



The Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA) is used to collect information to help determine eligibility for state financial aid programs that are administered by institutions of higher education in the state of Texas. Students that are classified as a Texas Resident who cannot apply for federal financial aid using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) are encouraged to complete the TASFA. To review the FAFSA filing requirements, visit [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) or visit the financial aid office at the institution you plan to attend.

Most colleges will ask that you complete the TASFA and not the FAFSA. However, if your college asks you to complete a FAFSA, you will complete as a NON-ELIGIBLE, NON-CITIZEN.



1. For College Student ID#, do not enter your high school ID. Every college you apply to will send you an email or letter within two weeks of applying with your College Student ID#. You will have a different ID# for each college you apply to. If you do not receive your college student ID#, you can call the office of admission and request it.
2. If you do NOT live with your parents, talk with your high school counselor to see if you qualify as an unaccompanied youth who was homeless. This does not necessarily mean that 'you live under a bridge'. The Federal Government has a broad definition of who is an unaccompanied youth. Generally, if you are living with someone who is not your parents you can be classified as an unaccompanied youth. This is important because you are required to supply your parents' tax information unless you can answer YES to one of these questions or qualify for what is called a Dependency Override. If you feel you qualify as an 'unaccompanied youth', you MUST ask your counselor to direct you to your high school's homeless liaison officer. This person will ask you a couple of questions about your living situation, and have you complete a simple application. Once you are classified as an 'unaccompanied youth', you will need to make sure the college financial aid office knows this. They will confirm your status with your high school.

Simply write your name on the first row and the names of your parents and any family members who are being supported by your parents. This could include relatives who live back in your home country, who you support.

1. A dislocated worker is someone who has lost his/her job the past 12 months. While you can indicate that your parents "will file" their income taxes, your TASFSA will not be processed until you have submitted your parents' tax returns and tax transcript. (or) income verification.
  2. To receive full grant funding you will need to be at least a 3/4 time student, which generally means you are taking at least 3 classes per semester.
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1. If you turn in your parents' tax returns/transcript, you will most likely put 0's on



Often times your college's financial aid office will ask you to itemize (breakdown) your monthly expenses and explain who is supporting you.

If your parents are unable to support you [disability, lost their job, make very little in their home country . . .] you should fill this section out. Have your high school counselor help you.

Females will check the first box. Males should check box 2 or the last box and supply a copy of their application. Generally, a financial aid office will work with you while you await getting your selective service card.

You only need your counselor's signature if you have no contact with your parents (they live in another country or state).

### Frequently Asked Questions:

Generally, a TASFA, Parents and yours (if you file) tax returns, tax transcripts, selective service card (males), and Dependent/Independent Verification Worksheet. You will pick up a dependent/independent verification worksheet at the financial aid office or download from their website. This simple form asks your parents to sign that the information supplied is correct.

You MUST speak with your financial aid office to find out EXACTLY what they wish you to turn in with your TASFA. One college might want one thing and another something else.

## Frequently Asked Questions:

Remember, you will need to submit a TASFA to each college you apply to.

Make sure to:

1. Make a copy of each TASFA Application you submit with all supporting documents. If a financial aid office misplaces 'loses' your TASFA application you won't have to 'scramble' to repackage your application.
2. Keep a notebook of when you turn items in and whom you talk with. If you run into problems later, you will have a DOCUMENTED trail that you have been trying to do everything correctly.
3. It is crucial that you ask each financial aid office "WHO IS THE FINANCIAL AID OFFICER IN CHARGE

After your TASFA has been processed, you will receive an award letter from each college you have been accepted to detailing how much financial aid you will receive.

1. A college might send you an award letter by mail, but most likely, the college will expect you to log into your financial aid account and review your award letter online.
2. You should expect your award letter 4 to 8 weeks after your TASFA has been processed. After your TASFA has been submitted and processed, you should immediately become familiar with your college's financial aid website.
3. If you do not receive an email from your college's financial aid office in 4 weeks, you should contact them and find out why you have not received an award letter. It might be you made a mistake or they just might be behind.
4. Unfortunately, many state colleges do not award TASFA students until late summer. It is a good idea to ask the financial aid office if they have an 'emergency tuition loan program. This is a short term loan from the colleges (generally until your financial aid is processed). You will have to pay a small fee.

First, if you do not accept your award letter the college will assume you do not want financial aid. In other words, you will not get any money!

So, make sure to log into your college financial aid account and go to a section (generally called) award letter or accept award offers. You will need to log in immediately after you receive your award letter.