

Philly Goes 2 College!

Fast Facts about the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

What is the FAFSA?

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA, is the first step for finding money for college. By filling out the FAFSA you apply for the U.S. Department of Education's federal student aid programs—the largest source of student aid in America. In many cases, by filling out the FAFSA you're also automatically applying for funds from your state and school as well.

Why is filling out the FAFSA important?

If completing college is your goal, the FAFSA is the first step to pay for it. As a Philadelphia college graduate, you can earn an average of **\$2 million** over your lifetime—approximately \$1.18 million more than someone with only a high school degree.* In addition to this huge financial edge, a college degree will provide you more career choices that come with better benefits and greater job security.

Who should complete the FAFSA?

If you are a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen, a high school graduate or have a GED, and are working toward a degree or certificate in an eligible program, it's very likely that you can apply. You can access the U.S. Department of Education's FAFSA website for more information by going to phillygoes2college.com or order a mailed copy of the FAFSA by calling 1-800-4-FED-AID.

Where do I fill out the FAFSA?

It's recommended that you complete the FAFSA online. You can access the Department of Education's FAFSA website by going to phillygoes2college.com, or you can order a mailed copy by calling 1-800-4-FED-AID.

When do I have to submit the FAFSA?

It's important that you fill out the form as soon as you can. There is a limited amount of money available and it's provided on a first-come, first served basis. Deadlines for completing the FAFSA are different across schools, so be sure to check out the deadlines for your desired schools.

How can I get help filling out the FAFSA?

Help is available online at www.fafsa.ed.gov and by calling 1-800-4-FED-AID. You can also get in-person help at one of several FAFSA Completion Events taking place around Philadelphia. Visit phillygoes2college.com or call 215-686-2169 for more information.

* Source: Center for Labor Market Studies, 2009