

# What is the FAFSA?

## Basic FAFSA Facts:

**\*What is it?** FAFSA stands for Federal Application for Student Aid . This form is used by the federal government to determine your eligibility for financial aid, which includes: grants, work-study, scholarships and loans.

**Grants** – This is money you do not have to pay back or “Free Money”. This money is awarded to college students which never has to be paid back. Most grants are need based but some schools may have grants that are given to non-need based students. These grants are usually awarded for scholastic achievement or GPA.

**Loans** – This is money that is awarded to college students that must be paid back. The most common loans are the Direct loans and Federal Perkins Loans. There are two types of Direct Stafford Loans: a subsidized loan and an unsubsidized loan. Subsidized loans do not build interest while you are in college. Unsubsidized loans accrue interest while you are enrolled in school.

**Work –Study**- This is money that students earn working on a part-time basis at the campus they are enrolled at.

**\*When do I begin filling out this form?** Fill out the form as soon as possible after January 1.

**\*Where can I pick up this form?** You will need to visit the following website: [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov) and click “Before Beginning a FAFSA” to get started. You can pick up a paper copy by calling 1-800-4-FED-AID to ask for a copy.

**\*What is a Federal Student Aid PIN?** The Personal Identification Number (PIN) is the number assigned to you that identifies you online. The PIN allows anyone to electronically sign federal documents and access confidential information. To obtain a PIN visit [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov).

**When do I receive a reply?** After filling out the FAFSA you will receive a (SAR) Student Aid Report within 5 weeks of filing:

-Review immediately and carefully.

-report errors to the FAFSA Help Desk and ask how to make corrections.

-Call 1-800-433-3343 if you do not receive the SAR within 5 weeks.

Click here to start your FAFSA! [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov)