

What is it?

The FAFSA is the form that the federal government uses to determine your eligibility for federal aid. This aid includes grants, scholarships, work-study and loans.

## How does it work?

Using your FAFSA, the federal processor determines your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) which is the amount of money your family can be expected to contribute each year to your college costs. Your school will then try to meet your need through a financial aid award made up of funds from federal, state, school and private sources as well as loans, grants and student employment.

## Where can I get one?

Complete FAFSA online at <u>www.fafsa.ed.gov</u> or get a paper version from your high school or call 1-800-4-FED-AID Advantages of FAFSA on the WEB

FAFSA on the WEB is the quickest and easiest method of applying, offering the following advantages:

- · Detailed online help provides immediate answers.
- · Build-in edits detect errors and reduce number of rejects applications.
- · Applicants have instance access to EFC estimate.
- · Applicants can verify that information was transmitted successfully.
- SAR arrives within 1 to 2 weeks, at most, compared to 3 to 4.

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) <u>www.fafsa.ed.gov</u>

 $\cdot$  Complete your FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1. The FAFSA becomes available on January 1 of each year. Since funds are limited at many schools, early submission maximizes your chances of receiving financial aid.

 $\cdot$  Submit the FAFSA whether or not you think you qualify for aid.

Sometimes being rejected for federal aid is prerequisite for receiving private awards. Contact your prospective college's financial aid office for additional information. Your school may require forms in addition to the FAFSA or may have an earlier submission deadline.

