Agenda

- GAfutures.org
- Basic Information
- Federal Programs
- State Programs
- Filling out the FAFSA
- Additional Resources
• Georgia’s primary resource to help students plan, apply and find affordable ways to pay for college
• **GAfutures** supports GSFC’s mission to increase access to education beyond high school for Georgia students
GAfutures.org

• Financial Aid Information
  – The basics, state and federal programs, calculators, repayment options, financial literacy tips, national scholarship search

• College Planning Tools
  – Timeline, test prep, *College Money Matters*, calculators, applications (admissions, financial aid), HOPE-eligible institutions highlighted, national college search

• Career Exploration
  – Career assessments, interest profiler, *Career Clusters and Pathways*, skilled trades

• *My GAfutures* for Students
  – Request high school transcripts, check HOPE GPA
What is Financial Aid?

- Financial aid is money to pay for your postsecondary education
- Examples of financial aid
  - Grants
  - Scholarships
  - Loans
  - Work-Study Programs
Sources of Financial Aid

- Federal Government
- State Government
- Colleges and Universities
- Private Foundations
- Employers and Private Companies
- Professional and Service Organizations
Types of Financial Aid

- Merit-Based Scholarship (HOPE Scholarship)
- Need-Based Grant (Pell Grant)
- Non-Need Based Grants (HOPE Grant)
- Student or Parent Loans
- Employment Opportunities, Work Study
- Military Aid and Grants
- Savings Plans (Path2College)
Who Can Get Federal Student Aid?

• U.S. citizen or permanent resident
• High school graduate or GED recipient
• Eligible degree/certificate program
• Valid Social Security number
• Males registered for Selective Service
• Satisfactory academic progress
How is Financial Need Calculated?

- Financial need is determined by Cost of Attendance (COA) and Expected Family Contribution (EFC)
- COA is tuition, fees, room and board, transportation, etc. established by the school
- EFC comes from what you report on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
Factors that Influence EFC

- Family Size
- Independent vs. Dependent Student
- Income (Student/Parent)
- Number in College
- Assets
- Savings
Factors that **Do Not** Influence EFC

- Assets that are **EXCLUDED** from the FEDERAL family contribution calculation (EFC)
  - Family home
  - Family farm (under special circumstances)
  - Value of retirement accounts (IRA, KEOUGH, 401K)
Federal Programs
What are the Federal Programs?

• Pell Grant
  – Maximum award amount for 2017-2018: $5,920
  – Based on financial need, COA, full-time or part-time status and plans to attend school for a full academic year or less
  – There is a maximum EFC to qualify for Pell
  – May not receive Pell Grant funds for more than one school at a time

• Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)
  – Full-time, undergraduates only
  – Awards range from $100 - $4,000

• Federal Work-Study Grant
What are the Federal Programs?

• Direct Subsidized Loan
  – Interest is paid by the government while enrolled (at least half-time)

• Direct Unsubsidized Loan
  – Student is responsible for paying the interest on the loan

• Federal PLUS Loan – for parents of undergraduate students

• Grad PLUS Loan – for graduate and professional students
# 2017 – 2018 Interest Rates

## Direct and PLUS Loans

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Loan</th>
<th>Interest Rates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Direct Subsidized Loans <em>(Undergraduates)</em></td>
<td>4.45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct Unsubsidized Loans <em>(Undergraduates)</em></td>
<td>4.45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct Unsubsidized Loans <em>(Graduate or Professional Students)</em></td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct PLUS Loans <em>(Parents and Graduate or Professional Students)</em></td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Federal Loan Program Limits

## 2017-2018 Academic Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initial Loan Amount for Dependent Students whose Parents are Eligible for a PLUS Loan</th>
<th>Base</th>
<th>Additional Unsubsidized</th>
<th>Annual Maximum Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Freshmen</td>
<td>$3,500</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$5,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sophomore</td>
<td>$4,500</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$6,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior/Senior</td>
<td>$5,500</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$7,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Independent Students and Dependent Students whose Parents were Denied a PLUS Loan</th>
<th>Base</th>
<th>Additional Unsubsidized</th>
<th>Annual Maximum Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Freshmen</td>
<td>$3,500</td>
<td>$6,000</td>
<td>$9,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sophomore</td>
<td>$4,500</td>
<td>$6,000</td>
<td>$10,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior/Senior</td>
<td>$5,500</td>
<td>$7,000</td>
<td>$12,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What are Some State Programs?

- Academic or Merit Scholarships
  - HOPE Scholarship
  - Zell Miller Scholarship

- Grants
  - HOPE Grant
  - Zell Miller Grant
  - HOPE Career Grant
  - HOPE GED Grant

- Loan
  - Student Access Loan (SAL)
Other State Programs

- Georgia Military College State Service Scholarship
- Georgia National Guard Service Cancelable Loan
- HERO Scholarship
- Public Safety Memorial Grant
- REACH Scholarship
- Scholarship for Engineering Education (SEE)
- Scholarship for Engineering Education for Minorities (MSEE)
- Tuition Equalization Grant (TEG)
- University of North Georgia Military Scholarship
- University of North Georgia ROTC Grant
- University of North Georgia ROTC Grant for Future Officers
How do I Apply for Aid?

• Federal aid: FREE Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at [fafsa.gov](http://fafsa.gov)

• State aid: most states make awards based on FAFSA data
  – GSFAPPS is a Georgia-specific financial aid application available on [GAfutures.org](http://GAfutures.org)

• School aid: contact school’s financial aid office

• Scholarships: each scholarship provider has its own requirements
**GSFAPPS**

**GSFAPPS**

Apply On Line Now

GSFAPPS Fact Sheet

GSFAPPS FAQs

GSFAPPS Tutorial

GSFAPPS Resources

New Application Instructions

Ask a Question

---

**WELCOME** to the GSFAPPS - the primary means for applying for most scholarships, grants, or service-cancelable loan programs administered by the Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC). GSFAPPS has been carefully designed to permit an applicant to quickly and accurately complete an application electronically, in a secure mode, and to receive immediate confirmation that the application has been received by GSFC for further processing. An applicant can also print out a copy of the application they submitted for their records. The instructions are easy to follow, and the System provides help menus throughout to guide completion of the application.

**OPTIONS.** If you decide not to apply electronically, you can download and print a paper application from GAfutures web site, call the Commission at 800-555-GSFC, or visit your Financial Aid Office. Remember, submitting your application online via GSFAPPS ensures your application has been completed correctly, and, assuming you meet the eligibility requirements, speeds up the approval process. If you are visually impaired, you can call the Commission at 800-555-GSFC to get assistance in completing your application.

**CONDITIONS.** You must have already established an account and completed your profile in GAfutures and be logged onto that website. If you need to establish an account and complete your profile in GAfutures, click here and click Create an Account.

**INSTRUCTIONS.** If you would like a tutorial on how to use GSFAPPS, click GSFAPPS Tutorial.

Click Apply Now to Apply Online.
Filling Out the FAFSA

FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID
Why Complete the FAFSA?

- **85%** of students have a chance to receive student financial aid
- **92%** of students from low-income households will receive grants
- Students who file the FAFSA are **63%** more likely to attend college

Source: National College Access Network
Why Complete the FAFSA?

- Qualifies students for low-interest and forgivable federal student loans
- 30 minutes is usually all you need to complete
- $24 billion in federal aid left on the table each year
- It’s FREE!

Source: National College Access Network
FAFSA Homepage: FAFSA.gov
## When to File the FAFSA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>When a Student Plans to Attend College</th>
<th>You will Submit this FAFSA</th>
<th>You can Submit the FAFSA From</th>
<th>Using Income and Tax Information From</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**FOOTNOTES:**

- The FAFSA is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.
- Students must file the FAFSA to be considered for federal financial aid.
- The FAFSA must be filed by the deadline to be considered for federal aid.
- Students can file the FAFSA using income and tax information from the previous year.

**WEBSITE:**

[GAfutures.org](http://gafutures.org)
FAFSA Deadlines

Federal Student Aid
Free Application for Federal Student Aid

Student Aid Deadlines
Pay attention to the deadlines! There are federal and state deadlines, and your colleges may also have a deadline.
Enter your state of legal residence and the school year for which you are applying for student aid. Then click View Deadlines.

What is your state of legal residence? Georgia
For what school year are you applying for student aid? 2017-2018

2017-2018

Federal Deadline
Online applications must be submitted by midnight Central Time, June 30, 2016. Any corrections or updates must be submitted by midnight Central Time, September 15, 2016.

State Deadline
Georgia - Check with your financial aid administrator.

College Deadline
Check with the college(s) you are interested in attending. You may also want to ask your college about its definition of an application deadline - whether it is the date the college receives your FAFSA, or the date your FAFSA is processed.

Help and Hints
For what school year are you applying for student aid?
Select the school year for which you are applying for financial aid. The school year you select should correspond to the FAFSA you will complete. For example, if you are applying for financial aid for the 2017-2018 school year, select 2017-2018. If you are applying for financial aid for...
What You Need to Complete the FAFSA

- Social Security number *(Alien Registration Number, if not a U.S. citizen)*
- Most recent federal income tax returns, W-2s and other records of money earned
- Bank statements and investment records *(if applicable)*
- Records of untaxed income *(if applicable)*
- An FSA ID to sign electronically
- Order Spanish FAFSA at edpubs.gov
The FSA ID

• Consists of user-created username and password
• Provides electronic access to personal information
• FSA ID can be used immediately upon creation to complete, sign and submit your FAFSA
• Parents and students must apply for their own FSA ID

Note: The user will only receive immediate full benefit of the FSA ID if the student is linking an already established PIN. If not, the student can only use the FSA ID to sign their FAFSA until their FSA ID has been validated by the Social Security Administration.
Create Your FSA ID

Create a New FSA ID

An FSA ID gives you access to Federal Student Aid’s online systems and can serve as your legal signature.

Only create an FSA ID using your own personal information and for your own exclusive use. You are not authorized to create an FSA ID on behalf of someone else, including a family member. Misrepresentation of your identity to the federal government could result in criminal or civil penalties.

To create your own personal FSA ID, enter answers for the questions below and select CONTINUE.

Important: When you are done click the CANCEL button to clear your data, even if you did not finish creating your FSA ID. Just closing your browser window or going to another website may not be enough to prevent other people using this computer from seeing your information until the session expires.
FSA ID Tips

• Create your own FSA ID
• Never tell anyone else your FSA ID
• Use your FSA ID each year you fill out the FAFSA and the lifetime of any loans
• Parents may need an FSA ID as well
• Each email address can be associated with only one FSA ID
Find the Answers on FAFSA.gov
The information provided in Section 2 will determine whether the student is a dependent or independent student. These are the only questions the Government uses in making this determination.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>SECTION 3 - PARENT INFORMATION</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Who is considered a parent? “Parent” refers to a biological or adoptive parent or a person determined by the state to be a parent (for example, if the parent is listed on the birth certificate). Grandparents, foster parents, legal guardians, older siblings, and uncles or aunts are not considered parents on this form unless they have legally adopted you. Answer the questions about both of them. If your legal parents are not married and live together, answer the questions about both of them. In case of divorce or separation, give information about the parent you lived with most in the last 12 months. If you did not live with one parent more than the other, give information about the parent who provided you the most financial support during the last 12 months or during the most recent year you received support. If your divorced or widowed parent has remarried, also provide information about your stepparent.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Providing parent 1 information? You will need:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent 1 (father/mother/stepparent) Social Security Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent 1 (father/mother/stepparent) name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent 1 (father/mother/stepparent) date of birth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Check here if parent 1 is a disabled worker</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Providing parent 2 information? You will need:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent 2 (father/mother/stepparent) Social Security Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent 2 (father/mother/stepparent) name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent 2 (father/mother/stepparent) date of birth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Check here if parent 2 is a disabled worker</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Did you know?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>If your parents file a tax return with the IRS, they may be eligible to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool, which is the easiest way to provide accurate tax information. With just a few simple steps, they may be able to view their tax return information and securely transfer it into FAFSA on the Web.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Did your parents file or will they file a 2015 income tax return?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>My parents have already completed a tax return</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My parents will file, but have not yet completed a tax return</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My parents are not going to file an income tax return</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What was your parents' adjusted gross income for 2015?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Skip this question if your parents did not file taxes. Adjusted gross income is on IRS Form 1040—Line 34; 1040A—Line 21; or 1040EZ—Line 4.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| The following questions ask about earnings (wages, salaries, tips, etc.) in 2015. Answer the questions whether or not a tax return was filed. This information may be on the W-2 forms, or on the IRS Form 1040—Line 7 + 12 + 18 + Box 14 (Code A) of IRS Schedule K-1 (Form 1065); 1040A—Line 7; or 1040EZ—Line 1. |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How much did parent 1 (father/mother/stepparent) earn from working in 2015?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How much did parent 2 (father/mother/stepparent) earn from working in 2015?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In 2014 or 2015, did anyone in your parents’ household receive: (Check all that apply):</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Supplemental Security Income (SSI)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free or Reduced Price School Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Note: TANF may have a different name in your parents’ state. Call 1-800-4-FED-AID to find out the name of the state’s program.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Did your parents have any of the following items in 2015?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Check all that apply. Once online, you may be asked to report amounts paid or received by your parents.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Additional Financial Information</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Opportunity Tax Credit or Lifetime Learning Tax Credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child support paid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxable earnings from work-study, assistantships or fellowships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxable college grant and scholarship aid reported to the IRS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combat pay or special combat pay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooperative education program earnings</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Unearned Income</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Payments to tax-deferred pension and retirement savings plans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child support received</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRA deductions and payments to self-employed SEPs SIMPLE and Keogh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax-exempt interest income</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Untaxed portions of IRA distributions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Untaxed portions of pension distributions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing, food and other living allowances paid to members of the military, clergy and others</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans’ noneducation benefits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other untaxed income not reported, such as workers’ compensation or disability benefits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **NOTE:** Your parents may be asked to provide more information about their assets. Your parents may need to report the net worth of their current businesses and/or investment farms. |

WWW.FAFSA.GOV 2016-2017 FAFSA ON THE WEB WORKSHEET PAGE 3 | 37
Who’s My 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). 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).

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/ffas/filling-out/parent-info or call 800-4-FED-AID (800-433-3243).

If you’re not sure whether you are a dependent student, go to StudentAid.gov/ffas/filling-out/dependency

Federal Student Aid
An Office of the U.S. Department of Education

Proud Sponsor of The American Mind®
IRS Data Retrieval

- Applicant will be validated
- Applicant will have the option to “Transfer” the tax information to the FAFSA
Special Circumstances

• Cannot report on FAFSA
• Send explanation to financial aid office at each college
• College will review special circumstances:
  – Request additional documentation
  – Decisions are final and cannot be appealed to U.S. Department of Education

Examples of Special Circumstances:

• Change in employment status
• Medical expenses not covered by insurance
  • Change in parent marital status
  • Unusual dependent care expenses
• Student cannot obtain parent information
 Confirmation Page

- Confirmation Number
- Data Release Number (DRN)
- EFC estimate
- Pell Grant and Direct Loan estimates
- Option for parents to transfer information to an application for a sibling
FAFSA Processing Results

- Student will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR)
- Colleges listed on your FAFSA will receive the Institutional Student Record (ISIR) 10 to 14 days after FAFSA submitted
- College reviews ISIR
  - May request additional documentation, such as copies of federal tax returns
## Financial Aid Award Offer

**Name:** Doe, John  
**ID:** 000 00 0128  
**Award #:** 01  
**May 21, 2018**

**Housing:** On-Campus  
**Residency:** In-State

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Aid</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Summer</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Accept?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal Pell Grant</td>
<td>$2,960</td>
<td>$2,960</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$5,920</td>
<td>Yes or No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOPE Scholarship*</td>
<td>$3,600</td>
<td>$3,600</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$7,200</td>
<td>Yes or No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Direct Loan – Sub</td>
<td>$1,750</td>
<td>$1,750</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$3,500</td>
<td>Yes or No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Direct Loan - Unsub</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>Yes or No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total for Academic Year</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$18,620</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Estimated HOPE Scholarship award amount for 15 credit hours per semester at Georgia State University for the 2017 – 2018 academic school year. Award amounts vary by institution. Complete award amounts can be found on [GAfutures.org](http://GAfutures.org).*
Additional Resources
Additional Resources

- GAfutures.org
- Georgia’s College Connector
- GSFC.org
- FAFSA.gov
- StudentAid.gov
  - Prepare for College
  - Types of Aid
  - Who Gets Aid
  - Apply for Aid
  - Repay Your Loans
We’re Here to Help You

Contact your GSFC Representative

Angie Wilson
angiew@gsfc.org
678.495.8101

Katie Minich
katiem@gsfc.org
404.556.0545

Ben Meadows
benm@gsfc.org
678.495.8103

Marcus Hilliard
marcush@gsfc.org
404.694.8844

Brenda Vaughn
brendav@gsfc.org
770.570.2204

Brandi Beavers
brandib@gsfc.org
404.360.2838

Carol Ann Lott
caroll@gsfc.org
678.495.8884

Atua Emu
atuae@gsfc.org
678.218.7770

Hal Wilkinson
halw@gsfc.org
678.495.8965

Mendi Morrow
Postsecondary Outreach Representative (Statewide)
mendim@gsfc.org
678.495.7393
Be Social

[Facebook logo]

[Twitter logo]

[YouTube logo]
OUR MISSION
To promote and increase access to education beyond high school for Georgians.

OUR VISION
To be the premier provider of student financial aid and educational services for Georgians.