

# FAFSA Completion and Next Steps

## What to expect after you submit your FAFSA

1. Your completed FAFSA will be electronically submitted to the federal processor contracted by the Department of Education (ED).
2. Your FAFSA will be processed and your **Expected Family Contribution (EFC)** will be determined based on ED's *Federal Need Analysis Methodology* and information you provide on your application.

*Note: Your EFC is not the amount of money your family will have to pay for college nor is it the amount of federal student aid you will receive. It is a number used by your school to calculate the amount of federal student aid you are **eligible** to receive.*

3. FAFSA will monitor your application status daily until it is **fully processed** and will notify you by e-mail once it is complete.
4. Within 7-10 days, you and the financial aid offices of up to ten schools listed on your FAFSA will receive a copy of your **Student Aid Report (SAR)** that specifies your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The SAR is your record that your FAFSA was processed.

*Note: If your FAFSA is incomplete, your SAR will NOT include an EFC, but it will display text that specifies any issues that need to be resolved. Make sure to add or correct the information that caused your FAFSA to be incomplete and submit your corrections.*

5. College financial aid administrators use your SAR and other information you have provided to them to prepare a financial aid award package for you. Depending on the types and amount of financial aid for which you are eligible, **your financial aid package** may include a mixture of grants, scholarships, work-study programs, college-sponsored aid, and/or loans, and will be communicated to you in the form of a Financial Aid Award Notice.
6. You will typically receive a **Financial Aid Award Notice** only from those colleges to which you have been offered admission. The notice will include specific information on how to accept and/or apply for any financial aid offered, along with next steps in the process.
7. Some colleges may require additional forms and/or applications for financial aid; it will be **your responsibility** to complete and submit these documents.
8. Students are encouraged to **contact college financial aid administrators** to determine exact financial aid policies, procedures, and deadlines. Financial aid administrators can tell you when award notices will be distributed, and if any additional forms or applications for aid are required. They will also be able to answer any specific financial aid questions you have.
9. Because you must file a new FAFSA each year to be considered for most types of financial aid, including non-need-based federal aid, you will be notified when it is time to **renew your application** for the coming academic year.

For any questions regarding your FAFSA application please contact your High School College Counselor or the College's Financial Aid office. For general FAFSA questions go to: [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov)

