



A Better 2024–25 FAFSA® Form

The 2024–25 FAFSA form is now available. We've started sending submitted applications to colleges and states. [Learn more about 2024–25 FAFSA updates.](#)

2024–25 FAFSA® Form

Start New Form

Access Existing Form

Need to access last year's form? [Edit a 2023–24 FAFSA Form](#)



The FAFSA for students entering college **Fall 2025** will show a date of 2025-2026 using 2023 taxes.

Students planning to attend college **January 2025** will use the form shown using 2022 taxes.

Information you'll need to fill out the FAFSA:

- ✓ Your social security number and driver's license, and/or alien registration number
- ✓ Student's 2023 federal income tax returns, W-2s, and other records of money earned.
- ✓ Parent's 2023 income tax returns, W-2 forms and 1040 forms if you're a dependent.
- ✓ Bank statements and records of investments.
 - *The FAFSA will want information on available cash, balances in savings and checking accounts and any investment portfolios as of the date of the FAFSA.*
 - *All real estate holdings other than the house you live in must be listed. The net worth of Family farms and small businesses are assets a required part of the application*



Child support counts as an asset.

*The number of family members in college is no longer considered in the needs analysis formula, but it is still a required question on the FAFSA® form. **Ask the colleges you plan to attend if they offer sibling discounts.***

FAFSA

**Year Entering
College**

Taxes

2024-2025

2022

Opened: December 2023
*(Complete this form if
attending January 2025.)*

2025-2026

2023

Opens: December 1, 2024
**Complete this form if
attending Fall 2025**



UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

Most undocumented students aren't eligible for an SSN; thus, they cannot complete the FAFSA form. However, DACA recipients with SSNs can complete the FAFSA form.

Financial Aid for Undocumented Students

Many colleges don't require a student to be a citizen or permanent resident to qualify for institutional scholarships and grants. But undocumented students need to do their research, as state and college policies vary.

- California, Colorado, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Hawaii, and the District of Columbia, offer or will offer state financial aid to students who meet certain criteria, regardless of their immigration status.

Another option is private scholarships. Nonprofit organizations like TheDream.US and Golden Door Scholars cater specifically to undocumented students.

WHO IS A CONTRIBUTOR?

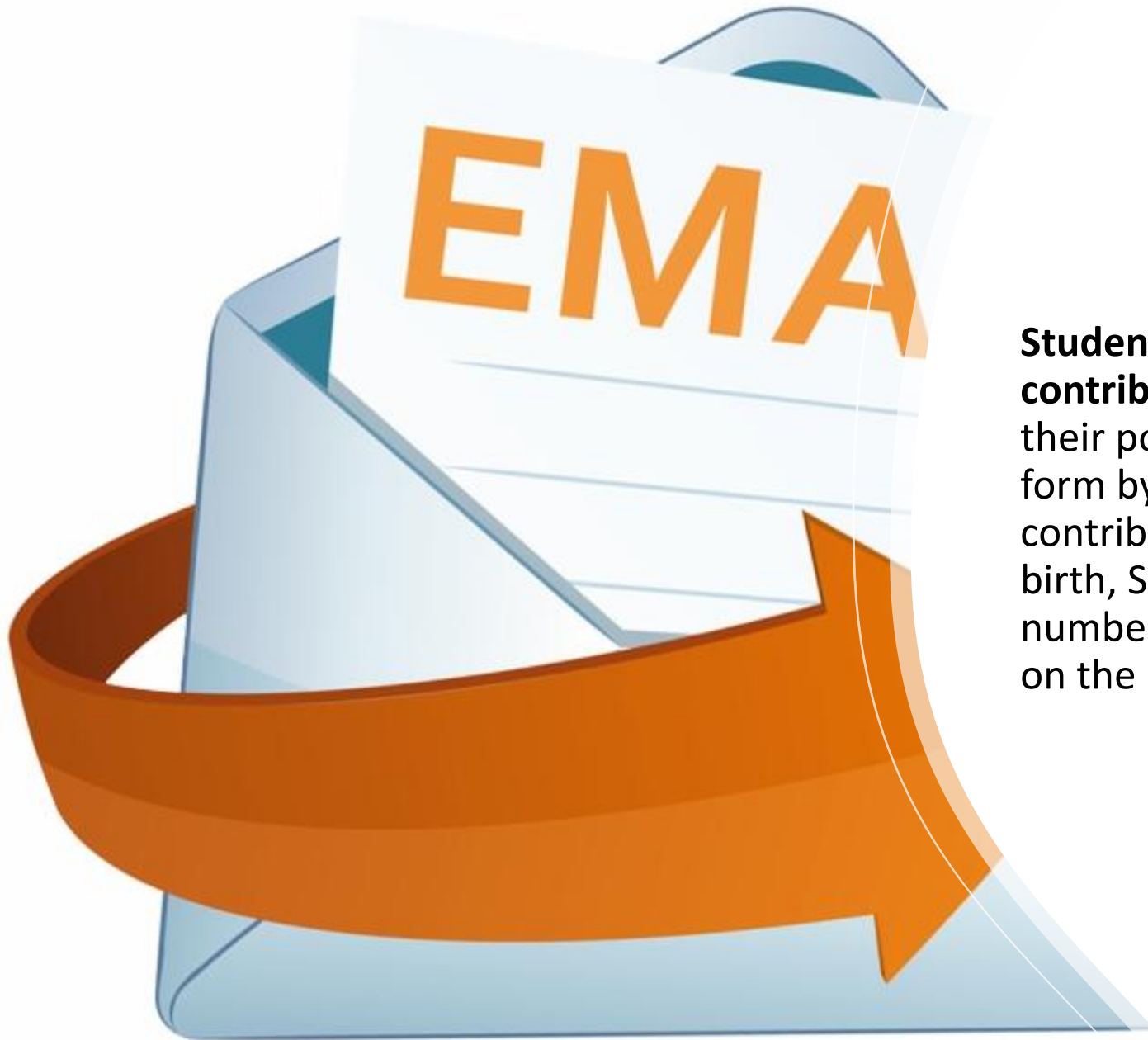
Anyone asked to provide information on the FAFSA including the biological or adopted parents, and stepparents.



Who's My Parent

- Parents that live together are treated as married even if they are divorced. Only legal separation is considered.
- In the case of divorced parents, only the income and assets of the parent who provides the greater portion of the student's financial support is the contributor .
- If that primary parent is remarried, the income of that parent's spouse (stepparent) will also be included.
- *The FAFSA form asks about your parents' education level. For these two questions, your stepparent is not your parent in those questions.*





Students invite contributors to complete their portion of the FAFSA form by entering the contributor's name, date of birth, Social Security number, and email address on the application.

A contributor must create a StudentAid.gov account or FSA ID (*username and password*) if they don't already have one. If the contributor does not have a social security number, they still **must** create a Student Aid account.

Contributors must provide personal and financial information in their own sections of the FAFSA form, but they are not financially responsible for the student's education cost. However, if a required contributor refuses to provide their information, it will result in an incomplete FAFSA form and the student will become ineligible for federal student aid.



Students & Contributors must provide consent to:



Have

their federal tax information transferred directly into the FAFSA® form via direct data exchange with the IRS.
(FA-DDX- Future Act Direct Data Exchange replaces the IRS Data Retrieval Tool)



Have

their federal tax information used to determine the student's eligibility for federal student aid, and



Allow

the U.S. Department of Education to share their federal tax info with postsecondary institutions & state higher education agencies for administering financial aid.

- ❖ *Even if students or contributors don't have a Social Security number, didn't file taxes, or filed taxes outside of the U.S., they still need to provide consent.*
- ❖ *If a student or required contributor doesn't provide consent to have their federal tax information transferred into the FAFSA® form, the student will not be eligible for federal student aid—even if they manually enter tax information into the FAFSA form.*

UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Unusual circumstances are when a student is unable to contact a parent or where contact with the parent poses a risk to the student. Examples of unusual circumstances include human trafficking, legally granted refugee or asylum status, parental abandonment or estrangement, and student or parental incarceration.

- Applicants who indicate on their FAFSA® form that they have unusual circumstances will be granted **provisional independent status** and receive an estimate of their federal student aid eligibility.
- A financial aid administrator will make the final determination of a student's unusual circumstances based on the documentation that the student submits to the school, or the financial aid administrator may perform their own personal assessment.
- Acceptable documentation could include interviews, documented phone calls and statements from various officials, court documents, utility bills, and any other documentation deemed appropriate by the school.
- If a school approves a student's unusual circumstances, their independent student status will remain as long as the student stays at the same school and their circumstances don't change.





Double Check

Before submitting your FAFSA, double check that all information is correct and no required information is missing.

**Where can I
get more
information?**





Wake County Public Schools

Financial Aid Advisor Program (FAAP)

Find out in Student Services
how to schedule an
appointment with your
Financial Aid Advisor!



<https://www.wcps.net/domain/14566>

Wake County Schools



Sunday, September 22, 2024
1:00 PM until 4:00 PM
The McKimmon Center@NCSU
1101 Gorman St
Raleigh, NC 27606
United States





NC COUNTDOWN TO COLLEGE

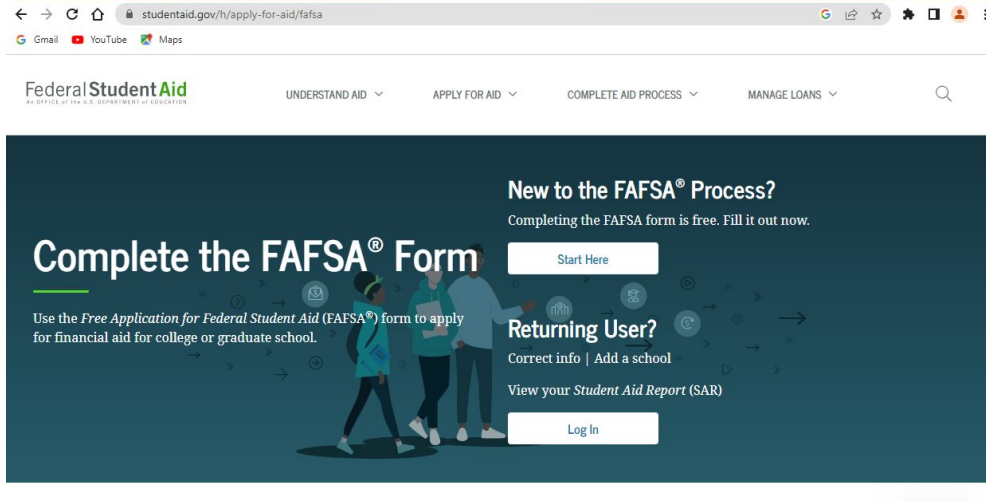
Residency | FAFSA | Applications

Countdown to College (C2C) supports college access every October. C2C activities help high school seniors complete three important college enrollment steps: residency, FAFSA, and applications. Many NC colleges and universities will support C2C by waiving application fees during College Application Week.

NC Countdown to College will take place during the month of **October 2024**.
College Application Week (when many NC colleges have free applications) will be **Oct 21-27**.

Federal Student Aid

www.studentaid.gov



The screenshot shows the Federal Student Aid website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the following menu items: UNDERSTAND AID, APPLY FOR AID, COMPLETE AID PROCESS, and MANAGE LOANS. The main content area features a dark blue background with the following text and buttons:

- Complete the FAFSA® Form**
- Use the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®)* form to apply for financial aid for college or graduate school.
- New to the FAFSA® Process?**
Completing the FAFSA form is free. Fill it out now.
[Start Here](#)
- Returning User?**
[Correct info](#) | [Add a school](#)
[View your Student Aid Report \(SAR\)](#)
[Log In](#)



College
Foundation
of North Carolina
www.ctnc.org

Federal Student Aid Information Center

Contact Us



E-mail Us

You can email us anytime.



Chat with Us

Ask a live agent your questions via a web chat.



Call Us

1-800-4FED-AID
(1-800-433-3243)
International Caller?
Can't make a toll-free call?
1-334-523-2691

Hours of Operation

Monday-Friday
8 a.m.-11 p.m. Eastern time
(ET)

Saturday-Sunday
11 a.m.-5 p.m. Eastern time
(ET)



created

by Linda Taylor

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Wake County Public Schools

August 2024

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GRADE

Planning for Financial Aid

Start discussing your financial situation with your parents, so they have an understanding of how much you can afford.

Review your college savings vs. potential costs. Review savings you have for college and compare them to the total 4-year cost of a potential college you may be interested in. Ask parents to review the family budget to see if there are opportunities to put aside more for college. It's never too late to start saving.

Start understanding financial aid terms. Complete the College Board Calculator to get an estimate of your Student Aid Index (SAI).

Start researching merit aid, which students can earn based on their grades and test scores. This is important especially “full ride” scholarships – so they can use their time wisely in high school and prepare themselves to be the best possible applicants later.

Ask parents to evaluate their credit score. If it needs improvement, they can start taking steps to have the best score possible by the time you are a senior. This will help if you need to apply for private student loans.

Audrey Lee
Financial Aid Advisor

Anlee@wcpss.net

At Vernon Malone on Tuesdays
Meet in Person or Virtually

GRADE 10




Planning for Financial Aid

The January of your sophomore year starts keeping up with the money you earn. Keep up with your W2 forms. Your earned income in addition to your parent's income information will be used for financial aid assessment by colleges and the US Department of Education. FAFSA asks for tax information from two years prior to the year you starts college. The tax year from January of 10th grade to the end of December of junior year, is the tax year that will be used for the FAFSA you'll be filling out when you apply to college.

Consider schools that are “financial safety” schools. Include schools that are [financial safety](#) schools on the list.

Know what a net price calculator is. Start looking into [net price calculators](#) for the schools on your list. The College Board has a link to every school's net price calculator. *id policies.*

Start your scholarship search. Be wary of [“no essay” scholarships](#) or ones that don't ask for much information – they are just like sweepstakes with companies looking to gather your information. Don't ever pay a fee to apply for a scholarship. Chances of winning a scholarship are highest when applying for locally sponsored funds, so start researching and creating a list.



*"So Now You Have Been
Accepted Into College -
How Do You Pay?"*

Linda Taylor, WCPSS Financial Aid Advisor
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