

## I've Applied...What's Next?

Congratulations! You have taken the significant first step to going to college – you've applied! Once you have submitted your online application, colleges should be in touch with you to inform you of the status of your application. **Make sure to check your email.** If the college has not contacted you within four weeks of your submission, contact the admissions office to ask about your application status.

### Follow-up

Even though you've already filled out the online portion, there is still more to do to finish your application. You need to submit:

- High school transcripts—must be official (signed and with a school seal/electronic sent from the high school registrar)
- You will also need to **send your official final transcript** after you graduate from high school
- Your application fee (if you chose the pay later option)
- College transcripts from Concurrent Enrollment (CE) courses (if required)
- ACT scores (if required)
- Letters of recommendation (if required)
- Your essay (if required)

**After you are accepted, consider the following to make your final decisions and prepare for college expenses:**

- Review your financial aid offer letter and decide what financial aid and scholarships you will accept
- Decide if you want to live on campus or commute. Remember to do this EARLY! Most colleges have early deadlines for on-campus housing.
- Schedule a meeting with an academic adviser to discuss first-year coursework
- Register for classes as a new student
- Attend new student orientation

## The Next Steps for Financial Aid

### Paying for College

Beginning on October 1<sup>st</sup>, you can complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online. You must complete the FAFSA to be considered for grants, work-study funds, student loans, and some scholarships, which is a very important step. **Class of 2023 seniors should file the 2023-2024 FAFSA**, asking about your family's 2021 tax information. You should complete the FAFSA before your college's FAFSA deadline to access the most money possible.

### Resources for Completing the FAFSA

Complete and submit the FAFSA as early as possible. The sooner you submit the form, the more prepared you will follow up with colleges about what else may be needed to receive a financial aid package.

- Speak with your family and school counselor about your financial aid options.
- You and a parent\* will need an FSA ID to complete your FAFSA yearly. If you did not register for an FSA ID or have forgotten it, visit [studentaid.gov/fsa-id](https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id).
  - *\*If your parent does not have a Social Security number, they will not create an FSA ID and will physically sign and submit the FAFSA at the end. Talk with your school counselor or college adviser for more information.*
  - *\*If your parent already has an FSA ID, they will need to use or recover that account. They will not be able to create a new account since the FSA ID is tied to their Social Security Number.*

- Utah System of Higher Education (USHE) partners with schools statewide to host FAFSA Completion Events. Ask your counselors about your school's FAFSA Completion Night.
- [Keys to Success](#) has several resources regarding paying and saving for college. You can get access to FAFSA assistance, a full FAFSA walkthrough video, and more.

### Resources for Finding Scholarships

Scholarships are a great way to pay for college because they do not have to be repaid, but that doesn't mean they are easy to get. You must dedicate time and energy to being a good candidate and submitting scholarship applications; **read all requirements** and instructions carefully, and **adhere to all deadlines**. Don't be afraid to ask for help from counselors, teachers, and college advisers who have also applied for scholarships!

#### Here are a few places to search for scholarships:

- Your school counselor or scholarship coordinator
- The financial aid and scholarships webpage of the college or university you plan to attend
- [State of Utah's Scholarships and Aid Programs](#)
- [Keys to Success](#) connects students with local scholarships, internships, and other opportunities
- Online scholarship search engines, such as:
  - [CollegeBoard BigFuture](#)
  - [Fastweb](#)
  - [Chegg Scholarships](#)

## FAFSA Completion Nights Coming to a High School Near You!

### Assistance with Your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

#### What You'll Need to Complete the 2023-2024 FAFSA

#### Before you apply for financial aid:

- Create one FSA ID (aka the FAFSA username and password) for you, the student, and one FSA ID for your parent\* [studentaid.gov/fsa-id/](https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/) \

#### Students and parent(s) need to gather these things:

- Social Security cards for both student and parent(s)
  - *If the parent(s) does not have one, type 000-00-0000 for the SSN*
  - *If the student doesn't have one, you will be unable to file the FAFSA. Please talk with a school counselor or college adviser about other ways to pay for college, scholarship opportunities, and [HB 144](#).*
- If applicable, student's I-94 paperwork or Permanent Resident Card (Typically, this applies to refugee or asylee students)
- If applicable, the student's driver's license
- 2021 W-2 forms and other records of taxed income\*\* for both student and parent(s)
- 2021 Federal Income Tax Return\*\*\* for both student and parent(s)
- Current bank statements for both student and parent(s)
- 2021 untaxed income records for both student and parent(s)
- Current information pertaining to businesses & investments, including documentation outlining the value of businesses or farms, stocks, bonds, 529 or Coverdell college savings plans, cryptocurrency, mortgage information about any properties OTHER THAN a primary residence, or other investment records\*\*\*\* for both student and parent(s)

#### USHE Financial Aid/FAFSA Contact Info:

**Phone:** 801-646-4562

**Email:** [fafsahelp@ushe.edu](mailto:fafsahelp@ushe.edu)

*\*\* If you were gainfully employed.*

*\*\*\* If you filed an income tax return. IRS 1040, Foreign Tax Return, or Tax Return from Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, or Palau.*

*\*\*\*\* Stocks, bonds, and other investments designated for retirement (such as those found in a 401(k) or IRA) are not reported on the FAFSA. The value of your primary residence is not reported on the FAFSA. The value of a business with fewer than 100 FTE employees is not reported on the FAFSA. THAT'S NOT ALL! The college still has to process your aid and costs and will provide an offer letter to you. Follow up with your school counselor or college adviser and your college's financial aid office for any additional steps that are required*