

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

As of January 1, 2012, seniors should have begun to complete the **F**ree **A**pplication for **F**ederal **S**tudent **A**id (**FAFSA**). Most college financial aid, of any type, requires the **FAFSA** and many colleges and states require your FAFSA information to award their own grants and scholarships. **Complete the application as soon as possible after January 1st.**

If you are seeking any of the following college financial aid, you should definitely fill out the FAFSA.

- Need-based financial aid, such as government funded Pell Grants, which you don't have to repay
- Merit aid, such as grants and scholarships, which you don't have to repay
- State sponsored financial aid
- Student loans, such as Perkins and Stafford Loans, and PLUS Loans for parent borrowers
- Work –study programs (a job on campus while student attends)

The following items are needed to get ready to file your FAFSA.

- Your social security number, or if not a U.S. citizen, alien registration number or permanent residence card
- Driver's license number
- Parent's and student (if student worked) most recent tax return(s). If you file the FAFSA in January, you can estimate the most recent year's taxes. Corrections to the estimate can be made later in February.
- Bank statements
- Parent's most recent business and investment records

To fill out the FAFSA go to: www.fafsa.ed.gov

You will also need to establish a Federal Student Aid ID called a PIN (this can be completed at this same website). If you have any questions, call the Federal Student Aid Center @ 1-(800)433-3243.

THERE ARE FEDERAL, STATE, AND EVEN COLLEGE DEADLINES FOR FILING THE FAFSA. THESE DEADLINES CAN ALSO BE CHECKED @ www.fafsa.ed.gov. THE DEADLINE FOR CONNECTICUT IS FEBRUARY 15, 2012. PAY ATTENTION TO THE DEADLINES!

Need assistance completing your FAFSA? Contact Mr. Ted Jones, SMSA College Specialist (860) 695-6916 today.

Or log on to www.collegegoalsundayct.org College Goal Sunday provides *FREE* hands-on assistance in completing the FAFSA. This event takes place on Sunday, January 29, 2012 from 1:30 until 4:30p.m. and is open to the public. Log on today to register and find a site close to you.

Some colleges also require the CSS Profile (this is a separate financial aid form which can be found @ collegeboard.com). THERE ARE ALSO DEADLINES FOR FILING THE CSS PROFILE. CHECK TODAY TO SEE IF IT IS REQUIRED BY YOUR DESIRED SCHOOLS.

