Lucy,

You've...

- ☑ Worked hard in high school
- ☑ Decided to go to college
- ☑ Done well on the PSAT/NMSQT® or SAT®
- ☑ Researched colleges
- ☑ Prepared your college applications
- ☑ Submitted your college applications

Now it's time to...

- **Apply for financial aid**
- Start college!

You've made so much progress — now it's time to make it pay off!

CollegeBoard

You're almost to college — take these final steps to lock in money that makes college affordable.

Lucy,

Students like you who apply for and receive financial aid are more likely to go to college and complete a degree … but you can't receive financial aid if you don't apply. In 2012-13, **83%** of college students received some type of financial aid. **Don't miss out on the opportunities you've earned.**

This guide will show you the simplest way to unlock the financial aid that will help you pay for college.

TAKE THESE
3 STEPS TODAY!

1 Give the **green** parent's FAFSA checklist to your parent or guardian.........p.1

2 Complete the **orange** FAFSA checklist yourself...p.3

3 Complete the **blue** CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE® checklist...........................p.5

BONUS: Check out the FREE resources we've provided in the back.

Get social with the FAFSA!

f /FederalStudentAid   **🐦** @FAFSA

Parent's FAFSA Checklist

As a parent or guardian, **you have the power to make college affordable for your student** simply by helping them to complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). They can't do it without you!

☐ ### 1. CREATE A FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FSA) ID ON **FSAID.ED.GOV**

⏱ **Time Estimate: 5 minutes**

An FSA ID is simply a login to certain Federal Student Aid sites, including the FAFSA, and can serve as your legal signature. You'll need your FSA ID — and your student will need his or hers — to fill out the FAFSA online.

☐ ### 2. GATHER INFORMATION FOR THE FAFSA

⏱ **Time Estimate: 1 hour**

Write down this information or gather these documents to be ready to complete the FAFSA.

☐ Your Social Security number (or your alien registration number, if you are not a U.S. citizen)

☐ Your driver's license number (if you have one)

☐ Your most recent federal income tax returns, W-2s, and other records of money earned*

☐ Records of 2015 untaxed income, such as Social Security benefits, public assistance (if applicable)

☐ Your most recent bank statements and records of investments (if applicable)

☐ Your FSA ID (created in step 1)

* If you file your 2015 taxes first, the IRS has a tool that lets you import tax return information directly into the FAFSA, making it easier to fill out. To find out if you're eligible to use the tool, visit **www.fafsa.ed.gov** and search "Am I eligible to use the IRS data retrieval tool?"

☐ ### 3. SET A DATE TO COMPLETE THE FAFSA WITH YOUR STUDENT

⏱ **Time Estimate: 5 minutes**

Don't delay** in submitting your student's FAFSA — some states and colleges award financial aid on a first-come, first-served basis.

Expert Tip: Complete the FAFSA in January or early February to avoid missing out on the maximum amount of aid you can receive.

☐ ### 4. COMPLETE THE FAFSA ON **FAFSA.ED.GOV**

⏱ **Time Estimate: 30–45 minutes**

🔍 Free help for parents

You and your student are not in this alone! You should never have to pay for help with the FAFSA — here are three ways to get free assistance:

1. **Talk** to your student's school counselor

2. **Chat** with or email a FAFSA expert at **studentaidhelp.ed.gov**

3. **Talk** to a FAFSA expert by calling the Federal Student Aid Information Center at **1-800-4FED-AID** (hours: Mon.–Fri., 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET)

Student FAFSA Checklist

The average financial aid award package in 2014-15 was $14,210, with $8,170 in the form of grants — the FREE money. If you work at a job that pays $10/hr., you'd have to work over 1,400 hours to earn that much. Instead, take one hour to fill out the FAFSA.

☐ **1. CREATE A FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FSA) ID ON FSAID.ED.GOV**

⏱ **Time Estimate: 5 minutes**

An FSA ID is simply a login to certain Federal Student Aid sites, including the FAFSA, and can serve as your legal signature. You'll need your FSA ID to fill out the FAFSA online.

☐ **2. GATHER INFORMATION FOR THE FAFSA**

⏱ **Time Estimate: 1 hour**

Write down this information or gather these documents to be ready to complete the FAFSA:

☐ Your Social Security number (or your alien registration number, if you are not a U.S. citizen)

☐ Your driver's license number (if you have one)

☐ Your most recent federal income tax returns, W-2s, and other records of money earned*

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☐ Your most recent bank statements and records of investments (if applicable)

☐ Your FSA ID (created in step 1)

* If you file your 2015 taxes first, the IRS has a tool that lets you import tax return information directly into the FAFSA, making it easier to fill out. To find out if you're eligible to use the tool, visit **www.fafsa.ed.gov** and search "Am I eligible to use the IRS data retrieval tool?"

☐ **3. WRITE DOWN FAFSA DEADLINES AND SCHOOL CODES**

⏱ **Time Estimate: 30 minutes**

Some states and colleges award financial aid on a first-come, first-served basis. Use the table on the next page to keep track of your colleges' financial aid application due dates, and the Federal School Code for each of your colleges.

☐ **4. COMPLETE THE FAFSA ON FAFSA.ED.GOV**

⏱ **Time Estimate: 30–45 minutes**

Use this table to keep track of your colleges' deadlines and Federal School Codes.

☐ Use **fafsa.ed.gov/FAFSA/app/schoolSearch** to find and write down your Federal Schools Codes for the colleges you are applying to.

☐ Check your colleges' websites to find and write down the financial aid deadlines** for the colleges you are applying to.

☐ Look up the FAFSA deadlines for your state's grant and scholarship programs at **fafsa.ed.gov/deadlines.htm**, or by talking to your school counselor.

** If you can't find the deadlines, you can call the colleges' financial aid office.

COLLEGE NAME	FEDERAL SCHOOL CODE	FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION DEADLINE DUE DATES	
		PRIORITY	REGULAR

What happens after you submit your FAFSA:

1. Check your email one week after submitting the FAFSA. You'll receive a link to a report that summarizes the information you submitted in the FAFSA (called the Student Aid Report). **Print and save this report.**

2. Keep checking your email and regular mail a few times a week, as sometimes the Federal Student Aid office or your colleges will require additional information to award you money for college. **Set a reminder in your phone or on your calendar so you don't forget.**

Student CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE® Checklist

Lock in more free money and financial aid for college — complete the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE today.

☐ **1. CHECK IF THE SCHOOLS YOU APPLIED TO REQUIRE PROFILE**

    Time Estimate: 10 minutes

    Visit **collegeboard.org/profilelist** and write down the names of any colleges you're applying to that require PROFILE.

☐ **2. IF ANY OF YOUR SCHOOLS REQUIRE PROFILE, FILL IT OUT.**

    Time Estimate: 45 minutes

    Go fill it out at **collegeboard.org/css/profile**. There's plenty of free help on **css.collegeboard.org** that makes the PROFILE simple to complete. **You'll need information similar to what you gathered for the FAFSA.**

Fast Facts

What is it?

College Scholarship Service/Financial Aid PROFILE (aka PROFILE) is an online application used by certain colleges and scholarship programs to determine eligibility for their aid dollars.

When should I start?

Right away! To get the most aid, you'll want to complete the PROFILE before the priority deadlines, which are in February and March. Be sure to complete your PROFILE no later than two weeks before the EARLIEST priority filing date specified by your colleges.

What does it cost?

It depends on your particular situation. If you used a fee waiver to pay for your SAT®, or if you meet the eligibility criteria based on the information you provide on your PROFILE, you may qualify for a fee waiver that will cover most if not all the fees.

If you do not qualify for a fee waiver, the application fee, which includes one college or program report, is $25, and each subsequent college or program report is $16.

Helpful Links and Resources

Free FAFSA support:

Create and manage your FSA ID	fsaid.ed.gov
Look up Federal School Codes	fafsa.ed.gov/FAFSA/app/schoolSearch
Look up state FAFSA deadlines	fafsa.ed.gov/deadlines.htm
Complete and submit your FAFSA	fafsa.ed.gov/
Tips for filling out the FAFSA	studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/filling-out
FAFSA Frequently Asked Questions	fafsa.ed.gov/help.htm
Email or chat with a FAFSA expert	studentaidhelp.ed.gov/app/home/p/26
Find FAFSA completion events and resources near you	collegegoalsundayusa.org
Learn more about paying for college	bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college

FAFSA Support by phone:

Phone: **1-800-4FED-AID (1-800-433-3243)**
Monday–Friday: 8 a.m.–10 p.m. ET
Saturday–Sunday: Closed

Social Media:

FAFSA

/FederalStudentAid

@FAFSA

College Board

/MyBigFuture

@collegeboard

@MyBigFuture

Free PROFILE Support:

Learn more about PROFILE	css.collegeboard.org
Complete the PROFILE	student.collegeboard.org/css-financial-aid-profile

PROFILE Support by phone:

Phone: **305-420-3670**
E-mail: **help@cssprofile.org**
Monday–Friday: 8 a.m.–10 p.m. ET
Saturday–Sunday: Closed

CollegeBoard