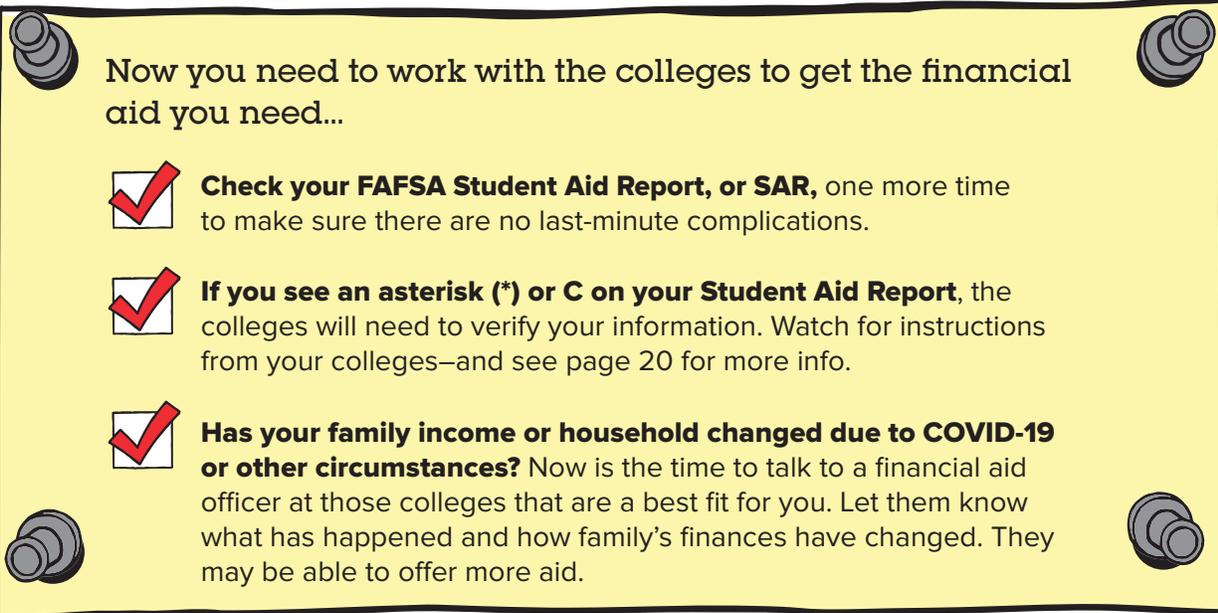


FOLLOW UP

Show Me the Money!

Once your application is complete, the colleges on your list should automatically get your FAFSA information. At any point, you can add colleges to your list or take them off.



Now you need to work with the colleges to get the financial aid you need...

-  **Check your FAFSA Student Aid Report, or SAR,** one more time to make sure there are no last-minute complications.
-  **If you see an asterisk (*) or C on your Student Aid Report,** the colleges will need to verify your information. Watch for instructions from your colleges—and see page 20 for more info.
-  **Has your family income or household changed due to COVID-19 or other circumstances?** Now is the time to talk to a financial aid officer at those colleges that are a best fit for you. Let them know what has happened and how family's finances have changed. They may be able to offer more aid.

Q: My FAFSA is done. What comes next?

A: Wait for your college acceptance letters! In some cases, the acceptance letters will also tell you how much aid you can get from the government and the college's own scholarship funds. Often, however, a college will send its financial aid letter a bit later. Different colleges will give you different amounts of aid.

Q: What kind of financial help can I expect?

A: Every college that accepts you will provide a letter or email describing how much the college will cost—and what the college can offer you to help you pay to go there. This will probably be a mix of grants and scholarships (money that is given to you), loans (which you must pay back) and work-study (money you can earn). This is called a “financial aid package.” It is important that you look at each package carefully, so you select a college you can truly afford.

Q&A:

What If I'm Asked to Prove That the Information on My FAFSA Form Is True?

Q: Why am I being asked to prove that my FAFSA information is accurate?

A: This is a process called “verification,” and it’s common—up to 30 percent of FAFSA forms get verified every year. The U.S. Department of Education and the colleges select certain students to verify the information they provided on their FAFSA forms. Sometimes applicants are chosen at random. Sometimes it is because the information on the FAFSA form is inconsistent or incomplete. Colleges are responsible for doing the verification.

Q: What does verification involve?

A: The college financial aid office will contact you. It is usually just a routine request for more information, often about your family income. You should be in good shape if you used the IRS Data Retrieval Tool. If you didn’t, you will probably need to provide an IRS transcript of your family’s tax returns (you can request this from the IRS) or income statements from employers. The college’s financial aid office will compare your FAFSA form with the information you provide. If there are differences, you will need to correct your FAFSA form.

Q: What other questions may be asked?

A: The financial aid office may want to confirm the number of people in your family, and how many others are currently in college. You may be asked about other family income (like child support) or government aid (like food stamps). You may also be asked to provide legal identification or proof that you are graduating from high school.

Q: Can I send the same information to all of the colleges?

A: You will have to respond separately to each college. Each will send a form by email or regular mail, indicating what they need. Be sure to meet each college’s deadline. If there is no deadline, provide the information as quickly as possible.

Q: If I get a verification form, that means the college has accepted me, right?

A: Not necessarily. Some colleges ask to verify your financial information **before** they have made a decision about admitting you. This is why you need to do this quickly. Stay in close touch with the colleges you hope to attend—and give them everything they ask for.