

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

- The student will receive a confirmation email once the FAFSA is submitted.
- Once the FAFSA has been successfully submitted and processed an electronic copy is sent to all schools listed on the student's application.
- Schools typically receive the FAFSA around 14 days after it has been submitted. The school will inform the student that the application has been received and request additional paperwork if needed.
- Once all paperwork is submitted and reviewed, the school's financial assistance office will notify the student of the award amount.

WHAT FINANCIAL AID OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE?

Students and parents are encouraged to research financial opportunities.

- **LOUISIANA'S TAYLOR OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS (TOPS)**
- **FEDERAL GRANTS**
- **STUDENT LOANS**
- **WORK-STUDY PROGRAMS**
- **INSTITUTIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS**

There are many websites that focus on scholarships, but be aware of scams. **You do not have to pay for assistance in finding scholarships.** These are a few reputable websites to consult for scholarship opportunities:

CAREER ONE STOP	WWW.CAREERONESTOP.ORG
FASTWEB	WWW.FASTWEB.COM
UNIGO	WWW.UNIGO.COM
GOODCALL	WWW.GOODCALL.COM



FINANCIAL AID FUNDING MY FUTURE

FAFSA GUIDE



STAY IN TOUCH WITH THE LDOE



WWW.LOUISIANABELIEVES.COM/COURSES/FINANCIALAID



FACEBOOK:
[@LAEDUCATION](https://www.facebook.com/LAEDUCATION)



TWITTER:
[@LA_BELIEVES](https://twitter.com/LA_BELIEVES)



INSTAGRAM:
[@LA_BELIEVES](https://www.instagram.com/LA_BELIEVES)



WHAT IS THE FAFSA?

VIDEO: [HTTP://BIT.LY/FAFSAOVERVIEW](http://bit.ly/FAFSAOVERVIEW)

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA, is a form prepared annually by current and prospective postsecondary education students in the United States to determine their eligibility for student financial aid. All high school seniors in Louisiana are required to submit the FAFSA, apply for the Louisiana Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS), or receive a waiver in order to graduate.

WHEN IS THE FAFSA AVAILABLE?

The FAFSA application is available each year on October 1. Students should complete the application in their senior year of high school and each year in a postsecondary education institution to continue qualifying for aid. Early completion is encouraged, since students may qualify for additional state or institutional aid.

HOW IS THE FINANCIAL AID AWARDED?

The FAFSA uses financial information from both the student and their parent(s) or guardian(s) to determine how much they can contribute to the student's education. This is known as the Expected Family Contribution, or EFC. Schools will subtract a student's EFC from tuition costs to determine how much aid will be awarded for each student.

HOW TO COMPLETE THE FAFSA

STEP 1: REGISTER FOR A FSA ID



VIDEO: [HTTP://BIT.LY/FSAID](http://bit.ly/FSAID)

A FSA ID is the username and password used to log into certain U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) websites. You must have an email address that you have access to in order to complete this process. Parents and students MUST create their own FSA IDs. It is important to keep this ID number handy, as it will be used each time the FAFSA is completed. To get started, log in to FAFSA.GOV.

STEP 2: COLLECT ALL OF YOUR NECESSARY DOCUMENTS

The following items are needed to complete the FAFSA:

- Social Security numbers for student and parent/guardian
- Driver's license number for student, if applicable
- Alien Registration number if the student is not a U.S. citizen
- Federal Income Tax Return for both parent/guardian and student
- Records of untaxed income (i.e. child support received, interest income, and veterans non-education benefits for both parents and students)
- Information on cash, savings, checking account balances, investments including stocks and bonds and real estate (but not including the home in which you live), and business and farm assets for both parents and students
- Money received, or paid on your behalf (i.e. bills), not reported elsewhere on the application

STEP 3: COMPLETE THE FAFSA APPLICATION

- Go to www.fafsa.ed.gov and select "**Start a New FAFSA**"
- It will take approximately **30 minutes** to complete the following sections:
 - » **Section 1: Student Demographic Information**
 - » **Section 2: School Selection Summary**
 - » **Section 3: Dependency Determination**
 - » **Section 4: Financial Information**
- **Review, sign, and submit** the FAFSA
- **Print** the Confirmation Page