

How to Apply for Federal and State Financial Aid for the 2009-2010 Academic Year

If you have not applied for and are considering seeking financial assistance for the 2009-2010 academic year, you need to complete the **Free Application for Federal Student Assistance (FAFSA)** as soon as possible. The Office of Financial Assistance recommends that students apply as early as possible to avoid missing out on any grant opportunities. Procrastination may cost you valuable grant dollars -- **the IL Monetary Award Program (MAP) deadline has been moved up every year and it is expected to be moved up to an even earlier date this year too.** Continuing students with valid e-mail addresses on their 2008-2009 FAFSA should have received an e-mail reminder about filing a renewal FAFSA for 2009-2010. Students who reported an invalid e-mail address or did not report an e-mail address on the 2008-2009 FAFSA will need to visit www.fafsa.ed.gov to complete a 2009-2010 FAFSA. Below you will find tips on how to apply and how you can submit your application for 2009-2010.

Tip 1

Get a PIN. To sign your FAFSA electronically, you (and your parent, if you are dependent) need a U.S. Department of Education PIN. If you do not have one, apply now at <http://www.pin.ed.gov>. For faster processing of your FAFSA, we recommend that you sign with a PIN.

Tip 3

Save Your FAFSA as You Go. Save your application often using the "Save" button at the bottom of the screen. That way, if you lose your internet connection, you can return to the FAFSA you already started.

Tip 5

Sign Your Application. If you have a PIN, you can electronically sign your FAFSA. Otherwise, you will need to print the signature page and mail it. If you are a dependent student, a parent will need to sign your FAFSA as well. Your parent can sign either by using a PIN or by mailing in a signature page.

What you need to complete your 2009-2010 FAFSA

- Your Social Security number
- Your driver's license number, if you have one
- Your W-2 Forms for 2008
- Your completed federal income tax return for 2008
- Your current bank statements and records of stocks, bonds, and other investments
- Your business or farm records, if applicable
- Your alien registration number, if you are not a U.S. citizen
- If you are a dependent student, you will also need:

~Your parents' Social Security number's
~Your parents' income and financial records (as listed above)

Use income records for the calendar year prior to the academic year for which you are applying for financial aid.

Tip 2

Print the Pre-Application Worksheet from <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>. Many students find it helpful to complete the Pre-Application Worksheet before completing their FAFSA online.

Tip 4

Get Help. Because there is plenty of **FREE** help available, you do not have to pay to get assistance filling out your FAFSA. The "Need help with this page?" button at the bottom of every online FAFSA page will lead you to more information to help you complete that page. The "Help" button at the top of every screen has a complete index of help topics.

Tip 6

Submit Your Application. Click the "Submit" button located on the very last page of the online FAFSA form. After submitting your application, a confirmation page will appear. Print this page for your records.

What Can You Do With Your PIN?

- Sign your FAFSA electronically.
- Review and, if necessary, correct answers on your processed FAFSA.
- Sign loan promissory notes electronically.
- View information about your federal loans and grants.
- Reapply for financial aid in the future.

Special Note: Print the Confirmation Page that appears at the end of your data entry. This page contains a confirmation number that can be used for tracking purposes if there are problems in the transmission, or if you do not receive a Student Aid Report as a result of submitting your data via the Web.