

## **Filling out the FAFSA**

If you have not already done so, go to [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov) and get a PIN number. This takes about five minutes. You will need to know your social security number, your name exactly as it appears on your social security card, your date of birth, address and e-mail address. One of your parents must also get a PIN number.

Go to [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) to start your FAFSA. DO NOT USE FAFSA.COM – THEY WILL CHARGE YOU MONEY!

Fill in your name EXACTLY AS IT APPEARS ON YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY CARD.

Doublecheck your social security number against your social security card to make sure that it is correct.

Fill in the information requested. Be sure to read the pop-up box next to each question which explains the required format.

### **Student Eligibility**

If you are male, the FAFSA will ask if you are registered for Selective Service. All men at the age of 18 are required by law to register with the Selective Service. If you are not registered, you can click the “Register Me” box and they will register you when you turn 18, if you have not already.

When you begin college in the 2010-2011 school year, what will be your high school completion status? – Select “High School Diploma”.

When you begin the 2010-2011 school year, what will be your grade level? Select “Never attended college/1<sup>st</sup> year.”

When you begin the 2010-2011 school year, what degree or certificate will you be working on? Select:

- “1<sup>st</sup> bachelor’s degree” if you will be attending a four year college or
- “Associate Degree (general education/transfer program)” if you are planning to start at a two year college then transfer or
- “Associate Degree (occupational or program)” if you will be attending a two year college for one of these programs.

Will you have your first bachelor's degree before July 1, 2010? Click “No”

### **School Selection**

In this area you will be listing ALL of the schools you have applied to or plan to apply to. You can list up to 10. If you need to list more than 10 schools, see Ilene.

List your most expensive California school first. After that, the order doesn’t matter.

To find your schools easily, fill in the information in the search box. For each community college, Cal State or UC, list only the location name in the school name box, for example San Francisco instead of San Francisco State University. For each school you will need to list your housing plans. If you're not sure, indicate that you will live on campus. You can always change this.

### Dependency Determination

Answer each of the yes/no questions. An explanation pops up next to each question. If you need help with any of these, please let me know.

### PARENT SECTION

Enter the information for both parents if you are living with both of them, or of the one parent who you are living with more than half the time.

### SIGN AND SUBMIT

Are you a preparer? Answer "No."

How do you (the student) want to provide your signature? If possible, choose "Sign Electronically With My PIN." You can also choose to print out a signature page and mail it in, but this will slow down the processing of your FAFSA.

Read the agreement carefully and then click on the "agree" box.

Follow the same steps for your parent. If you have a social security number but your parent does not, it is fine for your parent to print out a signature page and mail it in.

### AFTER YOU SUBMIT THE FAFSA

After you submit the FAFSA, you should see a confirmation of submission. You may also see a notation that says "EFC." This is your Expected Family Contribution – the total of what colleges will expect you and your parents to contribute toward your education. If it is zero, then they do not expect you to contribute any money, although your financial aid package will most likely include loans and work study, as well as scholarships and grants.

If there is an asterisk (\*) next to your EFC, it means that you have been chosen for verification. About one-third of all students are selected each year at random. This means that you will need to send to each college copies of documents that verify the information you put in your FAFSA. These can include tax returns, W-2's and other documents. Please let me know if you are selected.

If you applied online and included your e-mail address (which I hope everyone is doing), you will receive an e-mail in 2-5 days letting you know that your FAFSA has been processed. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT that you click on the link provided and check your Student Aid Report (SAR). Also look for the Comments section. That is where they will let you know what other documents, if any, you need to submit and if there are any problems with your FAFSA. I'm happy to help you do this. DON'T IGNORE THIS E-MAIL OR YOU MAY LOSE OUT ON GETTING MONEY!