

What to Expect When You Apply for Financial Aid

Checklist:

- Get a **PIN** (Personal Identification Number) at www.pin.ed.gov for:
 - Yourself and
 - One of your parents
 - The PIN will serve as your electronic signature when signing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) every year.

- Gather **records** of income earned during the previous calendar year, such as:
 - W2 forms from your employer(s)
 - Other records of income earned
 - Records of other untaxed income received such as welfare benefits (TANF), Social Security benefits, child support received, payments to IRA's or 401 (k)s, and military or clergy allowances
 - Current bank statements and records of stocks, bonds, and other investments

- Obtain copies of your **Social Security Number**, driver's license, and Alien Registration Number (if you are not a citizen).

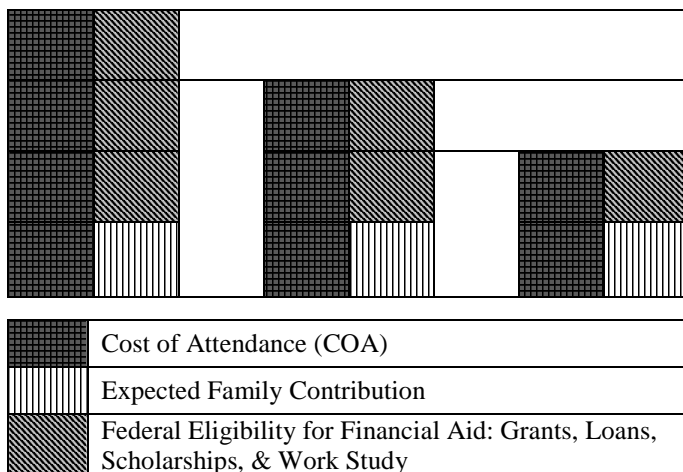
- Fill out a new **2011-2012 FAFSA** by going to www.fafsa.ed.gov. Save each page and make sure to click SUBMIT upon completion. Sign your online application with your PIN *or* print, sign, and mail the electronic signature page. The **DEADLINE** for most schools is MARCH 2!!

- Fill out the **GPA Verification Form** (also available at www.calgrant.org) in order to qualify for California Grants. **Return the form to Mrs. Blakely in the Counseling Office. She will then send in an electronic copy of the GPA Verification Form for you. DEADLINE: MARCH 2 but please turn in ASAP. The earlier you return the form to Mrs. Blakely the sooner she will submit.**

- Fill out and submit other necessary financial aid forms or applications by their deadlines:
 - **CSS Profile** (required by some private schools)
 - **Board of Governor's Fee Waiver** (BOG-W for California Community Colleges)
 - Institutional forms required by your college
 - Scholarships

How It Works:

Here's the federal formula: Cost of Attendance – Expected Family Contribution = Federal Eligibility:



It's simple! The federal government will determine how much money your family and you (if you're employed) can contribute to your education, based on the information you provided on the FAFSA. This amount is referred to as your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). They will, then, subtract your EFC from a pre-determined Cost of Attendance for each college you reported on the FAFSA. The resulting amount reveals your Federal Eligibility. This is how much the government believes you need to attend college—and how much you may receive in the form of grants and loans.