

# 2017-18 FINANCIAL AID FACTS



**DID YOU KNOW?** Washington is a top state nationally for students receiving undergraduate need-based financial aid. In 2014-15, 157,000 students with financial need received \$1.9 billion in financial assistance. **HOWEVER, TO GET FINANCIAL AID, YOU NEED TO APPLY.**



**To qualify for financial aid, you need to apply.** In Washington, there are two different applications for financial aid, but you only need to file one.

**File the FAFSA** (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) if you are a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen. File online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).

**File the WASFA** (Washington Application for State Financial Aid) if you are not eligible to file the FAFSA due to immigration status. Find information and file online at [www.readysetgrad.org/WASFA](http://www.readysetgrad.org/WASFA).

**Colleges have their own aid forms and deadlines, too.** Check with your financial aid office to stay on-track.



**Starting October 1, 2016, students will be able to file a 2017-18 FAFSA or WASFA.**

This is a permanent change to the process, allowing students to file for financial aid at the same time that they're completing college applications.

**Beginning with the 2017-18 FAFSA and WASFA, students will report income information from an earlier tax year.** This is known as prior-prior year (PPY). Beginning in October, students and families will use their completed 2015 tax information to file for financial aid rather than using estimated income in January and updating it later in the spring as was previously required.



**Whether you are planning to attend college for the first time or as a returning student during the 2017-2018 academic year, complete the 2017-2018 FAFSA or WASFA, beginning October 1, 2016.**

**You must file for financial aid every year you attend school.** For example, if you are currently a college freshman, you should complete the 2017-2018 FAFSA or WASFA to receive aid for your sophomore year.

**You do NOT have to pay to apply for financial aid!** Both the FAFSA and WASFA are free.

For more on financial aid and college readiness, visit [www.readysetgrad.org](http://www.readysetgrad.org), your resource to find, pay for, and complete the educational path that's right for you.

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