**FAFSA- F**ree **A**pplication for **F**ederal **S**tudent **A**id

1. When completing the **FAFSA**, be accurate and careful. Understand how to determine dependency status, household size etc. correctly. Mistakes can lead to lower financial aid packages and/or delays.
2. Submit your **FAFSA** on/after **October 1st** of your student senior year. Many schools have “priority processing deadlines” so be sure to check for those deadlines.
3. Under certain conditions, your home and small business may not need to be included as assets in your financial aid calculations. Similarly, your retirement assets may also be exempt for reporting on the FAFSA.
4. Apply for financial aid early!
5. Don’t assume you won’t qualify! (an often misconception)
6. Call the Financial Aid office to ask questions or discuss concerns about your family finances. They are there to help.
7. **FAFSA** forms are necessary for some merit based aid and work-study programs.
8. Take the time to evaluate your financial aid award letters to determine the most affordable option
9. **DO NOT Pay a service or site to complete this application.. it is FREE!**

**Where to Start:**

1. [www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov) determine your EFC estimated family contribution
2. <http://collegecost.ed.gov/netpricecenter.aspx> determine the colleges Net Price
3. [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) complete the form on/or after October 1 of your students senior year
4. <http://financialaidtoolkit.ed.gov/tk/resources.jsp> Resources to help in your search

**Information needed to fill out the FAFSA**

* Copies of prior-prior year W-2 forms
* Other records of money earned
* Copies untaxed income records
* Copies of bank statement
* Copies of business and investment records
* Copies of taxes paid
* Number of exemptions
* Date of Birth/Drivers license #
* Social security number
* List of colleges where your son/daughter wants to consider for financial aid review