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To learn more about the Higher Education in Prison Landscape Project, visit:
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TENNESSEE HIGHER EDUCATION INITIATIVE

Financial Aid 101: Planning for the FAFSA



Tennessee Higher Education In Prison Initiative. 2020.
Orientation Packet TCIX 2020. Nashville, TN: Tennessee
Higher Education In Prison Initiative.



DIFFERENT TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID



**Government
Grants**
Free



Scholarships
Free



**Government
Loans**
Not Free

A FEW IMPORTANT GRANTS TO KNOW



Pell Grant

Federal Grant
up to \$6,195/ year



Tennessee Reconnect

State Grant
"last dollar scholarship"
up to the cost of community college



TSAA

State Grant
up to \$2,000/yr for public 4-year
up to \$4,000/yr for private 4-year

What is the FAFSA?

The FAFSA stands for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

It is the government's application for financial aid, and most schools require students to submit the FAFSA every year that they are enrolled in college, in order to receive any financial aid. It is also an application Tennessee requires for all state grants.

It can be filled out online at [FAFSA.ed.gov](https://fafsa.ed.gov).

it comes available every year on October 1st.

What You Need to Know

PLAN AHEAD


- You need to complete the FAFSA every year that you want financial aid.
- The application becomes available October 1st of every year.
- The October 2019 application is used for financial aid July 2020-June 2021.
- The 2019/2020 Application will use the 2017 tax year.
- The 2020/2021 Application will use the 2018 tax year.

What You Need to Know



Note: the school may require additional proof of your financial status before your award can be determined.

HOW THE FAFSA WORKS

- The FAFSA uses your household income and takes into consideration assets, government benefits, household size, etc. to determine an EFC score.
- Your EFC is your "Estimated Family Contribution", and it determines how much need-based financial aid you will be eligible for. It is possible to have an EFC of 0, which indicates eligibility for the most amount of need-based aid possible.
- As soon as you finish your FAFSA, you will find out your EFC score. Your FAFSA will be sent directly to your school(s) and after you are accepted, each school will notify you of your financial aid awards. 

What You Need to Know

WHAT YOU NEED TO COMPLETE THE FORM

- Your social security number
- Your permanent address
- An email address*
- Your date of birth
- Your full legal name
- Your income for 2018
- Any child support paid for 2018
- Dates of marriage/divorce

If you are married:

- Your spouse's SSN
- Your spouse's date of birth
- Your spouse's tax returns for 2018

If you are younger than 24:

- Your parents' SSN(s)
- Your parents' date(s) of birth
- Your parents' tax returns for 2018



What if I...

- Have outstanding student loans?
- Can't get my spouse's/parent's information?
- Don't have proof of income?
- Don't end up going to school?

Next Steps

The background of the slide features a semi-transparent red overlay. Within this overlay, there is a faint image of a hand holding a black pen, positioned as if writing on a document. The document has a series of empty square checkboxes arranged in a column, with dotted lines indicating a form or checklist structure.

1) GATHER YOUR INFO

2) MEET WITH ME SEPTEMBER 26TH WITH QUESTIONS

3) SIGN UP TO COMPLETE FAFSAS OCT 4TH OR OCT 11TH



Loan Rehabilitation Payment Agreement

I, _____, hereby authorize Tennessee Higher Education Initiative to set up payments on my behalf to rehabilitate my student loans, according to the following arrangement:

- Monthly payment amount (established by the Department of Education): \$_____
- Payments will be made on the _____ of the month, beginning with the month _____ and ending with the month _____.
- Select one:
 - ☐ My family member will pay my monthly payment on my behalf. I will work with THEI to make sure my family member follows the appropriate steps.
 - ☐ I will contribute \$25/semester to THEI through my regular student fee withdrawals, and THEI will use these funds to make monthly payments on my behalf.
 - ☐ Other:

I understand that upon completion of **nine on-time monthly payments**, my loans will be rehabilitated and then transferred to another agency, at which time I will be responsible for following up with that agency to continue making payments on my loans, or to file for deferment status. _____
(initial)

I understand that upon leaving prison, it is my responsibility to contact my loan collection agency (_____) to update my contact information. _____
(initial)

Signature Date

Witness Date



FAFSA Completion Form

Today you are completing your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) online at **www.fafsa.gov**. This form is for you to keep for your records. Do not share this information with any other person. Please understand that you will need to complete the FAFSA **each year** that you want to receive financial aid.

Step 1: Understanding the FAFSA

I am applying for the ____/____ FAFSA, which applies to classes that I will take between
(years)
____ and ____.
(month/year) (month/year)

Please note: each year, the new FAFSA becomes available online on October 1st for the following academic year beginning in August.

Step 2: Creating an FSA account

Your "FSA ID" is your Federal Student Aid ID. This is your online signature and the way that you can access certain Department of Education applications. You need an FSA ID to apply for financial aid online. You will use the same login information **every year** that you are in school for the rest of your life, so it's important that you keep up with your account information. Record your information below if you would like to.

Email address: _____	Security answer 1: _____
Email password: _____	Security answer 2: _____
FSA ID username: _____	Security answer 3: _____
FSA ID password: _____	Security answer 4: _____

Step 3: Submit the FAFSA

I completed my FAFSA on _____ and sent the form to the following school(s):

My EFC (estimated family contribution) is : _____.

Notes/Next Steps:



Continuing School Checklist

This check-list will help guide you through the first steps that you will need to take to continue college. Please understand, this is not a complete list, and you should be in touch with the college you want to attend to make sure you have completed all necessary steps.

State/Federal Financial Aid Requirements:

- ☐ Created FSA ID (email address: _____)
- ☐ I am Title IV eligible
 - ☐ If no, I have begun the process to rehabilitate my loans. My last payment will be made on _____.
- ☐ Completed FAFSA for year(s): ____/____, ____/____, ____/____
- ☐ Registered with Selective Service
 - ☐ If no, I have submitted Status Information Letter Request
- ☐ Created TSAC Portal account for state financial aid (username: _____)
- ☐ Completed TN Reconnect Application (username: _____)

College Requirements:

- ☐ Completed College Application(s)
 - School: _____(username): _____
 - School: _____(username): _____
- ☐ Requested high school transcript/GED transcript
- ☐ Requested all prior college transcript(s)
 - ☐ THEI program
 - ☐ Prior College(s) : _____
- ☐ Requested all applicable verification forms
 - ☐ Proof of Income
 - ☐ Proof of Non-filing
 - ☐ Proof of Residency
- ☐ Completed all other outstanding requirements from the college (confirm by logging in to your student account and/or checking your email for school correspondence)

Optional:

- ☐ Requested Letters of Recommendation
- ☐ Wrote Personal Statement



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Date

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter affirms that _____ has permission to speak with
(THEI Staff Member)

_____ on my behalf,
(Loan Holder)

regarding my student loans. Please see below for my account details and information about this third party authorization.

Borrower Details:

Full Name

Social Security Number

Date of Birth

Current Address

City, State, Zip Code

Authorized Third Party Representative:

Full Name

Phone

Email

Address: 1006 Shelby Ave, Nashville, TN
37206

Relationship to Borrower: Case Manager at
the Tennessee Higher Education in Prison
Initiative

Signed,

Borrower

Date

Authorized Third Party Rep

Date



Letter of Recommendation Request Form

Name: _____

TDOC #: _____

Please complete the proper section for the type of letter of recommendation that you are requesting below. You may include notes at the bottom of the form if needed.

☐ Parole Hearing

Date of hearing: _____

Have you spoken with a member of THEI's re-entry team about your plans for post-release?

YES

NO

☐ College Application

What college(s) are you applying to? _____

Have you discussed your plans for continuing education with THEI's re-entry team?

YES

NO

Have you completed your applications?

YES

NO

☐ Other Purpose

Please explain: _____

Date due: _____

Notes (optional): _____
