

Top 10 FAFSA tips

1. ***Apply early paying attention to deadlines.*** W&J's priority filing deadline for incoming freshmen is February 15th. Priority filing deadline for upperclass students is March 15th. The FAFSA filing deadline for PA state grant consideration is May 1st.
2. ***Apply for an FSA ID for yourself and a parent [here](#).*** Provide your email address for receipt within 2-3 business days. Make sure your FAFSA is signed with both pins!
3. ***Complete your FAFSA application electronically at www.fafsa.gov.*** Do not use any other website as many will charge for your FAFSA completion.
4. ***Apply for your FAFSA using your full legal name.*** Do not use nicknames or abbreviated names.
5. ***Double check your social security number.*** It will be cross checked with the social security administration for accuracy. Incorrect information will cause a rejection during the data match process.
6. ***Males must make sure they are registered with selective service.*** If not already registered, request to be registered on your FAFSA.
7. ***Answer every question on your FAFSA form.*** Blank is NOT an answer!
8. ***Do not leave conflicting information on your FAFSA.*** If your tax forms show an asset, make sure it is accounted for under the asset section of the FAFSA.
9. ***Keep your taxes on hand while filling out your FAFSA.*** Figures from certain line numbers will need to be entered onto the FAFSA. We recommend using the IRS Data Retrieval Tool if it's available to you.
10. ***Double check your FAFSA for accuracy.*** Make any necessary corrections to your SAR.

Top 10 Financial Aid tips

1. ***Keep photocopies of all tax documents in case this documentation is requested by the school at a later time.***
2. ***Apply for aid each year.*** Your tax information changes yearly so the government requires the FAFSA to be completed annually.
3. ***Read all materials sent home and return any documents needing completion immediately.***
4. ***Get the student involved.*** Students should understand their financial aid process so they will be able to work with the aid office during the academic year without parental supervision.
5. ***Invest time in your financial aid process.*** Look into scholarships on your own and consider your time spent as an investment in your education. If you are receiving an outside scholarship, please send a copy of the letter to the Financial Aid Office.
6. ***Maintain a file of your financial aid correspondence.***
7. ***Follow directions carefully.*** Write clearly. Answer questions completely.
8. ***Make sure you carefully evaluate whether you can afford your preferred school.*** Consider the costs over 4 years rather than just during the first year.
9. ***Pay attention to the additional paperwork required to actually receive the financial aid awarded to you.*** Completing your FAFSA determines your eligibility for aid. Certain

awards may have additional paperwork needing completion to allow the money to disburse to your account with the school. An example would be a loan promissory note.