Financial Aid Workshop

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Financial Aid- The Mission

- Access and Affordability
- College is a major expense that not everyone can afford
- Financial Aid reduces the *net price* to make the expense more affordable

Financial Aid- The Basics

- **What is Financial Aid?**

  Any grant or scholarship, loan, or paid employment offered to help a student meet his/her college expenses

- **Sources:**

  Federal Government

  State

  Colleges/Universities

  Private Companies & Organizations

Types of Financial Aid

- **Grants:** Financial aid money that doesn't have to be repaid; eligibility is generally based on household income and minimum academic requirements

- **Loans:** borrowed money for education expenses which the student must repay with interest

- **Work-Study:** a federal work program through which the student earns money (through a part time job) to help you pay for school

- **Scholarships:** funds that do not need to be repaid, eligibility criteria is diverse (i.e. based on merit, extracurricular activities, field of study)

FAFSA, EFC, and Financial Need

- **FAFSA** (**F**ree **A**pplication for **F**ederal **S**tudent **A**id)

- Application is available at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

- Priority filing dates: **January 1-March 2**

- **Expected Family Contribution:** <u>Not</u> a reflection of what the student must pay out of pocket

  - EFC is calculated based on student's FAFSA information

FAFSA: Application in 7 Steps

- **Step 1:** Student Information
- **Step 2:** Student Income Information
- **Step 3:** Student Dependency Status
- **Step 4:** Parent Income Information
- **Step 5:** Household Information
- **Step 6:** List of Colleges/Universities
- **Step 7:** FAFSA Signature(s)

NOTE: You will need to create an FSA ID. The FSA ID will be used by the student and parent to sign the FAFSA and/or make corrections to the application.

Student Aid Report

- What you get/emailed after you submit FAFSA

- Notifies student of any **potential errors** that need correction (i.e. FAFSA is incomplete due to parent signature)

- Notifies the student of the **EFC** number, and the potential amount of grant and loan awards

California Dream Act

- A separate application process (separate from FAFSA)
  - The equivalent of the FAFSA for undocumented AB 540 students
- Now provides funding for undocumented students:
  - Allows AB540 students to apply for and to receive scholarship derived from non-state funds (includes **private scholarships**)
  - Allows AB 540 students to apply for **Cal Grants and institutional grants** awarded by the California public colleges and universities.

FAFSA/Dream Application and Cal Grant

- In California, FAFSA is used to award state funds (Cal Grant program)
- The California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) administers the Cal Grant Program and the Dream Application for AB 540 students
- Application:
  - Step 1: Submit FAFSA or Dream Application
  - Step 2: Turn in Cal Grant GPA Verification Form to your counselor by Friday Feb. 26

Common FAFSA/Dream Application Mistakes

- Student must be included in the household size

- Parent AGI is equal to taxes paid- can't be the same number

- SSN and DOB for student or parent

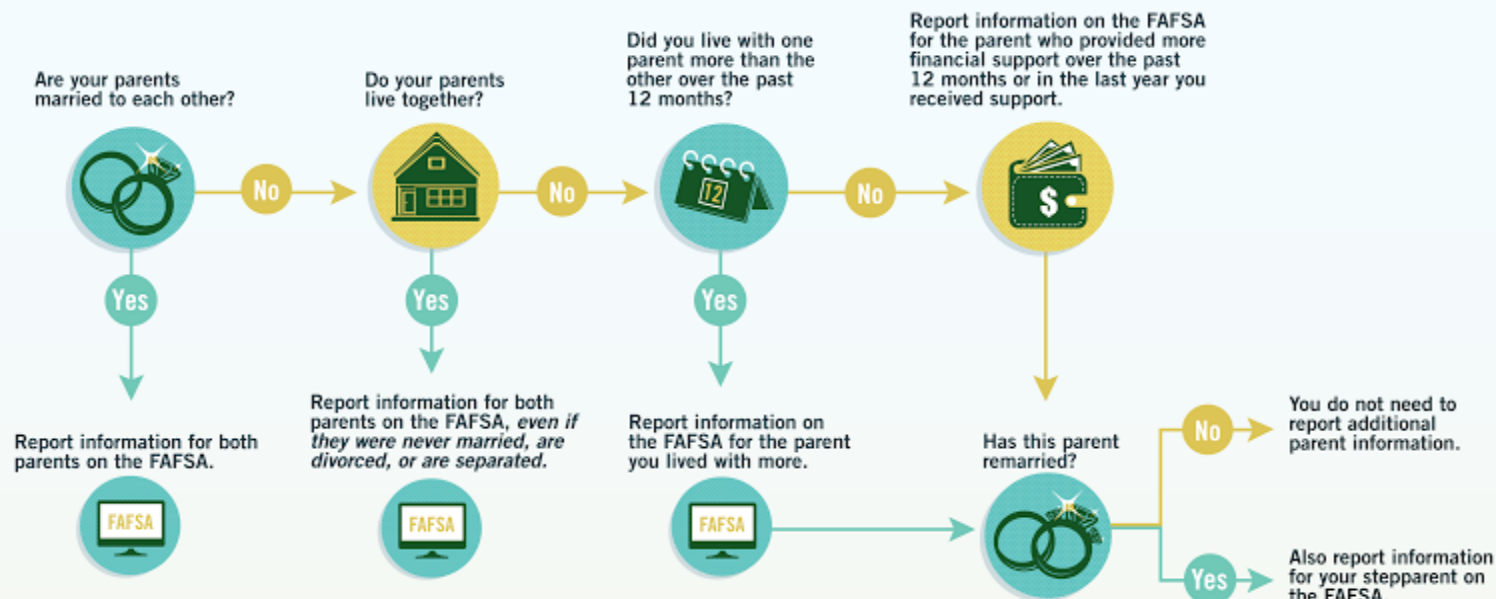- Parent Marital status and IRS tax filing marital status must be the same

Parent Marital Status

- Parent marital status and parent tax filing status are both verification items
- Dependent students are required to report parent(s) income information
- For FAFSA purposes, your "parent" means your legal (biological or adoptive) parent or step-parent

WHO'S MY PARENT WHEN I FILL OUT MY FAFSA?®

Dependent students are required to report parent information on the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA).[1] For reporting purposes, **"PARENT"** means your legal (biological or adoptive) parent or stepparent, or a person that the state has determined to be your legal parent.

Use this guide to figure out which parent's information to include (depending on your family situation).

Are your parents married to each other?

→ **No** → **Do your parents live together?** → **No** → **Did you live with one parent more than the other over the past 12 months?** → **No** → Report information on the FAFSA for the parent who provided more financial support over the past 12 months or in the last year you received support.

Yes ↓

Report information for both parents on the FAFSA.

FAFSA

Yes ↓

Report information for both parents on the FAFSA, *even if they were never married, are divorced, or are separated.*

FAFSA

Yes ↓

Report information on the FAFSA for the parent you lived with more.

FAFSA →

Has this parent remarried?

→ **No** → You do not need to report additional parent information.

→ **Yes** → Also report information for your stepparent on the FAFSA.

The following people are not your parents unless they have legally adopted you:

Widowed Stepparent — Grandparents — Foster Parents — Legal Guardians — Older Brothers or Sisters — Aunts or Uncles

If you're not sure whom to report as a parent, you can visit StudentAid.ed.gov/fafsa/filling-out/parent-info or call 800-4-FED-AID (800-433-3243).

[1] If you're not sure whether you are a dependent student, go to StudentAid.gov/fafsa/filling-out/dependency

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# How can I figure out how much money I may get from a particular college?

(1)Wait to get your financial aid award letter in April-----

OR

- Use the NET PRICE CALCULATOR to get an 'estimate' of what you might expect to receive from each college
- Use the 'net price calculator tool' in advance, so there aren't any big surprises
- Use the 'net price calculator' to help with choosing the colleges that you can more easily afford
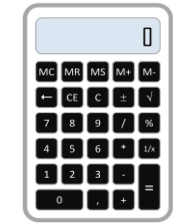
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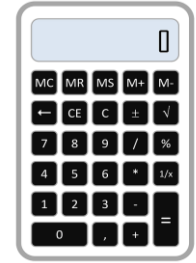
What is it?

- It is the COA (Cost of attendance) minus any grants or scholarships that you might be eligible to receive
- It includes direct costs (tuition and fees, room and board) and indirect costs (books, supplies, transportation)

What can it show me?

- An easy way for students and parents to 'estimate' what it might cost them 'out of pocket' to attend a particular college.
- Prospective students have to enter information about themselves to find out what students like them paid to attend the institution in the previous year
- It will help you to narrow down how much it 'might cost' you to attend various colleges and 'compare' the various costs

Net Price Calculator

Where can I find it?

- On individual college website
- Often on Financial aid page for the college
- Google "Net price calculator for XYX" (XYZ is college name)
- Go to College Board 'BIG FUTURE' website and type in college name and click on "Paying" button

How will it help me?

- It will help to determine an estimated cost of colleges your student is thinking of attending

Important Dates/Deadlines

- Attend FREE FAFSA workshops (January 27 and February 24, 2016)at DV Design

- File FAFSA and CSS Profile (if required) by no later than March 2, 2016

    -Be sure to check individual colleges for their deadlines

    -MANY have earlier deadlines in February (ex: USC requires both and is due Feb. 16, Pepperdine must submit FAFSA only by Feb. 15)

    - The earlier you complete your FAFSA, the earlier you receive your award letter letting you know how much $$ you'll receive from the college (if you have been accepted!)