

# TEXAS 4-H OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION EXAMPLES

## APPLICATION EXAMPLES

The examples listed below are provided as a resource to demonstrate formatting possibilities to use in completing your scholarship application. Examples shown are not complete applications and should not be duplicated. **EXAMPLES ARE SHOWN IN 8 POINT FONT FOR SPACE REASONS - A MINIMUM OF 10 POINT TIMES NEW ROMAN IS REQUIRED IN THE APPLICATION.**

### Section 6: Financial Information

EXAMPLE: Financial Aid Form

Name of Award	Type (Award, Loan, Scholarship, Fin. Aid)	Total Value of Award Over All Years	Status (Awarded or Pending)
HLSR - Go Texan Scholarship	Scholarship	\$18,000	Pending
Pell Grant	Grant	\$3,400	Awarded
Aggie Grant	Grant	\$1,000	Awarded
County Gold Star	Award	\$500	Pending
Champion Heifer (SALE)	Scholarship	\$6000	Pending
TX Public Ed Grant	Grant	\$1,200	Awarded
Texas Grant	Grant	\$4,000	Pending
Home County Fair	Scholarship	\$500	Pending
Local Feed Store	Scholarship	\$50	Pending
Total Pending Financial Aid		\$29,050	
Total Awarded Financial Aid		\$5,600	

### Section 7: Project Experience

**4-H PROJECT:** List up to four (4) of your most significant 4-H projects throughout your entire 4-H career. Describe years involved, knowledge and skills gained, scope and activity related to projects, demonstrations, talks, exhibits, workshops, tours, interviews, etc. Describe why these projects were important and significant and what impact your involvement provided you to have on other people. Put emphasis on the quality of your experience, rather than quantity. Please reference the level of participation/involvement as L=local, C=county, D=district, R=regional, S=state, N=national, and I=international. **DO NOT ADD ADDITIONAL PAGES BY EXCEEDING THE AMOUNT OF ROOM PROVIDED.**

#### EXAMPLE 1:

##### PUBLIC SPEAKING (2003-2006)

- Participated in Roundup for 3 years in Goats/Sheep (2yrs.) & Open (1yr, after 1st in Goats/Sheep @ state) (3C,3D,3S)
- Developed three educational presentations for Roundup:
  - "What's Behind a Ribbon?" – 4-H goat project overview, emphasized 'job well done' as reward (C,D,S)
  - "There are Killers in our Pastures!" – took role of TX Ranger briefing fellow TX Rangers on impact & control of gastrointestinal nematodes in goats. Interviewed Dr. T. Craig (vet/professor, TAMU), phone interviewed Dr. J. Miller (vet/professor, LSU), & studied many veterinary articles, abstracts & txtbks regarding goat parasites. (L,C,D,S,N)
- Developed three presentations for club & community:
  - "Goat Selection Basics" – with 2 other 4-Hers, gave club presentation on basic principles to follow when selecting dairy & meat goats.(L)
  - "Contact! Making an Amateur Radio Contact" – described uses & basics of Amateur Radio, obtaining license & making a contact, gave demo of actual Ham Radio contact (L)

##### BEEF CATTLE (2003-2006)

- Raised Beefmaster heifers for show (2years) (C,R) & used those two heifers to start breeding program:
  - Won my 1st calf thru Bell Co. calf scramble, & then persuaded three 4-Hers to participate in calf scramble (C)
  - Studied extension materials, management websites, consulted with local breeder (L), attended 4-H Clinic (D), CTBBA Field Day & 5 ranch tour (R), & visited 10 ranches (S) – learned management, showmanship, etc.
- Participated in livestock judging – practiced heavily & competed @ multiple contests (S).
  - Used skills learned to select bulls to purchase semen from by evaluating heifers & matching to bulls with complementing traits. (L)



## Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarship Application Examples

### EXAMPLE 2:

Project's Description	Project's Result
Foods and Nutrition: 1995-2005 Prepared 95 complete meals, 340 dishes, went grocery shopping 280 time (L). Contestant in 11 food shows (C,D). Contestant in 4 Youth Arts and Homemaking Fairs (C). Participant in 9 foods workshops (L,C,D). Observed 6 foods demonstrations (L,C,D). Participant in 28 project group meetings (L,C,D). Participant in 4 foods tours (C,D). Junior Foods and Nutrition Leader (L). District Food and Nutrition Planning Committee member (D).	Learned numerous skills to use in everyday life, for example, safety practices in the kitchen, proper uses of kitchen appliances, food preservation, proper manners, how to read and understand nutrition labels, and food safety practices. Learned importance of good community health, osteoporosis and hepatitis prevention. Learned Food Guide Pyramid and applied pyramid to everyday nutritional habits. Explored flour milling, food marketing, pioneer food preservation, and the chicken processing industry. Set example for younger 4-H'ers and encouraged them to become future leaders in the Food and Nutrition project group.
Sheep: 1995-2005 Raised 94 market sheep for show (L). Worked with sheep 2000 total hours (L). Bred 13 ewes twice (L), had 26 lambs (4 died) (L). Participant in 35 livestock shows (C,D,S). Participant in 7 showmanship workshops (C). Participant in 2 lamb camps (S). Observed 8 sheep shearing demonstrations (L,C). Observed 1 halter making demonstration (L). Teen Sheep Leader (C). District Sheep Planning Committee member (D).	Learned about lamb selection, breed characteristics, and management. Learned responsibility and organizational skills. Learned to keep detailed records on sheep. Learned to castrate lambs, dock tails, bathe, and shear sheep. Learned how to use current research and data to determine proper feeding, medication, worming, immunization, and exercise. Researched information on treating ringworm, rectal prolapse, and urinary calculi. Constructed 3 sheep halters. Set an example for others by demonstrating good sportsmanship, etiquette, and ethical practices at all shows. Learned that raising livestock can be hard work, but also fun and rewarding.

### EXAMPLE 3:

Description of Project	Significance
CONSUMER EDUCATION 1996 to 2006 Participated in Consumer Decision Making Team for 11 years. (L,C,D,S) Competed at San Antonio Livestock Expedition, Consumer Decision Making Contest 8 years. (L,C) Did comparison shopping for 35 items, to better understand terms used in reading labels. (L,C) Practiced on how to better prepare and give reasons. (L,C) Prepared and presented practice sections (L,C). Learned to compare and understand guarantees, warranties, and return policies (L,C). Hours spent 397.	Learned to be a better consumer shopper. Improved reasoning skills. Learned to select the best suitable product for the purchase.
GOATS 1997 to 2001 Purchased 8 goats, raised 5 kids and exhibited 6 goats (L,C). Showed in 6 shows (L,C). Build facility to house my goats in (L). Presented Method Demonstration of Goat Care (L,C,D). Attended goat clinic (L,C). Watched video, made by Texas A&M professor on goats (L,C). Talked to Breeder and the importance of drenching, how to properly exercise goats, tips on breeding, keeping breeding records, and about goats as a meat industry. (L,C). Sheared goats (L,C). Watch videos and read books on goat breeding, care of the pregnant nannies, selecting, grooming, and showing (L,C). Trimmed hooves (L,C). Showmanship (L,C). Feeding requirements (L,C).	Learned responsibility in caring for my goats. Learned housing, food, and care needs of goats. Learned about selection of goats. Learned the disappointment and rewards of hard work.

### Section 8: Leadership Experience

**4-H LEADERSHIP ROLES:** List up to twenty-five (25) major 4-H leadership roles throughout your 4-H career. Include volunteer, promotion, and elected/appointed leadership. List roles and responsibilities, years, levels of involvement as L=local, C=county, D=district, R=regional, S=state, N=national, and I=international. Put emphasis on the quality of your experience, rather than quantity. DO NOT ADD ADDITIONAL PAGES BY EXCEEDING THE AMOUNT OF ROOM PROVIDED. DO NOT ALLOW INFORMATION TO EXTEND TO THE NEXT PAGE.

### EXAMPLE 1:

Year	Leadership Role	Level of Involvement	Role, Responsibilities, Duties, and/or Accomplishments (Brief Statements)
2004-05	President Local 4-H	Local	Elected-Conducted meetings, planned agenda, organized committees, plan fundraisers. Attended Any County 4-H Council meetings.
2003-04	Local 4-H Vice President	Local	Elected-Conduct meetings in the absence of President
2003-05	Captain Consumer Decision Making	State	Appointed-Team Leader. Lead practice sections, organized, taught classes, encouraged new team members and taught them the basics of the competition.
2002-03	Program committee	Local	Appointed-organized special guest for meetings
2005	Summer Fun Education Trip	Local	Volunteer-Accepted ideas and suggestion, narrow down options. Scheduled trip, helped with arrangements.
2004-05	Any County 4-H Float committee	County	Promote-Plan and worked on new county float.
2003-05	Rabbit Project	County	Promote-Helped younger 4-H'ers with their projects at Livestock show.

Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarship Application Examples

**EXAMPLE 2:**

Year	Leadership Role	Level of Involvement	Role, Responsibilities, Duties, and/or Accomplishments (Brief Statements)
2005-06	4HIS Glory Treasurer	Local	ELECTED-As Treasurer, I managed & keep detailed records of income & expenses, developed/manage fundraising & sponsors, & give monthly reports
2005	District # Recordbook Training Workshop	District	VOLUNTEER-Helped coordinate opportunity for district members to learn from Dr. Lepley – developed flyer, coordinated refreshments, served as host & introducer, kept & typed notes for county fur further reference
2003-06	Any County Teen Leader	County	VOLUNTEER-Served as role model/leader for meat goats, beef cattle, photography, public speaking. Helped increase interest in those projects.
2004	Local 4-H By-Laws revision	Local	VOLUNTEER-Clarified & modified existing by-laws to be more flexible & conducive to member involvement, projects, leadership & growth
2004-05	Local 4-H Welding Class	Local	VOLUNTEER-Coordinated multi-class welding workshop- learned welding the previous year @ a 4-H wkshp, and was able to give back by organizing and helping teach one the following year.

**EXAMPLE 3:**

Year	Leadership Role	Level of Involvement	Role, Responsibilities, Duties, and/or Accomplishments (Brief Statements)
2006	Committee Chair	(S) Appointed	Planned & organized Walk Across Texas health awareness project – 1250 participants; member of winning team that walked 4,596 miles.
2004	Covey leader / instructor	(S) Appointed	Assisted w/ Advanced Habitat Mgt. – 80 lease holders – King Ranch
2006	Teen leader / coordinator	(S) Volunteer	Conducted workshops for Junior Youth Leadership Retreat – 88 youth
2003-06	SALE School Tours Guide	(S) Volunteer	Guided 100 students through all major livestock educational centers.

**EXAMPLE 4:**

Year	Leadership Role	Level of Involvement	Role, Responsibilities, Duties, and/or Accomplishments (Brief Statements)
2004-2006	Local 4-H Treasurer	Local	Elected – Managed money and paid bills for my 4-H club
2004-2006	Exhibitor check in	County	Volunteer – Checked in photography exhibits for county fair.
1998-2006	4-H member	Local	Volunteer – Led 4-H pledge and motto at 4-H meetings
1998-2006	4-H member	County	Promotional – Wore 4-H shirt in community and to meetings
1998-2006	4-H member	County	Volunteer – Worked club and booster clubs concession stands
1998-2006	4-H member	County	Promotional – Sold raffle tickets for both club and boosters

**Section 9: Citizenship/Community Service Experience**

**4-H CITIZENSHIP AND 4-H COMMUNITY SERVICE:** List up to fifteen (15) of your citizenship and community service activities. List activity, year, and your role in the activity (use Y=performed yourself, M=member of a group, P=provided primary leadership to the group). Describe why your citizenship and community service was important in these activities and what impact your involvement provided you to have on other people. Put emphasis on the quality of your experience, rather than quantity. DO NOT ALLOW INFORMATION CHARTS TO EXTEND TO THE NEXT PAGE.

**EXAMPLE 1:**

Year	Activity	Role in Activity	Why It Was Important And/Or Impact Of Involvement
03-04	At State 4-H Roundup, worked on Habitat for Humanity House	M	The impact of this project was made real when one of the Habitat families was presented at an assembly.
02-03	At State 4-H Spectra, led recreational activities with children at the Brownwood Boys and Girls Club	P	Rewarding to set an example for these children who actually looked up to me.
01-02	Initiated and conducted used Christmas card drive with club member for St. Jude's Ranch for Children, collecting and donating 5 pounds of cards	P	Gave the joy of Christmas while at the same time recycling used Christmas cards.
99-00	At club meeting, constructed hand puppets for children at New Braunfels Women's and Children's Shelter	M	This project was fun for our club, and the activity made me even more thankful for my own family.

## Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarship Application Examples

### EXAMPLE 2:

Year	Activity	Role In Activity	Why was is important and/or impact of involvement?
2005-06	Operation Orphans Lunch Making	Y,M,P	Prepared lunches for orphaned youth deer hunts
2005-06	Hats Off to Cook's Hospital	Y,M,P	Organized and gathered 300 hats for cancer patients
2005-06	Speak Out Military Kids	Y,M,P	Sent 75 letters of encouragement to military children
2005	Riata Club	M	Fashion show escort; waiter – scholarship fundraiser
2004	Military Candlelight Vigil	Y,M	Presented speech remembering fallen soldiers
2002	Any County Pecan Show	Y,M	Prepared & organized pecan exhibits for judging

### EXAMPLE 3:

Year	Activity	Role In Activity	Why was is important and/or impact of involvement?
2002-06	Relay for Life – set up luminaries and participated	M/Y	Helped raise money for medical research
1998-2006	Trick or Treat for canned goods	M	Provided canned food to distribute to the needy
1998	Decorated Christmas tree for nursing home	M	Pick up the spirits of in house residents
1998-2006	Collected school supplies (SOS)	Y	Donated to needy school children so they are ready for their assignments at school.

### EXAMPLE 4:

Year	Activity	Role In Activity	Why was is important and/or impact of involvement?
2004-05	Gave Roundup presentation to Adult Extension Education Club	Performed Myself	Shared my goat & public speaking project with elderly ladies, many whom were former 4-Hers. Was able to invite one to speak at out club mtg.
2005	Organized 4-H Computer Science class @ Temple College computer lab for 4-Hers & homeschoolers	Provided Leadership	Was able to provide hands-on experience in MS Word, PwrPnt, Excel, Access & Explorer as profs taught participants. Anything is possible is you ask!
2005	Took photos for Texas FCS agents' annual state-wide meeting & awards banquet	Provided Leadership	Led several 4-Hers in photographing awards banquet. Was able to help county agents, meet new people, & help younger 4-Hers grow & give.
2006	Helped homeschoolers with Creation/evolution research paper	Performed Myself	Shared knowledge from research for 4-H speech with homeschoolers writing a paper for his class.

## Section 9: Citizenship/Community Service Experience

**4-H HONORS:** List up to four (4) of your most important honors received through 4-H. List the honor, year received, level of award (e.g. L=local, C=county, D=district, R=regional, S=state, N=national, and I=international), and why you consider the honors listed to be the most important (i.e. how did they contribute to and provide significance toward your personal development?). Put emphasis on the quality of your experience, rather than quantity.

### EXAMPLE 1:

2003-2004 County Gold Star Award (C): Was a tremendous honor to receive the highest 4-H award in the county. I also found the opportunity to meet other Gold Star recipients at our District's Gold Star Award Banquet to be a great inspiration.

2003-2004 3rd Place, Natural Resources Contest, State 4-H Roundup (S) Honored to "walk the stage" at Reed Arena. Researched and earned about marine protected areas and learned how to produce an effective Power Point presentation.

### EXAMPLE 2:

Year	Award	Level	Why is this award considered important to you?
2004	2nd high Calf Scramble Record Book	S	Increased skills in record keeping; enjoyed project; won 1st Nat'l Southdown Futurity Ewe Lamb

### EXAMPLE 3:

Year	Award	Level	Why is this award considered important to you?
2004-05	Senor Swine Showmanship	L,C	It did not matter what my project was like. It shows how I connected with my animal.
2005-06	4-H Nine Year Pin	L,C	Lifetime of memories of fun, fellowship and hard work.

## Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarship Application Examples

### EXAMPLE 4:

Year	Award	Level	Why is this award considered important to you?
2005	Blue Awards – Texas Roundup Photography contest	State	These, along with 6th Hi-pnt. Photographer & multiple awards & county fair, shifted me from only learning to someone who could help others learn
2004	1st place Illustrated Talk – Texas 4-H Roundup Goats & Sheep division	State	Winning 1st @ state enabled me to help others learn & grow in public speaking, as a role model & by leading workshops at clubs throughout the county.

### Section 10: Outside 4-H Experience

**OUTSIDE OF 4-H LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES, HONORS, WORK EXPERIENCE, VOLUNTEER/COMMUNITY SERVICE:** Describe how you spent time outside of your 4-H activities, why you devoted time to a particular activity, the impact the activity had on your personal development, and how it benefitted other people. List leadership roles outside of 4-H (include school, church, other youth groups, etc). DO NOT ADD ADDITIONAL PAGES BY EXCEEDING THE AMOUNT OF ROOM PROVIDED. DO NOT ALLOW INFORMATION TO EXTEND ONTO THE NEXT PAGE.

### EXAMPLE 1:

Year(s)	Office, Activity, Honor, Volunteer or Work Experience	Organization	Personal Significance
04-05	National Merit Scholar Semifinalist	National Merit Scholar Corp.	Recognized as 1 out of 16,000 chosen nationally for award based on junior year PSAT scores.
01-04	Class Citizenship Award (3 years)	Any High School	Prestigious honors because they are voted on by faculty members.
03-04	Citizenship Seminar	Farm Bureau	Learned about the American political and economic systems.
04-05	Mentor	Paint a Positive Attitude for Thinking	Volunteer mentor to at-risk 4th grade school student for one hour each week. Rewarding when student demonstrated signs of behavior improvement.
02-05	Blood Drive Volunteer	South TX Blood and Tissue Center	3 times volunteer for South Texas Regional Blood and Tissue Center blood drive. Educated community on need for donors, uses of blood, solicited donor, and coordinated donor items.

### EXAMPLE 2:

Year(s)	Office or Other Role	Organization	Personal Significance
2004-2006	Team member	Varsity Volleyball Team	Even though I was not a starter, I learned my role on the bench was just as important. Without the benches support the team would not be motivated.
2002-2004	French horn player	Marching Band	I learned discipline and team work through this experience. Everyone had to work together
2004-2005	Social Studies	UIL Team Member	I was put into this event at the last minute but I still last minute but I still advanced to Regional. This gave me a lot of confidence.
2002-current	Volunteer	Good Samaritan Center	I bagged groceries for needy families. I learned about compassion and being a good neighbor.

### EXAMPLE 3:

Junior Beefmaster Breeder's Assoc (2003-06) - As a JBBA member, I am able to build up my herd & learn about cattle production in general & Beefmasters in particular by reading the articles on marketing, cattle management, & industry news, as well as being able to evaluate the popular bulls & cattle lines. The JBBA AI program, which I've participated in for 3 years now, has enabled me to improve my herd by breeding to bulls (which I had chosen after EPD research & visual appraisal) at a low cost.

Wire Operator/Cashier – A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc. (2005-06) – I have worked since 1999 as a temporary assistant for the Temple A.G. Edwards, & I have been working part-time as a cashier/wire operator since April '05. My duties include receiving client cash & stock deposits, entering stock & fund orders, wiring funds & writing approved checks, and answering the phone & receiving clients. I have learned about finances & investments by working there, as well as improved my people and communication skills.

A.L.E.R.T. Cadets member (2001-02) – In a Christian environment, I learned skills including electronic circuits & repair, plumbing & toilet replacement, digital cameras, compass use & reading/using topographical maps, & entomology. On overnight campouts, I learned how to pack for the campout, setup the tent, build fires, & work with a group to provide meals & organize the event. I also led one meeting sharing the basics of Amateur Radio.

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**EXAMPLE 4:**

Year(s)	Office or Role	Organization	Personal Significance
4	12-Sec., 11-Trea., 9 VP Greenhand	FFA	Quiz Bowl Team 2 yrs. San Antonio Livestock Show and Expedition, broilers. Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, broilers. Star of Texas Fair and Rodeo, Grand Champion Broilers, and calf scramble winner. Leadership Conference. Bass Brigades. FFA Scholar Award. FFA Chapter Farmer. Star Lone Star. FFA State Lone Star Farmer. I achieved the goals that I set for myself and was able to sell at four out of the six major shows that I went to.
4	Member	UIL Academics	Number Sense, 2nd District. Mathematics, Regional. Calculator Applications, Regional. Science, Regional. I am proud of this accomplishment because it shows how I compare to student my age and it gives me confidence in the knowledge I have learned.
5	Member	Holy Cross Youth Group	Youth Volleyball League, 1st place 3 yrs., 1st place mixed team 2 yrs. 80 and older meals, National Youth Gathering. Sunrise Breakfast. Tamale sales. Fried Chicken dinners. Krispy Kream Donut sales. Amen Food Pantry. Bath and school kits missionary projects. Work church picnic. Volleyball concession stand.
4	Member	Sports	Cross Country: Varsity 3 yrs, Regional 3 yrs. Basketball; Var. 3 yrs, Academic All-Dist. 2 yrs, All-Dist Honorable Mention 1 yr. Baseball; Var. 2 yrs, Academic All-Dist 2 yrs, 2nd Team All-Dist, 1 yr, All-Dist Honorable Mention 1 yr. Tennis; Var. 2 yrs, Regional 1 yr. Track; Var. 2 yrs, Jr.-Area Qualifier 2 events, Soph.-Area Qualifier 4 events. Golf; Var. 1 yr. I feel you have to be a well rounded student and athletic to achieve in both. I believe in having a good attitude, good work ethics, and playing as a team member.
1	Employment	Nada Ranch	Yard work, landscaping, general maintenance, rock work, painting.
1	Employment	Tumbling K	Yard work, and general maintenance.
4	Employment	J&L	Yard work, general maintenance, hay hauling and raking.
4	Employment	Fuchs Farm	Hay hauling and hay raking.

# Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarship Program

## Application and Submission Guidelines



2018

The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife.

# APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

These Guidelines should be reviewed and followed by any Texas 4-H member applying for a 2018 Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarship. Both 4-H members and parents/guardians are encouraged to review the rules and guidelines prior to beginning the application process to ensure eligibility and proper completion of application.

## SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Texas 4-H Youth Development Program Opportunity Scholarships are **ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS** awarded each year to applicants based on their academic record, 4-H experience, and financial need (for scholarships for which it is a required criterion). The Texas 4-H Youth Development Opportunity Scholarship Program is conducted by the Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation. All applications must be submitted through the applicant's county Extension office and meet all criteria to be considered.

Well over 200 academically-competitive scholarships will be awarded in the 2018 Texas 4-H Scholarship Program ranging in amounts from \$3000 to \$20,000.\* No scholarship recipient whose award is based on this application process will receive less than \$3000.\* The Texas 4-H Foundation seeks to ensure that each recipient receives the highest dollar amount of scholarship for which that recipient is eligible. For the majority of the total scholarships and scholarship funds available, participation in a livestock show is not a requirement for consideration for an Opportunity Scholarship. \*This will exclude scholarships provided through the Texas Extension Education Association and the San Antonio Livestock Exposition School Tour Scholarship programs.

## BEFORE YOU APPLY FOR A TEXAS 4-H OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP

Texas 4-H Youth Development Program, Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation, and the donors have the expectation and requirement that every 4-H member being awarded a Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarship be present (in person) at the scholarship interviews in College Station and the scholarship presentation(s) in College Station. Before you begin your scholarship application, please review the dates below to be sure that you are able, and willing, to participate in the dates mentioned. Applicants and families should schedule vacations, other award trips, sports activities, etc. at other times than those listed below.

November – January	Scholarship Trainings
November – December	Applicant complete FAFSA
Set by County Office	Application due to County Office
February 2, 2018	Applications due to District Office
February 16, 2018	Applications due to State 4-H Office
April 13, 2018	Interview selection notification
May 4-6, 2018	Interviews in College Station
June 12, 13, & 14, 2018	Awards Assembly in College Station

## SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

The Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarship Program provides scholarships in four different categories. Each scholarship category has its own requirements and criteria. It is up to the applicant to make sure that he/she clearly understands the requirements and completes the application in order to be considered.

- **Baccalaureate Scholarships** - For students who wish to pursue a Bachelor of Science (BS) or Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree from an accredited Texas College or University.
- **Technical Certification Scholarships** - For students who wish to pursue technical certification in a recognized and approved major/

course of study.

- **Collegiate Scholarships** - Designated for former Texas 4-H members who have been graduated from high school for at least one year (at time of awarding), and completed a minimum of 30 hours of college credit at a grade point average of at least 2.7. Some collegiate scholarships contain other award criteria. (See separate application and instructions).
- **Courageous Heart Scholarships** - Scholarships awarded to Texas 4-H members pursuing either a Baccalaureate or Technical degree that have overcome extreme obstacles related to medical, family, and/or education and remained an active member in both 4-H and school.

See the requirements related to each of these scholarships.

## GENERAL REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDELINES

1. Be an active member of the Texas 4-H Youth Development Program for the current year and at least two of the three previous years, have a current enrollment with the county Extension Office where applicant resides, and be in good standing with the Texas 4-H Youth Development Program at all levels (county, district, and state).
2. Be a United States citizen. If the applicant's transcript reflects a place of birth other than the United States, proof of naturalization must be provided with the scholarship application.
3. Be a Texas resident.
4. Be scheduled to graduate from a Texas High School (public, private, or home) during the 2017-2018 school year.
5. Have made formal application to enroll with intent to attend an accredited, not-for-profit Texas College or University in the Fall of the year scholarship is awarded. Youth with plans or intentions of attending an non-Texas College/University/Trade School are not eligible.
6. Have been accepted into a Texas College/University or technical school by the time of the interview.
7. Complete and pass all necessary standardized test(s)/ requirements for graduation and meet the entrance requirements for the college or university for which formal application has been made.
8. An applicant may apply for a Texas 4-H and Texas FFA scholarship, however some restrictions may apply.
9. Submit a 2018 Texas 4-H Youth Development Opportunity Scholarship application printed on regular weight white paper (no gloss or bond).
10. Applicants who receive a Terry Foundation Scholarship are NOT eligible to receive a Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarship.
11. All scholarship recipients MUST BE PRESENT at the 2018 Texas 4-H Roundup Scholarship Interviews, Orientation(s), Assembly(s), and donor banquet/event(s) in order to receive a 4-H scholarship.\* **\*If you believe there are exceptional or extenuating circumstances which preclude you from attending these events, you may submit a written appeal via email with the State Leader for 4-H Youth Development Program by May 15. All exceptions must be approved by the Texas 4-H Youth**



**Development Program and the Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation.**

12. Application must be complete and correct once submitted for consideration. Any application deemed incomplete or incorrect will be disqualified for consideration.
13. Once an application is submitted no portion or information can be updated, revised, and/or corrected.
14. The Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation and the Scholarship Committee has the right to refuse, reassign, and/or retract any scholarship application or scholarship award during the judging, awarding, or post awarding process. Refusal/retraction can be based on, but not limited to, unfactual and incorrect information provided in the application, statements made during the interview that contradicts application, or failure to meet any criteria or eligibility requirements.

**ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR EACH SCHOLARSHIP CATEGORY**

**BACCALAUREATE SCHOLARSHIP**

1. Be in the upper one-half of his/her class, based on scholastic rank, for the first three and one-half (3.5) years of high school. Based on scholarship criteria, some scholarships require an applicant to be in the upper one-fourth of their class.
2. Applicant must meet at least one of the following minimum scores from the standardize tests. Any scholarship application that does not meet one of the minimums will not be processed or considered.

ACT	Old SAT (Jan 2016 or Before)	New SAT (Mar 2016 or After)
<b>19</b>	<b>1350</b>	<b>950</b>

*\*Academic scores, rankings and college entrance test scores (SAT/ACT) will only be accepted up to the application submission date. SAT and ACT - documentation must be from the testing company and submitted with the application. This may be a copy of the form sent by SAT/ACT or a high-school transcript listing scores. SAT score must be comprised of total points from the critical reading, mathematics, and writing sections of the test from a single testing date*

**TECHNICAL SCHOLARSHIP**

1. DO NOT have plans to continue formal education at a Texas College and/or University after the completion of a technical program.
2. Technical scholarship applicants do not have to meet the minimum SAT/ACT or class ranking requirements, however, they must demonstrate through their application future potential academic achievement.

**COURAGEOUS HEART SCHOLARSHIP**

1. Completed additional pages in scholarship application related to Courageous Heart application and have included three letters of support outlining in detail, the obstacle and how the applicant has overcome the situation.
2. Courageous Heart applicants do not have to meet the minimum SAT/ACT or class ranking requirements, however, they must demonstrate through their application future potential academic achievement.
3. Courageous Heart applicant cannot be considered for other Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarships.
4. Have documentation of obstacles related to health, education, and/or family situation.
5. All Courageous Heart Scholarships awarded are \$5,000 in value.

**COLLEGIATE 4-H SCHOLARSHIP**

Refer to the separate application and guidelines for details pertaining to the Collegiate Application.

**SCORING SYSTEM**

As determined by the scholarship judges, scores are assigned based on level of achievement in the scoring categories. The scoring categories and system for the Opportunity Scholarship process are as follows:

Scoring Category	Baccalaureate	Technical	Courageous Heart
<b>4-H Experience &amp; Narratives</b> Projects Leadership Citizenship & Community Service Honors Outside 4-H Experiences/Leadership Personal Narrative Career Narrative	<b>50</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Grade Point Average</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>SAT/ACT Score</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Financial Need</b> FAFSA Financial Need Narrative	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Courageous Heart Narrative</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Courageous Heart Letters of Recommendation</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Interview</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>MAXIMUM AWARD POINTS</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

**MAJOR SCHOLARSHIP DONOR CRITERIA (For Reference)**

Donors of scholarship funds establish the criteria that must be followed by the Texas 4-H Youth Development Program when considering applicants for scholarships. Applicants will only be considered for those Opportunity Scholarships for which they are fully qualified as determined by donor criteria. Interpretation of the donor criteria is the sole responsibility and at the sole discretion of the Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation in consultation with donor representatives. Decisions regarding eligibility and qualifications are final. Criteria is not finalized until donor confirmations are received in late April. The information provided below was the criteria established for the awarding of a few of the major 2017 scholarship donors and is for reference only for applicants to see the type of criteria assigned to scholarships.

SCHOLARSHIP	CLASS RANK	MAJOR	GPA	EXHIBITED AT SHOW	OTHER
Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo	TOP 1/4	NO	NO	NO	Must not have received more than \$90,000 in financial aid or scholarships.
Richard Wallrath Educational Foundation	TOP 1/4	NO	NO	N/A	
Fort Worth Stock Syndicate	TOP 1/2	YES Ag. & Life Science	NO	NO	
Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo	TOP 1/2		NO	YES	
Rodeo Austin	TOP 1/4	NO	90% or higher	NO	

**APPLICATION FORMATS**

The application may be completed using the computer and Microsoft Word. All forms are available from the 4-H website at: <http://texas4-h.tamu.edu>. If an applicant does not have access to Microsoft Word the application can be printed and completed using a typewriter.

**ORDER OF THE APPLICATION**

The completed application, along with required attachments, must be submitted in the order established below. Typed or printer generated applications are required. Each portion of the application should be completed in the space provided. Do NOT add pages to the application. Sections of the Texas 4-H Youth Development Scholarship are as follows:

**Order of the Application is:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| Section 1: Personal Information                            | Section 9: Citizenship/Community Service Experience & Honors             |
| Section 2: College/University Information                  | Section 10: Outside 4-H Experience                                       |
| Section 3: Livestock Show Participation                    | Section 11: Personal Narrative   |
| Section 4: San Antonio Livestock Exposition – School Tours | Section 12: Career Narrative   |
| Section 5: Individual Scholastic Record                    | Section 13: Courageous Heart Narrative & Letters of Recommendation       |
| Section 6: Financial Information                           | Section 14: Acknowledgement of Integrity, Participation, & Certification |
| Section 7: Project Experience                              | Section 15: County Extension Agent Certification                         |
| Section 8: Leadership Experience                           | Section 16: Application Checklist and Certification                      |

Information for the completion of a Texas 4-H Youth Development Scholarship can be acquired through past 4-H record books, project forms, or other 4-H records that have been used throughout the applicant’s 4-H career.

**ANY INCOMPLETE OR INCORRECT APPLICATION SUBMITTED WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED OR RETURNED FOR CORRECTION. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE 4-H MEMBER AND PARENT/GUARDIAN TO ENSURE ALL INFORMATION IS CORRECT AND COMPLETE PRIOR TO SUBMITTING. ABSOLUTELY NO FOLLOW UP OR UPDATES WILL BE ALLOWED ONCE SUBMITTED.**

**THINGS TO REMEMBER BEFORE YOU SUBMIT YOUR 2018 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION:**

**FAFSA**

Student Aid Report must be complete and correct with a valid Estimate Family Contribution (EFC). Applicant will need to work directly with PSFSA to ensure a correct EFC.

**QUARTILE RANKING**

Application must have the Quartile Ranking on the Application.

4-H cannot accept an application without a ranking.

**SAT/ACT SCORES**

Make sure application has the SAT and/or ACT scores on academic record page as well as documentation that can verify scores presented (on transcript or print out from testing company).

**GRADE POINT AVERAGE**

Application must have a GPA on a 100 point unweighted scale. GPA's presented in any other format will not be accepted.

# FAFSA

## The Free Application for Federal Student Aid

- This is a required document to be attached to the application. In order to make sure that they get the FAFSA SAR Report back in time, IT IS IN YOUR BEST INTEREST TO COMPLETE THE FAFSA BEFORE December 1st using your last filed tax return information!!!
- If you wait until mid-December, then you may not have completed the form in time to get the FAFSA paperwork submitted and receive the SAR report before the Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarship application deadline!!!
- ATTENTION: If your family has already completed a FAFSA for 2016-2017 or 2017-2018 years because you have another family member in college that is receiving financial aid, DO NOT go the website and change the form for that family member. You MUST complete a separate FAFSA in the name of the person applying for the 4-H Scholarship.

This the FREE Application for Federal Student Aid. It is FREE. There will not be a charge to complete this application. Make sure you go to the correct website.

This is the correct website. <http://www.fafsa.gov/>

**Federal Student Aid**  
An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

PROUD SPONSOR of  
the AMERICAN MIND®

Free Application for Federal Student Aid **FAFSA®**

 Home	 About Us	 FSA ID	 StudentAid.gov	 Help	<input type="text"/>	<input type="button" value="SEARCH"/>	
						English	Español

## Get help paying for college

Submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)



### New to the FAFSA?

**Start A New  
FAFSA**

### Returning User?

- Make a correction
- Add a school
- View your Student Aid Report (SAR), and more...

**Login**

# The Parent's Guide to Filling Out the FAFSA® Form

Information taken from <https://blog.ed.gov/>

While the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) form is the student's application, we know that parents often play a large role in the process. After all, students who are considered dependent have to provide parental information on the FAFSA form anyway and must have a parent sign it. While we recommend that the student start his or her own FAFSA form, we know that's not always what happens. With that in mind, we wanted to provide instructions for parents who are starting the FAFSA form on behalf of their child so you can avoid running into issues completing the form.

If you are a parent completing the FAFSA form for your child, follow these steps:

## 1. Create an account (FSA ID).

An FSA ID is a username and password you use on Federal Student Aid websites such as [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov) and [StudentLoans.gov](https://studentloans.gov). If your child is considered a dependent student, two unique FSA IDs are needed to complete the FAFSA form online:

- Parent's FSA ID
- Student's FSA ID

We recommend that you and your child register for FSA IDs ahead of time, so you don't experience delays later in the process.

**IMPORTANT:** Your child must create his or her own FSA ID. You cannot create an FSA ID for your child. Also, when you register, you'll be asked to provide an email address and mobile phone number. This is optional, but highly recommended. These two items must be unique to each account. In other words, your email address and mobile phone number cannot be associated with more than one FSA ID.

You and your child should create your FSA IDs now at [StudentAid.gov/fsaid](https://StudentAid.gov/fsaid).

Your FSA ID serves as your legal electronic signature throughout the federal student aid process. Do not share your FSA ID with anyone, not even your child. Your child should also not share his or her FSA ID with you. Keep your FSA ID information in a safe place. You'll need it to renew your FAFSA form each year and to access federal student aid information online.

## 2. Start the FAFSA® form at [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov).

- Go to [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov) and click "Start A New FAFSA."
- Once on the log-in page, you will see two options. If you are starting the FAFSA form on behalf of your child, choose the option on the right, "Enter the student's information." Do not choose the option on the left, "Enter your (the student's) FSA ID."
- Enter your child's name, Social Security number, and date of birth. Then, click next.
- Choose which FAFSA form you'd like to complete.

**2018–19 FAFSA form** if your child will be attending college between July 1, 2018, and June 30, 2019.

**2017–18 FAFSA form** if your child will be attending college between July 1, 2017, and June 30, 2018.

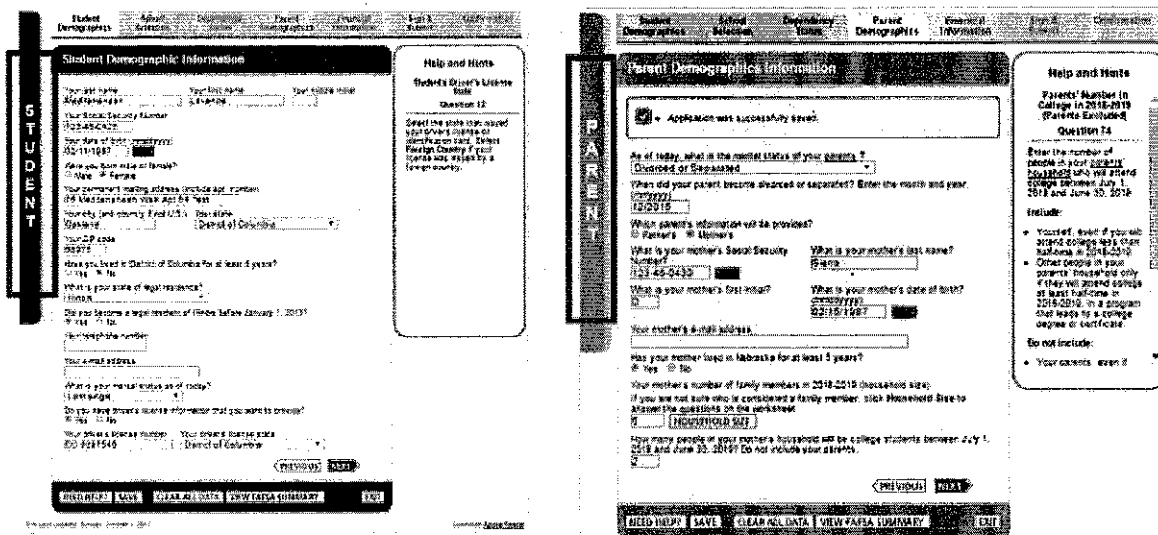
**Both:** If your child will be attending college during both time periods and hasn't completed the 2017–18 FAFSA form yet, complete that first, wait until it processes (one to three days), then go back in and complete the 2018–19 FAFSA form after.

The screenshot shows the FAFSA login interface. On the left, there is a vertical sidebar with the word "STUDENT" written vertically. The main content area is titled "Login" and includes a "Student Information" section. Below this, there are two radio button options: "Enter your (the student's) FSA ID" and "Enter the student's information". The first option is crossed out with a large black 'X'. To the right of the second option is a "NEXT" button. Below the options are several input fields for "The student's first name", "Last name", "The student's full name", "Middle name", "The student's Social Security Number", "The student's date of birth", and "The student's state or territory". At the bottom left of the form area, there is a "NEED HELP?" link. The page number "2018-10-04 10:00 AM, October 4, 2017" is visible at the very bottom.

Were you given the option to submit a FAFSA® Renewal? If your child is present, you should choose this option. If you do, a lot of the demographic information required will be pre-populated. Your child must be present because he or she will need to enter the student's FSA ID to continue. If your child is not present, you should "Start A New FAFSA."

- e. Create a save key. A save key is a temporary password that allows you and your child to "pass" the FAFSA form back and forth. It also allows you to save your child's FAFSA form and return to it later. Once you create a save key, share it with your child. He or she will need it to complete later steps.

**IMPORTANT:** The FAFSA® form is the student's application, not yours. When the FAFSA form says "you" or "your," it's referring to the student. Pay attention to whether you're being asked for student or parent information. When in doubt, the banner on the left side will indicate whether you're on a student (blue) page or parent (purple) page.



### 3. Fill out the Student Demographics section.

Here's where you'll enter basic demographic information about your child, such as name, date of birth, etc. If you chose the FAFSA renewal option in step two, a lot of his or her personal information will be pre-populated to save you time. Make sure you enter your child's personal information exactly as it appears on his or her Social Security card so you don't encounter any errors. (That's right, no nicknames.)

### 4. List the schools to which you want your FAFSA® information sent.

In the School Selection section, you'll add all the schools you want to receive your child's information. It is important that you add every school your child is considering, even if he or she hasn't applied or been accepted yet. It doesn't hurt to add more schools; colleges can't see the other schools that have been added. In fact, you don't even have to remove schools if your child later decides not to apply or attend. If your child doesn't end up applying or getting accepted to a school, the school can just disregard his or her FAFSA form. You can remove schools at any time to make room for new schools. You can add up to 10 schools at a time. If your child is applying to more than 10 schools, here's what you should do.

### 5. Answer the dependency status questions.

In this section, you'll be asked a series of specific questions to determine whether or not your child is required to provide your (parent) information on the FAFSA form.

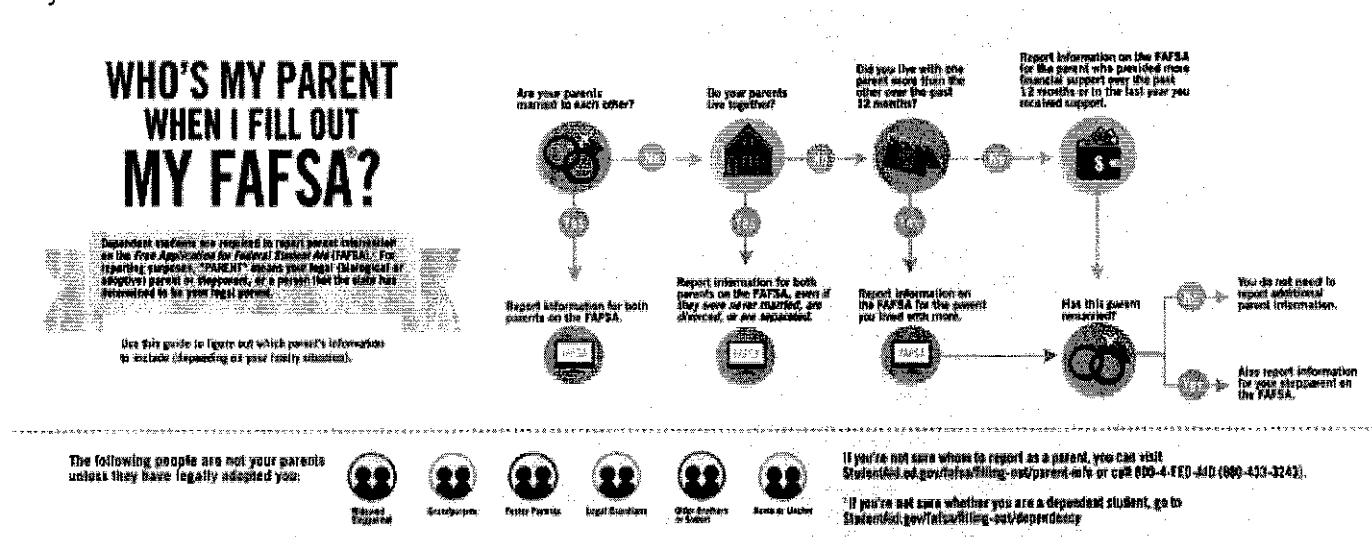
- These dependency guidelines are set by Congress and are different from those used by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

- Even if your child doesn't live with you, supports him or herself, and files taxes separately from you, he or she may still be considered a dependent student for federal student aid purposes.
- If your child is determined to be a dependent student, he or she will be required to report information about you. If your child is determined to be an independent student, you can skip step six.

## 6. Fill out the Parent Demographics section.

This is where you'll provide your own demographic information.

Are you divorced? Remarried? Here's a guide to determining which parent's information needs to be included on your child's FAFSA form:



Federal Student Aid  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

For specific guidance, visit the ["Reporting Parent Information"](http://StudentAid.gov) page on StudentAid.gov.

## 7. Supply your financial information.

In this section, you'll first be asked to provide parent financial information. This step is incredibly simple if you use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool (DRT), which returned with the 2018–19 FAFSA form on Oct. 1, 2017, with additional security and privacy protections added. The IRS DRT allows you to import your IRS tax information into the FAFSA form with just a few clicks. Using this tool also may reduce the amount of paperwork you need to provide to your child's school. So if you're eligible, use it!

To access the tool, indicate that you've "already completed" taxes on the parent finances page. If you're eligible, you'll see an option to "Link to IRS." Choose that option and follow the prompts.

**NOTE:** Beginning with the 2018–19 FAFSA® form, the information transferred from the IRS will no longer be displayed, but you will get a confirmation message letting you know that the transfer was successful. You'll also know which items have been transferred from the IRS because you'll see "Transferred from the IRS" in place of the answer fields. You'll still need to answer all other required questions.

Next, you'll likely be asked to provide your child's financial information.

- If your child filed taxes, the easiest way to complete this section is to use the IRS DRT. Your child would need to be present because he or she needs to provide his or her FSA ID to use the tool. If your child is not present, save and exit the application and instruct your child to log in with his or her FSA ID, retrieve the

FAFSA form using the save key, and then use the IRS DRT to complete the FAFSA form and sign it.

- If your child did not file taxes, you can enter his or her financial information manually (if you have access to the required information). If you don't have access to the information, save and exit the application and instruct your child to log in with his or her FSA ID, retrieve the FAFSA form using the save key, complete the FAFSA form, and sign it.

NOTE: If you need to save and exit your dependent child's FAFSA form so he or she can complete the remaining information, you'll need to log back in and sign your child's FAFSA form before your child can submit it.

## 8. Sign your child's FAFSA® form.

You're not finished with the FAFSA form until you and your child sign it. The quickest and easiest way to sign your child's FAFSA form is online with your FSA ID. If your child is not present, after you sign your child's FAFSA form with your FSA ID, save and exit the application and instruct your child to log into fafsa.gov to sign and submit his or her FAFSA form.

### Sign and Submit Tips:

- If you or your child forgot your FSA ID, you can retrieve it.
- Make sure you and your child don't mix up your FSA IDs. This is one of the most common errors we see, and why it's extremely important for each person to create his/her own FSA ID and not share it with anyone.
- Make sure the parent who is using his/her FSA ID to sign the FAFSA form chooses the right parent number from the drop-down menu. If you don't remember whether you were listed as Parent 1 or Parent 2, you can go back to the parent demographics section to check.
- If you get an error saying that your FSA ID information doesn't match the information provided on the FAFSA form, here's what you should do. Note: This is often the result of mixing up the student and parent FSA ID.
- We recommend signing the FAFSA form with an FSA ID because it's the fastest way to get your child's FAFSA form processed. However, if you and/or your child are unable to sign the FAFSA form electronically with an FSA ID, you can mail in a signature page. From the sign and submit page, select "Other options to sign and submit" and then choose "Print A Signature Page." Just keep in mind that your child's FAFSA form will take longer to process if you go this route.
- If you have multiple children who need to complete the FAFSA form, you can use the same FSA ID to sign FAFSA forms for all of your children. You can also transfer your information into your other children's applications by choosing the option provided on the FAFSA confirmation page.

You're finished. What's next?

Congrats on finishing! Your child is one step closer to getting money for college. With the hard part over, learn what your child should do next after submitting the FAFSA form.

2018-2019 Confirmation Page

Confirmation Number: F 12200001607 09/26/2017 09:13:15  
Data Release Number (DRN): 2734

PRINT THIS PAGE

Congratulations, PURPLE! Your FAFSA was successfully submitted to Federal Student Aid.

Does your brother or sister need to complete a FAFSA? If so, you can transfer your parents' information into a new FAFSA for your brother or sister to save time. Your parents will have to provide a signature again, but that's all.

What Happens Next

- In 7-10 business days, we will mail you a Student Aid Report (SAR) notifying you that your FAFSA was processed.
- Your FAFSA information will be made available to your school(s), and they will use it to determine the aid you may be eligible to receive.
- Your school(s) will contact you if they need more information or when they are ready to discuss your financial aid award.
- If you have questions about your financial aid package, contact your school(s).

School(s) on your FAFSA:

School Name	Graduation Rate	Retention Rate	Transfer Rate	Additional Information from College Navigator
ALABAMA AGRICULT. & MECH. UNIV	31%	55%	20%	NA

Eligibility Information

Estimated Expected Family Contribution (EFC) = 000000  
The EFC is a measure of how much you can contribute to the cost of your education. Schools use your EFC to determine your federal student aid eligibility.

The EFC is not how much aid you will receive or how much you have to pay for college.

Based on the stability criteria, you may be eligible for the following:

Pell Grant Estimate - \$8,920.00  
Direct Stafford Loan Estimate - \$8,500.00  
You may also be eligible to receive other federal, state, or institutional grants, scholarships, and/or work-study.

In addition, you should learn about federal tax benefits for education, including the American Opportunity Tax Credit (AOTC).

Your parent(s) indicated that they had filed an IRS tax return when they provided their financial information and it appears that they were eligible to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool, which allows them to transfer their IRS tax return information directly into your FAFSA. The benefit of using the tool is that it's the easiest way to provide accurate tax information, and it also eliminates the need for providing a copy of your parent's tax return to the financial aid office at your college. Once your FAFSA has been processed, you can return to FAFSA on the Web and your parent(s) can use the tool to transfer their tax information.

If you have questions, visit [fafsa.gov](http://fafsa.gov) and click the "Help" icon on the FAFSA home page.

TAKE A SURVEY

Share Feedback

# 12 Myths About the FAFSA® Form and Applying for Financial Aid

There's so much information available about financial aid for college or career school that it can be hard to tell the facts from fiction. We've got you covered! Here are some common myths—and the real scoop—about financial aid and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) form.

## **MYTH 1: My parents make too much money, so I won't qualify for any aid.**

**FACT:** The reality is there's no income cut-off to qualify for federal student aid. It doesn't matter if you have a low or high income; most people qualify for some type of financial aid, including low-interest federal student loans. Many factors besides income—such as your family size and your year in school—are taken into account.

**TIP:** When you fill out the FAFSA form, you're also automatically applying for funds from your state, and possibly from your school as well. In fact, some schools won't even consider you for any of their scholarships (including academic scholarships) until you've submitted a FAFSA form. Don't make assumptions about what you'll get—fill out the application and find out!

## **MYTH 2: The 2018–19 FAFSA® form launches on Jan. 1.**

**FACT:** The 2018–19 FAFSA form launched on Oct. 1. You should submit a FAFSA form as early as possible because some states and schools have limited funds.

## **MYTH 3: I should use my 2017 tax information to fill out the 2018–19 FAFSA® form.**

**FACT:** You must use your 2016 tax information to complete the 2018–19 FAFSA form. (The requirements changed last year.) It doesn't matter if you or your parents haven't filed 2017 taxes yet, because the 2018–19 FAFSA form doesn't need that information. You won't have to update your FAFSA form after filing 2017 taxes either, because 2016 information is what's required. If your financial situation has changed since 2016, complete the 2018–19 FAFSA form using the tax information it requires (2016), and then contact your school's financial aid office to discuss the change in your situation. They can make updates to your FAFSA information if warranted.

## **MYTH 4: I support myself, so I don't have to include my parent's info on the FAFSA® form.**

**FACT:** This is not necessarily true. Even if you support yourself, live on your own, or file your own taxes, you may still be considered a dependent student for FAFSA purposes. The FAFSA form asks a series of questions to determine your dependency status. If you're independent, you won't need to include your parents' information on your FAFSA form. But if you're dependent, you must provide your parents' information.

If you're a dependent student, find out who is considered your parent for FAFSA purposes. (It's not as obvious as you might think.)

Reference:

Information retrieved from: <https://blog.ed.gov/2017/10/12-myths-fafsa-form-applying-financial-aid/?sf64506440=1>



## **MYTH 5: I should wait until I'm accepted to a college before I fill out the FAFSA® form.**

**FACT:** Don't wait. You can start now! As a matter of fact, you can start as early as your senior year of high school. You must list at least one college to receive your information. You **SHOULD** list all schools you're considering even if you haven't applied or been accepted yet. It doesn't hurt your application to add more schools; colleges can't see the other schools you've added. In fact, you don't even have to remove schools if you later decide not to apply or attend. If you don't end up applying or getting accepted to a school, the school can just disregard your FAFSA form.

You can add up to 10 schools at a time. [If you're applying to more than 10 schools, here's what you should do.](#) If you want to add another school after you submit your FAFSA form, you can [log in at fafsa.gov](#) and submit a correction.

The schools you list will use your FAFSA information to determine the types and amounts of aid you may receive.

## **MYTH 6: If I didn't receive enough money for school. I'm just out of luck.**

**FACT:** You still have options! If you've received federal, state, and college aid but still find yourself having to fill the gap between what your financial aid covers and what you owe your school, [check out these 7 options.](#)

## **MYTH 7: I should call "the FAFSA® people" (Federal Student Aid) to find out how much financial aid money I'm getting and when.**

**FACT:** No, you'll have to contact your school. Federal Student Aid does not award or disburse your aid, so we won't be able to tell you what you'll get or when you'll get it. You will have to contact the financial aid office at your school to find out the status of your aid and when you should expect it. Just keep in mind that each school has a different timeline for awarding financial aid.

## **MYTH 8: There's only one FAFSA® deadline and that's not until June.**

**FACT:** Nope! There are at least three deadlines you need to check: your state, school, and federal deadlines. You can find the [state and federal deadlines](#) at [fafsa.gov](#). You'll need to check your school's website for their FAFSA deadline. If you're applying to multiple schools, make sure to check all of their deadlines and apply by the earliest one. Also, if you're applying to any scholarships that require the FAFSA form, they might have a different deadline as well! Even if your deadlines aren't for a while, we recommend you fill out the FAFSA form as soon as possible to make sure you don't miss out on any aid.

## **MYTH 9: I only have fill out the FAFSA® form once.**

**FACT:** You have to fill out the FAFSA form every year you're in school in order to stay eligible for federal student aid.

## **MYTH 10: I can share an FSA ID with my parent(s).**

**FACT:** Nope, if you're a dependent student, then two people will need their own FSA ID to sign your FAFSA form online:

1. You (the student)
2. One of your parents

An FSA ID is a username and password that you use to log in to certain U.S. Department of Education (ED) websites. Your FSA ID identifies you as someone who has the right to access your own personal information on ED websites such as [fafsa.gov](http://fafsa.gov).

If you're a dependent student, your parent will need his or her own FSA ID to sign your FAFSA form electronically. If your parent has more than one child attending college, he or she can use the same FSA ID to sign all applications. You'll need a unique email address for each FSA ID.

Your FSA ID is used to sign legally binding documents electronically. It has the same legal status as a written signature. Don't give your FSA ID to anyone—not even to someone helping you fill out the FAFSA form. Sharing your FSA ID could put you at risk of identity theft and could cause delays in the FAFSA process!

### **MYTH 11: Only students with good grades get financial aid.**

**FACT:** While a high grade point average will help you get into a good school and may help with academic scholarships, most federal student aid programs do not take grades into consideration when you first apply. Keep in mind that if you want to continue receiving aid throughout your college career, you will have to maintain satisfactory academic progress as determined by your school.

### **MYTH 12: It costs money to submit the FAFSA® form.**

**FACT:** Absolutely not! You NEVER have to pay to complete the FAFSA form when you go to [fafsa.gov](http://fafsa.gov). If you're paying a fee, you're not on the official government website.