

- **Important: Read the instructions!**

Many questions on the FAFSA are straightforward, like your Social Security Number. But many questions are asked specifically for purposes of student financial aid. Common words like "household," "investments," and even "parent" may have special meaning. Read all instructions carefully.

- **Apply Early!**

Check with your school to find out the exact deadline dates. In order for you to actually receive aid, your school must have correct, complete FAFSA information.

- **Complete Your Tax Return!**

We recommend that you (and your parents if you are a dependent student) complete your tax return before filling out your FAFSA. This will make completing the FAFSA easier. If you have not filed your tax return yet, you can still submit your FAFSA but you must provide correct income and tax data once you have filed.

- **Save Time: File Electronically!**

Complete and submit your FAFSA online. It is the fastest and most accurate way to apply for student aid.

- **Filling out the FAFSA – go to www.fafsa.ed.gov**

To receive student financial aid, you need to fill out a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) every school year. FAFSA on the Web allows you to complete and submit your financial aid application electronically.