

**Learning Target:** The students will know what the FAFSA is and what types of information are needed to complete it.

**Resources Needed for this Activity:**

- PowerPoint [**12\_U1\_A4\_PP\_Filling Out the FAFSA**]
- Electronic or paper copies [**12\_U1\_A4\_Filling Out the FAFSA Worksheet**]
- YouTube video, “How to Fill out the FAFSA,” 3 minutes, 1 second. Available at:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LK0bbu0y5AM&list=PL23B9A23CD8DD82DD>
- YouTube video, “Completing the FAFSA 2018-2019!” 9 minutes, 37 seconds. Available at:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CwQUU00v-j4>

**Opening: 1 minute** – Slides 2 – 3: The advisor begins by saying that not everybody needs financial aid, but most do at some point in college so it is good to know how to fill out the FAFSA. Besides, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid is *free*. Family income is not the only factor – size of the family and age of the student’s parents are part of the mathematical calculation. Some schools will not consider applicants for any scholarships unless they complete the FAFSA. School counselors are a great resource for more information, and once students are accepted into a college, the college’s financial aid office can assist as well. The advisor tells the students they will watch two videos that will help them understand the FAFSA and how to complete it.

**Activity: 28 minutes** – Slide 4: There are many key things students will need to know about filling out the FAFSA, and the advisor provides electronic or paper copies of [**12\_U1\_A4\_Filling Out the FAFSA Worksheet**] to guide students’ thinking while watching the videos.

Slide 5: The first video

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LK0bbu0y5AM&list=PL23B9A23CD8DD82DD>) provides an overview of what the FAFSA is and the type of information students need to complete it.

Slide 6: Upon conclusion of the video, the advisor asks students to share their answers from the worksheet.

Slide 7: For reference, responses may include:

- 1. What is the purpose of the FAFSA?**
  - a. It is an application for grants, loans, and federal work study funds provided by the federal government.
  - b. It is also used by many states and schools for financial aid programs.
- 2. What types of documents will you need to fill out the FAFSA?**
  - a. Social Security number
  - b. Permanent Resident card if students have one
  - c. W2 forms for money you earned the previous year
  - d. Tax records (for parents and students, if one was completed)
- 3. What is the purpose of the FSA ID?**

- a. It is an electronic signature that can be used to renew the FAFSA each year you apply

**4. What types of info will you need to provide while filling out the FAFSA?**

- a. Name
- b. Address
- c. Marital status
- d. Financial info
- e. Parent info
- f. Names of colleges you may attend

Slides 8 - 10: The advisor then goes on to provide additional FAFSA tips:

- There are scam websites and services that charge to complete the FAFSA—and that they should absolutely not use them. Always go to [fafsa.ed.gov](https://fafsa.ed.gov). This website is available in English and Spanish. There is also an app.
- Each year there is an updated FAFSA, and the new one is available in October. The federal government recommends that students complete the FAFSA as soon as possible.
- The FAFSA for the 2020-21 academic year will be available October 1, 2019. Parents (and students) can use their 2018 tax returns and later correct the FAFSA as needed with 2019 tax information.
- Some schools have deadlines for consideration for financial aid. Earlier is better.
- It is best to complete the FAFSA online or in the app, but it can be completed on paper. Families can print the pdf to make sure they have all of the information.
- There are some restrictions on eligibility for federal aid. Citizens and permanent residents are eligible, and students in the United States on certain other categories of visas are also eligible. “Dream Acts” in some states have expanded eligibility.
- The first step is to apply for a FSA ID. This can be done a few days ahead of completing the FAFSA, to make sure the FSA ID has been received.

Slides 11 - 12: Next, the advisor tells students that they will watch a second video

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CwQUU00v-j4>) that shows a demonstration of how to fill out the FAFSA online. The students should answer the question on their worksheet while watching this video, as well.

Slide 13: Upon conclusion of the video, the advisor asks students to share the one thing they learned.

Slides 14 - 15: Last, the advisor says that once the FAFSA is submitted, the student will be sent a Student Aid Report that summarizes everything the student entered on the FAFSA. The student and family should review it for accuracy. It will include the Expected Family Contribution, but not how much financial aid the student will receive. Only colleges to which the student is accepted, and has listed on the FAFSA, will send award letters with detailed offers of financial aid. Students who have eligibility questions should go to <https://fafsa.gov/help/fftoc03a.htm>.

**Closure: 1 minute** – Slide 16: The advisor closes by saying that if a student receives aid, the student needs to complete a new FAFSA every year reflecting their current circumstances. Finally, the advisor reassures the students that although the form can look complicated, there are detailed guides, a customer service number to call, and videos on the FAFSA website. Students should consider sharing the two videos with their families. They will want the info!