

FINANCIAL AID

11TH - 12TH GRADE

JANUARY 2009

Packing List

- The Basics (school folder, pencils, address change cards, etc.)
- Jr./Sr. Progress Forms (for updating)
- Student Financial Aid Packet (labeled with student name/school/grade)
Includes: *Funding Education Beyond High School*, *FAFSA*, and *FAFSA on the Web Worksheet*
- Highlighter/Pen (1 per student)
- Post-it Tabs (one bag per workshop)
- College Goal Sunday/Arkansas, Oklahoma, or Missouri state aid brochures (1 per student)
- Laptop with “5-Minute FAFSA” Video/Projector or DVD
- Assessments (5 per workshop)

Purpose:

The purpose of this workshop is to introduce students to federal financial aid via the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Students will participate in finding important FAFSA information and discuss/highlight important elements. Students will get a hands-on look at the FAFSA as well as find out about state financial aid programs (ex: Arkansas Academic Challenge, Oklahoma’s Promise, and Access Missouri Program) and assistance available in completing the FAFSA (College Goal Sunday and Talent Search).

Learning Outcomes & Assessment:

By the conclusion of this workshop, students will be able to identify two types of federal financial aid available by completing the FAFSA and the state aid program for their state. Students will also demonstrate the knowledge that filing the FAFSA is free.

Housekeeping/Introduction: 5 Minutes

Have students update Junior/Senior Progress Forms. Give out any returned mail and complete change of address forms if necessary. Remind students about Campus Visits in April and get t-shirt sizes on roster. Refresh students’ memories of last month’s workshop on Scholarships that showed how they can get money for college from private organizations, colleges, websites, etc. Today’s workshop on Financial Aid will show how they can get money for college from the federal and state governments by completing the FAFSA.

The FAFSA Basics “5-Minute FAFSA” video: 10 Minutes

This is a fun video that introduces the basics of the FAFSA. Students are given a fill-in-the-blank bookmark and are asked to pay attention to the important FAFSA information provided in the video. Upon video completion, go over the FAFSA Basics from the video.

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| • FAFSA stands for F___ Application for F_____ Student A___ | <i>Free Application for Federal Student Aid</i> |
| • The FAFSA is your ticket to F_____ & S___ student aid. | <i>Federal & State</i> |
| • The FAFSA can be completed any time after _____ | <i>January 1st (of senior year & each year in college)</i> |
| • The FAFSA website is www.____.ed.gov | <i>www.fafsa.ed.gov</i> |
| • The website to get your FAFSA pin # is www.____.ed.gov | <i>www.pin.ed.gov</i> |
| • To complete the FAFSA you will need your Social Security Card, Drivers License, last years T___ & more. | <i>Taxes</i> |
| • Who invented the Social Security Card? | <i>FDR</i> |
| • You can turn down any aid offered to you. | <i>True</i> |
| • Saying that you are not interested in loans increases your grants. | <i>False</i> |
| • SAR stands for S___ A___ R___ (this shows what aid you were awarded). | <i>Student Aid Report</i> |

- EFC stands for E _____ F _____ C _____.

Expected Family Contribution

- Colleges will send you a Financial Aid Package (based on your FAFSA results) once your FAFSA is completed and sent to the schools you selected.

Hopefully after watching this video, students will feel more at ease about completing the FAFSA and have a better understanding of FAFSA terminology. Note: Website to view video is provided at bottom of bookmark for students who may want to watch it again or share with a friend (video provided by FastWeb on YouTube.com).

Funding Education Beyond High School: 15 Minutes

Pass out a Financial Aid Packet to each student (labeled with student name/school/grade). Ask the students to look at the *Funding Education Beyond High School* booklet. This is an annual publication by the U.S. Department of Education explaining the federal student aid process. Counselor should walk students through the key points in the book (referring to the green FAFSA Talking Points guide). These books are for students to keep, so encourage them to make notes, highlight, and tab the pages they think will be helpful later.

Taking a Glance at the FAFSA: 5-10 Minutes

Look over the paper *FAFSA* application and the *FAFSA on the Web Worksheet*. Only seniors will get an actual copy of the *FAFSA*. All juniors and seniors will get a copy of the *FAFSA on the Web Worksheet*. Encourage students to look over the application and allow them to begin filling it out. Address with them that it may seem like a lot of paperwork and effort to complete but tell them the average student takes less than an hour to complete the FAFSA online. Encourage students to complete it online because they can save their information partway through and come back to it later, or log back in to make corrections/updates, and the online version of the FAFSA has a built-in system that can catch possible errors. They also get their Student Aid Report (SAR) almost a month earlier by completing the FAFSA online. Answer any questions and let students know Talent Search counselors are available to meet with them and their parents to complete the FAFSA.

College Goal Sunday & State Aid Programs: 5-10 Minutes

Distribute a worksheet to each student detailing the financial aid program their state offers (ex: Arkansas Academic Challenge, Oklahoma's Promise, and Access Missouri Program). Go over the requirements for the program. Next, on the back of the state aid flyer is a brochure with details about College Goal Sunday on February 22nd. This is a one day event hosted throughout the nation to help students and their families complete the FAFSA. The great part is that these are typically hosted at local high schools and colleges by college financial aid officers. They will sit down with students and their parents one-on-one to help complete the FAFSA. Best of all, it's provided as a free service! It's important to note that the student and parent(s) need to request their PIN numbers at least a week prior to College Goal Sunday. Note: Oklahoma does not participate in College Goal Sunday at this time.

3 Things Every College Student Needs to Know: 2 Minutes

As time allows, go over the 3 college tips located on the back of the FAFSA Basics worksheet.

Assessment: 1 Minute

Select 5 students in each workshop to complete an assessment.