



The Financial Aid Process

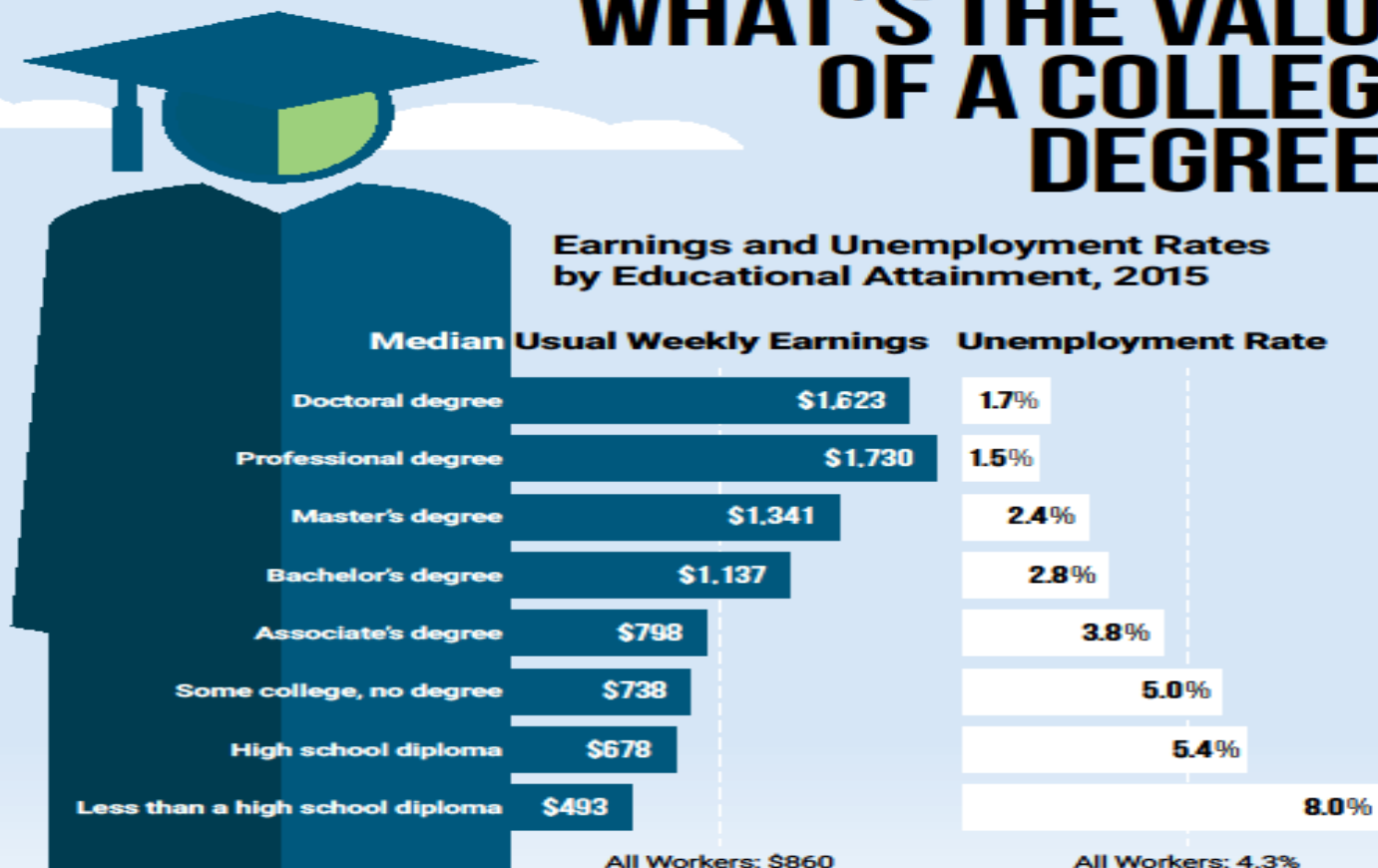


“Making college accessible and affordable for Illinois students.” – ISAC Mission Statement

- The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) is the college access and financial aid agency in the state of Illinois that administers scholarship, grant, prepaid tuition, and student loan repayment/forgiveness programs.

WHAT'S THE VALUE OF A COLLEGE DEGREE?

Earnings and Unemployment Rates by Educational Attainment, 2015



Source: United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics http://www.bls.gov/emp/ep_chart_001.htm

Note: Data are for persons age 25 and over. Earnings are for full-time wage and salary workers. These education categories reflect only the highest level of education attained. They do not take into account completion of training programs in the form of apprenticeships and other on-the-job training, which may also influence earnings and unemployment rates. For more information on training, see: http://www.bls.gov/emp/ep_education_training_system.htm.

Planning for College

There are lots of things to *think* about and many questions you need to *ask*.

- **Can I afford college?**
- **How much will it cost?**
- **What is financial aid?**
- **What is a FAFSA?**
- **When and how do I apply?**
- **Where can I get help?**

Ask questions...

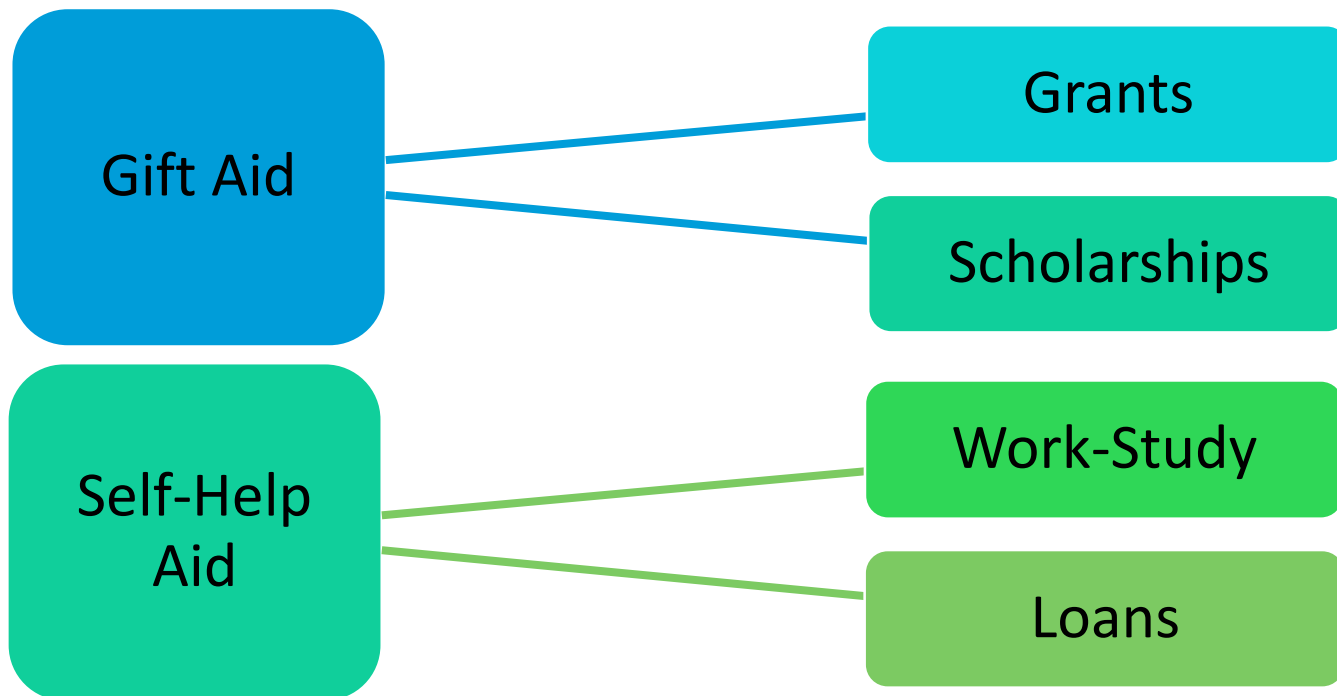
What is Financial Aid?

- It is ***borrowed, given, or earned*** money that can be obtained from various sources to help pay for college
- Financial aid makes college affordable for you
- It is intended to make up the difference between what your family can afford to pay and what college costs.

**If you think you can't afford college, think again.
There's lots of aid out there.**

Types of Financial Aid

- There are many types of financial aid
- Funds may be merit-based, need-based, or non need-based



Sources of Financial Aid

- Financial aid comes from a variety of sources

Federal
Government

State
Government

College
(Institutional Aid)

Outside/
Private
Sources

Sources of Financial Aid

- The “Must-Get-to-Know” financial aid sources



**Illinois Student
Assistance Commission**

www.ISAC.org

Agency in the state of Illinois that administers scholarship, grant, prepaid tuition, and student loan repayment/forgiveness programs.



**U.S. Department of Education's
Office of *Federal Student Aid***

www.StudentAid.gov

Federal agency that provides college funding in the form of grant, scholarship, work-study, and educational loan programs.

The Big Three

- Maximum award amounts for 2017-18



MAP Grant
Up to \$4,869

Pell Grant
Up to \$5,920

FSEOG Grant
Up to \$4,000

- Total = \$14,789

Illinois Student Assistance Commission



Grant Programs	2017-2018 Award
Monetary Award Program (MAP)	Up to \$4,869 (est.)
Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG)	Tuition & Mandatory Fees
Illinois National Guard Grant (ING)	Tuition & Mandatory Fees
Grant for Dependents of Police/Fire/Correctional Officers	Tuition & Mandatory Fees

Teaching Programs	2017-2018 Award
Minority Teachers of Illinois Scholarship (MTI)	Up to \$5,000
Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver (SETTW)	No annual minimum or maximum amounts



U.S. Department of Education

Federal Grant Program	2017-2018 Award
Federal Pell Grant	up to \$5,920
Iraq & Afghanistan Service Grant	up to \$5,419
TEACH Grant	up to \$3,728;

Campus-Based Program	2017-2018 Award
Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant	\$100-\$4,000
Federal Work-Study	Colleges determine annual minimum or maximum amounts



Federal Work-Study

- It is a need-based employment program that provides on- and off-campus jobs to students.

A completed FAFSA is required

It is a campus-based financial aid program; funds are limited and available only at participating postsecondary institutions

Priority deadlines may apply

Compensation is at least the current federal minimum wage

A student must earn these funds

Loan Programs

- When evaluating loan options, consider the following:

Source of
Loan

Subsidized vs.
Unsubsidized

Interest Rate

Repayment
Options &
Grace Period

Subsidized v. Unsubsidized

- To understand the difference between the two, consider this: *When will interest begin to accrue?*

Direct Subsidized Loan

- Need-based
- Interest is paid by the federal government:
 - While a student is in school at least $\frac{1}{2}$ time
 - During grace periods
 - During deferment

Direct Unsubsidized Loan

- Not need-based
- A student is always responsible for paying the interest

Federal Loan Programs 2017-18



Loan	Type	Interest Rate	Grace Period
Direct Subsidized (Undergraduate)	Need-based	4.45% Fixed	6 Months
Direct Unsubsidized (Undergraduate)	Not need-based	4.45% Fixed	6 Months
Direct Unsubsidized (Graduate)	Not need-based	6% Fixed	6 Months
Direct PLUS (Parent/Graduate)	Unsubsidized Credit-based	7% Fixed	Repayment Starts Within 60 days

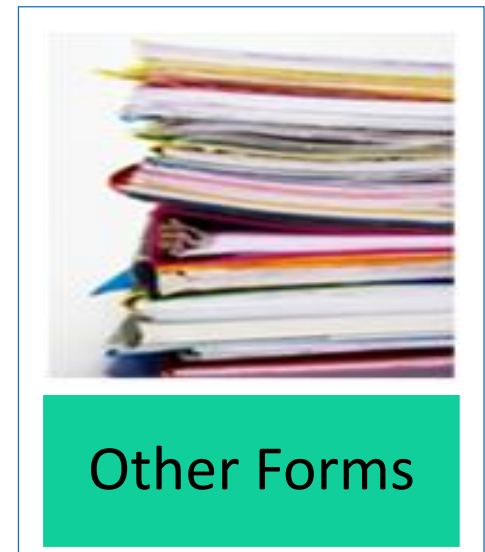


Maximum Direct Loan Amounts

Year	Dependent Students	Independent Students
1 st Year	\$5,500 Max. \$3,500 subsidized	\$9,500 Max. \$3,500 subsidized
2 nd Year	\$6,500 Max. \$4,500 subsidized	\$10,500 Max. \$4,500 subsidized
3 rd Year and Beyond	\$7,500 Max. \$5,500 subsidized	\$12,500 Max. \$5,500 subsidized
Graduate or Professional	Not Applicable	\$20,500 (unsubsidized only)

How to Apply for Financial Aid

- To be considered for student aid, a student must complete all forms required by a college
- Communicate with each college to find out what is required for a complete application



Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

- The FAFSA is the first step in the financial aid process. It is used to apply for state and federal financial aid programs. In addition, some colleges use it to award institutional aid. The application is available at no cost.



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Federal Student Aid website. At the top, it features the text "Federal Student Aid" and "PROUD SPONSOR of the AMERICAN MIND™". Below this is a navigation bar with icons for Home, About Us, PIN Site, StudentAid.gov, and Help. A search bar is located on the right side of the navigation bar. The main heading reads "Get help paying for college" with the subtext "Submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)". Below the heading is a banner image showing a group of diverse students. The page is divided into two main sections: "New to the FAFSA?" and "Returning User?". The "New to the FAFSA?" section has a green button labeled "Start A New FAFSA". The "Returning User?" section has a list of options: "Make a correction", "Add a school", and "View your Student Aid Report (SAR), and more...", along with a green button labeled "Login". Below these sections are three columns of links: "Deadlines" (Information about your deadlines.), "School Code Search" (Find your college's school code. Also find detailed information about your college.), and "FAFSA Filing Options" (Learn about the other options for filing your FAFSA.). To the right, there are "Announcements" and "Thinking About College?" sections. The "Announcements" section includes a link to "Use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool (IRS DRT) to update your FAFSA with IRS tax return information." The "Thinking About College?" section includes a link to "Use FAFSA4caster to see how federal student aid can help you pay for college!" and another link to "Check out how Federal Student Aid can put you on a path to...".

2018-19 FAFSA

WHEN

- As soon as possible after October 1st (First day to submit FAFSA)

WHO

- High school seniors and college students
- U.S. citizens and eligible non-citizens

HOW

- Available on-line at www.fafsa.gov

WHY

- Determine eligibility for federal and state aid programs
- Some institutions use it to award institutional aid

Important Dates 2018-19

FAFSA

- October 1, 2017
(first date to submit FAFSA)

College

- Dates vary by college/university
(check with each college)

MAP Grant

- As soon as possible after October 1, 2017

Federal Pell Grant

- June 30, 2019
(end of the academic year)

Information Needed for the FAFSA

What information is needed?

- **Social Security Number** – Be sure it is correct!
- **Alien Registration Number** – if not a U.S. citizen.
- **Records of income** – 2016 Federal Income Tax Return (1040, 1040A, or 1040EZ), W-2s, other records of income earned from work, business, child support paid or received, and any other untaxed income.
- **Information about assets** – Savings, certificates of deposit, stock options, bonds, 529 plans and other college savings programs, and investment real estate, business, and farms
- **An FSA ID to sign electronically**

Note: A student must report parental information until the age of 24 unless they meet the criteria to file as an independent student as determined by the FAFSA.

Income to be Reported on FAFSA

- Which year's income information needs to be reported?

Academic Year Student Will Be in College	Dates a Student Can Submit a FAFSA	Year of Income Information Required
2017-2018	October 1, 2016 – June 30, 2018	2015
2018-2019	October 1, 2017 – June 30, 2019	2016
2019-2020	October 1, 2018 – June 30, 2020	2017

IRS Data Retrieval Tool

- Transferring IRS tax information onto the FAFSA is faster and more accurate

Federal Student Aid ID (FSA ID)

- The FSA ID is your electronic signature for the FAFSA
- Students and parents must each have their own FSA ID
- You will need your FSA ID to renew the FAFSA every year
- Parents who do not have a Social Security Number cannot obtain an FSA ID but can print a signature page instead

FSA ID Requirements

- Username
- Password
 - Uppercase letters
 - Lowercase letters
 - Numbers
 - Special Characters
- Challenge questions

Expected Family Contribution (EFC)

- A need analysis formula established by Congress determines a student's **Expected Family Contribution** using information reported on the FAFSA.

What?	Why?	Where?
The amount a family can be expected to contribute in one academic year	Used to determine a student's eligibility for most federal and state aid programs	Shown on the Student Aid Report (SAR)

Financial Need

- How much aid can a student receive?



Three Examples

	COA		EFC		Financial Need
College A	\$10,000	—	\$3,000	=	\$7,000
College B	\$20,000	—	\$3,000	=	\$17,000
College C	\$35,000	—	\$3,000	=	\$32,000

Financial Aid Awards

- The financial aid administrator at the college will package all available aid and send an award offer for consideration.
- Use ISAC's Financial Aid Comparison Worksheet at: **studentportal.isac.org/finaid** to make an informed decision.

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- What is the total cost of attendance?
 - What is a student's financial aid eligibility?
 - Was financial need met?
 - What is the Expected Family Contribution?
 - What types of financial aid are included?
 - What is the out-of-pocket cost?

Other Things to Know

Complete the FAFSA as soon as possible after October 1

Information reported on the FAFSA is confidential and only used to determine financial aid eligibility

You may be asked to submit documentation to the financial aid office for verification purposes

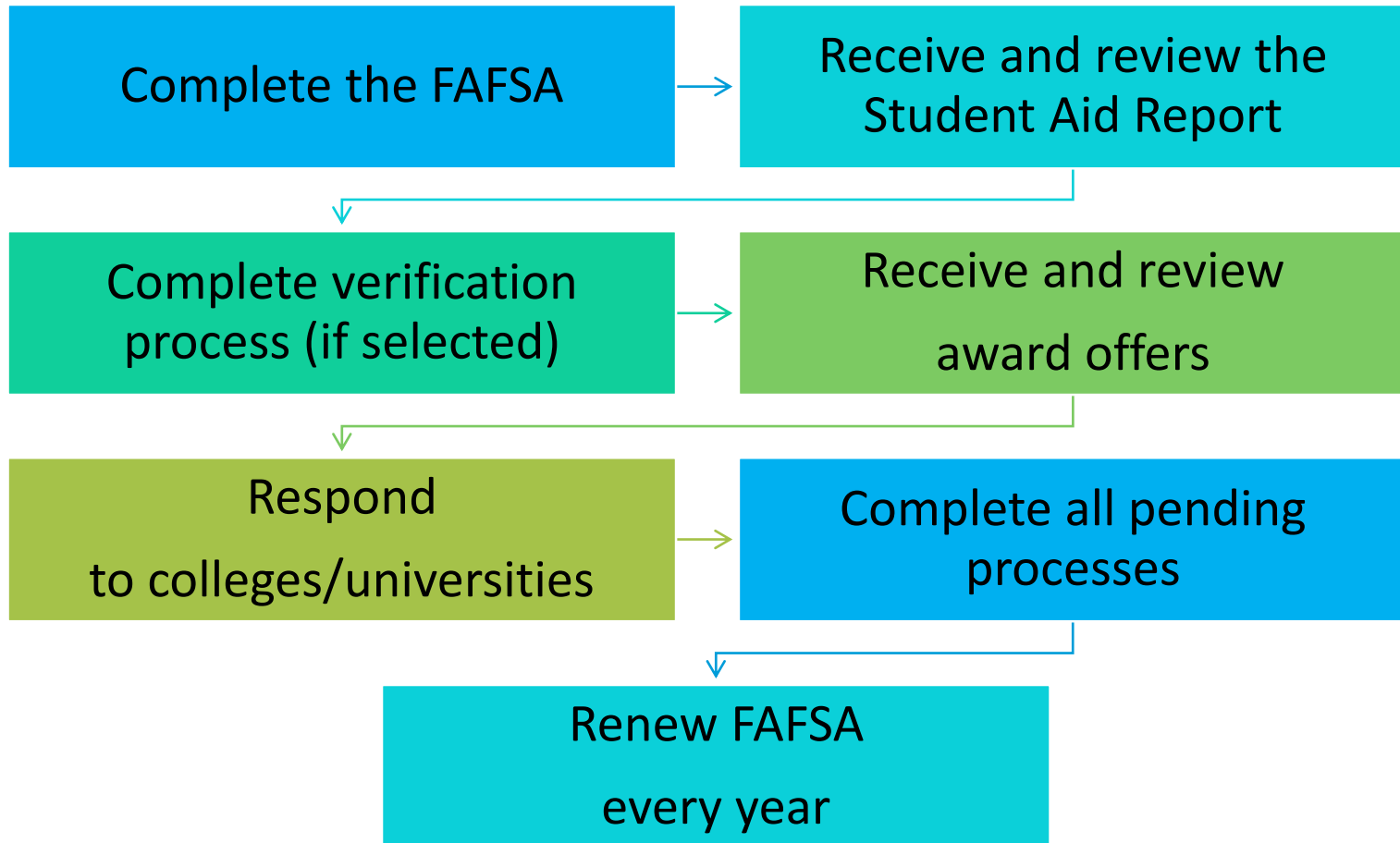
Supplemental applications or forms may be required

Keep track of application DEADLINES!

Keep a copy of everything you submit

You must reapply every year

The Financial Aid Process



ISAC Student Portal



COLLEGE PLANNING MADE EASY.

The **ISAC Student Portal** has all the tools you need to help you with college planning, financial aid, student loans and money management, and even careers and job search—all free and just a click away!



COLLEGE AND SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH

Database of
billions of \$\$ in
local and national
scholarships

College profiles
and student
reviews



FINANCIAL AID

Financial aid game

Calculators for
planning

Compare award
letters



MONEY MANAGEMENT

How to budget

Borrow smart

Student Loan
Planning



CAREERS AND JOBS

Interest Surveys

Explore careers and
salaries

Build a resume

Search for jobs



COLLEGE PLANNING TIPS

College planning
check list to keep
on track

Monthly blog for
tips and advice



ISAC Program Applications/Status Are you a current MAP grant recipient? Create a student profile on the Portal to check your MAP paid credit hours. You can also use the Portal to apply for the Illinois National Guard Grant.



Need some in-person help with the process? Use the Portal to find a workshop in your area or to contact your local **ISACorps College Mentor** for free in-person assistance with the college-going and financial aid process.

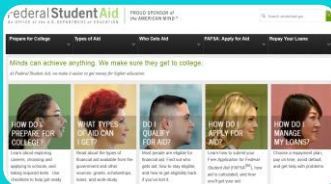
Make College Happen!
Visit isac.org/studentportal

Trusted Websites

- Learn what you need to know and stay up-to-date with accurate and trusted sources of information



Studentportal.isac.org



StudentAid.gov



FAFSA.gov

ISAC College Q & A

- Questions about financial aid?
- Questions about getting to college?
- Text with our experts!



Pick the area code closest to you and text us your name.

(217) 207-3265	(309) 306-7066
(618) 223-6450	(630) 216-4910
(708) 252-3890	(773) 453-9520
(815) 242-4630	(847) 243-6470

Find Answers to Your Questions



Illinois Student Assistance Commission

800-899-ISAC (4722)

ISAC.org

isac.studentservices@isac.illinois.gov



U.S. Department of Education

800-4-FED-AID (800-433-3243)

StudentAid.gov

Questions?

Thank you!

Contact Info

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