

Tip:

Avoid www.fafsa.com which charges a fee for a “free” form.

Tip:

Each student and one parent will need a federal pin number to complete the FAFSA. This may be applied for before December 1 in order to expedite the FAFSA process. Go to www.pin.ed.gov.

Tip:

Complete the FAFSA as early as possible. Once the grant money is given away, it is gone!

A few colleges will also require students and parents to complete the CSS Profile which is a fee-assessed form that includes much more financial detail than the FAFSA. Most colleges do not require this; however, some in our state and neighboring states do. The list of colleges and the registration process may be accessed at www.collegeboard.com, and it can be completed in the fall of the senior year.

Financial aid calculators are available at www.collegeboard.com and at www.inaid.org. These provide a helpful look at what the SAI (Student Aid Index) might be when the actual process is completed. It is a helpful planning tool as students consider various institutions.

Additional opportunities for paying for college are available through the military.

ROTC Scholarships typically pay full tuition and fees. In addition, some colleges give grants to ROTC students to cover room and board. Upon graduation, students are commissioned as officers and proceed to fulfill their military obligations. The GI Bill pays college expenses for those who serve in the military first and then enter college. Service Academies pay all expenses for all four years of college. Admission to the academies is very competitive, and the process begins in the spring of the junior year.

Begin by contacting your Senator and/or Representative or by contacting the academies directly. It is wise to request nominations from both Senators as well as from your Representative.