

APPLYING FOR FINANCIAL AID - FAFSA

Students who wish to receive financial aid must submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). A new FAFSA must be completed for each academic year. The FAFSA can be completed online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

Create an electronic username and password, your FSA ID, that will be used by students, parents and borrowers. An information guide on how to create a FSA ID can be found [here](#). A paper version may be obtained by contacting FAFSA at 1-800-433-3243.

Students should complete the FAFSA by March 1. This date is consistent with the deadline for the PROMISE Scholarship and helps to ensure that financial aid is ready by the time fall tuition is due.

Students must complete a [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) each year and submit it to the U.S. Department of Education for processing. Students do not have to be enrolled full-time (12+ hours) to receive federal aid. Generally, students may be eligible for federal aid if they are enrolled in at least six semester hours. The FAFSA is an application for the following federal aid programs:

- Pell
- SEOG (Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant)
- State Grants
- Federal Work Study
- Subsidized Student Loan
- Unsubsidized Student Loan

Complete the FAFSA every year as soon after October 1, as possible.

Students may **file electronically** at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

1. Apply for an [FSA User ID](#) so you can electronically sign your FAFSA Application. You can only have one FSA User ID per person. If you have previously created a FSA User ID but cannot log in, please call 1-800-4FED-AID (1-800-4333-243) to get assistance with resetting your password.
2. Complete and submit a [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#). This FAFSA is used to apply for federal, state, and institutional financial aid. **List the College Code for Southern (003816) on your FAFSA Application as the #1 school.**
 - **March 1st**, is the deadline date for High School Graduates to file the FAFSA for the [Promise Scholarship](#).
 - **April 15**, is the priority deadline date for filing your FAFSA to be considered for the [WV State Grant](#). **WV residents should complete the FAFSA before April 15.**

You may still file the FAFSA and apply for federal aid after April 15.

- When filing your FAFSA, it is strongly recommended to transfer your income information through the [IRS Data Retrieval Process](#). **This simple step can save weeks on your application for aid.**
- You should **always use your tax forms** to complete the FAFSA application or you should use the [IRS Data Retrieval Tool](#). You will use tax information from the previous tax year to complete your FAFSA.

For Instance:

- For Fall and Summer 2019-2020, you will use the 2017 tax information to complete the FAFSA.
 - For Fall 2020-2021 you will use the 2018 tax information.
 - You may estimate your income, but be aware that estimating your income and taxes may mean your file will be selected for verification by the U.S. Department of Education or by the Office of Financial Aid at Southern West Virginia Community & Technical College. If you choose to estimate your income information when filing the FAFSA, please review your Student Aid Report and make changes as necessary, particularly going back into your FAFSA to make corrections using the IRS Data Retrieval Tool.
 - You will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) at the address you listed on your FAFSA application. You will also receive an email notifying you when your FAFSA has been processed. Be sure to review your SAR for errors and make corrections as needed. If you did not use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool please make certain to make a correction to your FAFSA and use this process.
3. **Check your Southern email** or [MySouthern](#) account at least once per week for additional document requests (missing verification documents). You will also receive an email, at your **Southern email address**, when your financial aid award is ready for viewing. You only need to submit your award if you will be accepting [student loans](#).

Applying for Summer Financial Aid

All awards are initially offered for fall and spring only. You must request aid for summer by contacting the Office of Financial Aid 304-896-7060 or email finaid@southernwv.edu.

If you need assistance completing the FAFSA, you can obtain information from the hotline at the Federal Student Aid Programs (1-800-4FED-AID), or call us at 304-896-7060 or e-mail finaid@southernwv.edu and we will be happy to assist you.