

DEBUNKING COMMON FINANCIAL AID MYTHS

The government provides billions of dollars a year to help students pay for college. Does this sound too good to be true? Let's clear up some common myths.



Myth #1: My family makes too much money for me to qualify for aid.

Fact: There is no income cutoff for federal student aid. Your eligibility depends on several factors, not just family income. Applying for financial aid may also make you eligible for aid money that comes directly from your college or university.

Myth #2: I'm going to a technical school, so I can't get any financial aid. That's just for people going to college or university.

Fact: To be eligible for student aid, you must be a regular student in an eligible degree or certificate program. Your school's financial aid office can tell you if your program counts.



Myth #3: Applying for financial aid is too hard.

Fact: Financial aid applications have come a long way. You can fill out the FAFSA and TASFA online. They feature shortcuts to help make completing them easier for you. The average time to fill out the FAFSA is now less than 21 minutes!

Myth #4: I don't know where I want to go to college, so I can't fill out the application yet.

Fact: You can list up to 20 schools on your FAFSA or TASFA. If you haven't decided where to go, list all your options! How much aid you receive may even help you choose.



Myth #5: My situation at home is too complicated. I can't complete the forms.

Fact: Everyone's home life is different. You may not live with your biological parents. Or maybe you can't get the information you need. You can still apply, no matter how complicated your home life is. Your counselor or college financial aid advisor can help – just ask!

Myth #6: I missed the priority deadline, so it's too late to complete the application.

Fact: States and colleges use financial aid application information to award their own grants, scholarships, and loans. Since some aid is limited, you want to apply early! But if you're late, you're not out of luck. Some financial aid might be unclaimed.



Myth #7: It's not safe to enter my personal and financial information on the form because it may be shared with others.

Fact: Only the schools you choose get your personal information. That's [the law](#)! Your high school, district, and other government agencies get nothing without your consent.

Myth #8: I completed the FAFSA last year, so I don't need to do it again.

Fact: You need to complete the FAFSA every year that you plan to attend college or career school. Be sure to save both your StudentAid.gov account and backup code somewhere safe, and remember your password because you'll need them to log in to your account each year.



Myth #9: If I complete a financial aid application, I must get student loans.

Fact: Completing a financial aid application may help schools determine if you are eligible for grants, scholarships, and student loans, but you are not obligated to accept any aid that you are offered.

Myth #10: My high school is making me complete a financial aid application because they want all kids to go to college.

Fact: No matter where you are going after high school, Texas wants you to be prepared! Texas' financial aid graduation requirement is intended to help all students find aid to help pay for whatever their next steps are.

