

## How to Apply

Completing the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) is the required to determine your eligibility for grants, need-based scholarships, loans and work-study. The FAFSA becomes available online each year on October 1 and we recommend that you apply early. This will allow you to complete any financial aid requirements in a timely manner, spend more time searching for scholarships, and focus on other college planning and tasks.

### Be Prepared!

Filing the FAFSA can be simple and a little preparation will help make the process go smoothly. You can use [this worksheet](#) to get a preview of what the form looks like and the questions it asks!

You will also need to create a [Federal Student Aid ID \(FSA ID\)](#) for you and your parent (if dependent). The FSA ID is used to confirm your identity when accessing aid information and electronically signing federal student aid documents. Be sure to keep passwords and answers to challenge questions secure.

### Gather Your Information!

Here's a list of what you and your parent will need in order to fill out, sign and submit the [FAFSA](#) online:

- An [FSA ID](#). Your FSA ID allows you to log in to your account and electronically sign the FAFSA. You and your parent must create separate FSA IDs. Create this first!
- Social Security or Alien Registration number
- Driver's license (if you have one)
- Your and your parent's federal income tax returns and W-2s from 2019 (you can use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool to import this data!)
- Bank statement
- If applicable, other records of money earned, and records of investments and untaxed income

### Get Help!

Don't worry about getting stuck while you're filling out the FAFSA. On the FAFSA app and website, there are tooltips next to each question, [detailed help pages](#) and a chat option. You can also contact the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-433-3243 for assistance.

The UIW Office of Financial Assistance is also available to assist you with any questions you have at any step of the process. Contact our office at [finaid@uiwtx.edu](mailto:finaid@uiwtx.edu) or 210-829-6008.