

FAFSA VS. CSS PROFILE

As you begin to explore financial aid, you've likely heard of FAFSA and/or the CSS Profile. But what are they? How are they different? And do you need to complete both?

We're breaking down everything you need to know.

WHAT IS FAFSA?



FAFSA is short for Free Application for Federal Student Aid; it is managed by the U.S. Department of Education

WHAT IS THE CSS PROFILE?



CSS Profile is short for College Scholarship Service Profile; it is managed by College Board

What's the purpose of these forms?

Determines your eligibility for federal aid

Determines your eligibility for non-federal aid

What financial aid options are determined?

Federal loans, grants, and other types of government assistance

Non-federal institutional aid (such as need-based grants and scholarships)

Do I need to submit this form to be considered for financial aid?

Yes

FAFSA must be completed to be considered for federal financial aid

Most Likely

The CSS Profile needs to be completed for schools that require it – like Rice does!

What is the application cost?

\$0

Up to \$25 for the first report & up to \$16 for each additional report

What is the application deadline?

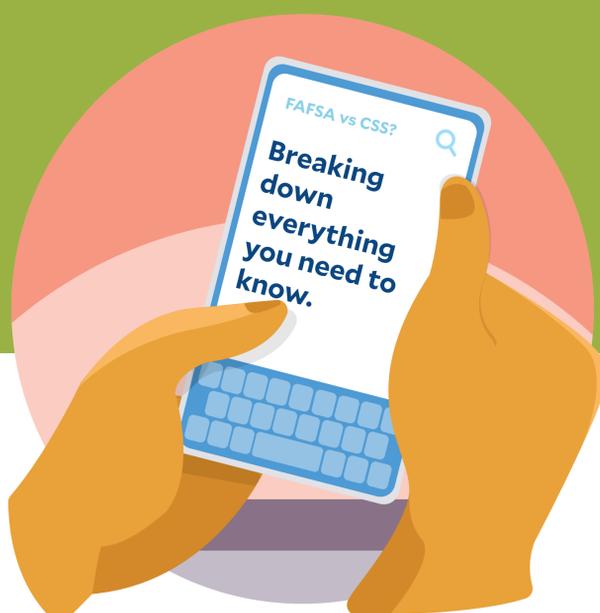
Visit the Federal Student Aid (FSA) website (studentaid.gov) to check FAFSA deadlines

Varies by school; check school website for CSS Profile deadlines

What do I need to apply?

- Social Security Number (U.S. citizens)
- Alien Registration Number (non-U.S. citizens/residents)
- Federal income information** (if applicable)
- Bank statements/assets (e.g., Social Security, investments, business assets)
- Records of untaxed income (if applicable)
- FSA ID to sign electronically
- Parent financial information***

- College Board user account
- Federal income information (if applicable)
- Bank statements/assets (e.g., Social Security, investments, business assets)
- Records of untaxed income (if applicable)
- Parent financial information
- Payment for any application fees (if applicable)



*The CSS Profile is free for domestic undergraduate students whose family income is up to \$100,000.

**You may be able to transfer federal tax information to FAFSA using the IRS Retrieval Tool.

***Most first-time undergraduate students are considered dependent and will require parent/guardian financial information. Students considered independent, emancipated youth, and foster youth may skip this step.