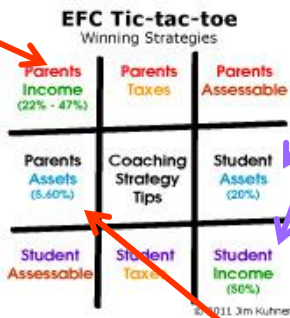




Financial Aid 101: How does the FAFSA calculate the EFC?

The FAFSA establishes the [Expected Family Contribution](#) (EFC) or how much of a student's and parent's resources could (theoretically) be devoted toward paying for college expenses. This visual highlights the four big areas that impact the student's EFC....

For **parents**, the [portion of income protected](#) from the FAFSA calculation varies (increasing with household size)



For **students**, assets and income are at a higher percent (but likely a smaller total amount), as they are the ones directly benefiting from the education.

Table 4: Income Protection Allowance
EFC Formula A

Number in parents' household, including student (FAFSA/SAR #72)	Number of college students in the household (FAFSA/SAR #73)				
	1	2	3	4	5
2	\$19,630	\$16,270	not applicable	not applicable	not applicable
3	\$24,440	\$21,100	\$17,740	not applicable	not applicable
4	\$30,190	\$26,830	\$23,490	\$20,130	not applicable
5	\$35,620	\$32,260	\$28,920	\$25,560	\$22,220
6	\$41,670	\$38,310	\$34,970	\$31,610	\$28,270

Note: For each additional household member, add \$4,700.
For each additional college student (except parents), subtract \$3,340.

while the percent of parental non-retirement assets (checking, savings and investment accounts) is smaller and fixed.

It is important for students and parents to realize that submitting a FAFSA:

- (1) Does not commit a family to a certain contribution amount (EFC). (Parents are not required to pay for college.)
- (2) The FAFSA does not take into account what financial aid offices term "special circumstances" (job loss, high medical bills, unusual expenses relating to caring for other family members, etc) that would make the calculated EFC impossible to reach.
- (3) The EFC does not limit a family's actual college contribution. (More than 97% of colleges do not have enough money to guarantee that students will not have to pay more than the EFC that is calculated.)
- (4) Completing a FAFSA allows students to be considered for federal, state and institutional merit and need-based grants and scholarships. (ie. free money)
- (5) Completing a FAFSA gives parents access to state and federal student loans. (ie. money that must be repaid)
- (6) Merit aid (see page 2) may (but rarely) result in a family's actual contribution being less than their EFC.

Note for students in a shared custody situation:

The EFC is based upon the **household** the student spends 51% or more of his or her time in. This reality may or may not correspond to which biological or adoptive parent claims the student as a dependent for income tax purposes. The EFC only takes into account the number and ages of family members living in the 51+% household. In 50/50 situations the parent that provides the most financial support completes the FAFSA. Non-custodial parent's financial information is not included in the FAFSA. **Financial information for a step-parent in the student's 51+% household is reported.**

Important Tip: review the Student Aid Report (SAR) generated once your FAFSA is submitted for important next steps!

Important information for college applications:

SPCPA School Code: 242 284

Counselor: Alison Green

School Information:
16 W 5th St
St Paul, MN 55102
(651) 290-2225



Tips...

- **Read the directions...** if the question remains unclear click on the help link.
- **Income questions...** are based on 2020 federal income tax returns – parent(s) and student. (The IRS Retrieval Tool will populate these fields.)
- **No blanks...** enter "0" or not applicable.
- **No commas or decimals...** whole numbers only.
- **No nicknames...** FAFSA name, address and social security information must match IRS forms.
- **Parent #1...** is biological or adoptive parent student lives with 51% or more of the time.
- **Parent #2...** is parent #1's spouse.
- **Students living with both biological or adoptive parents...** decide who parent #1 is in advance and be consistent.
- **Asset questions...** are as of the FAFSA application date (not 2019 figures).
- **Exclude...** the value of primary residence and all retirement accounts (IRA, 401K, 403B, etc) from the asset questions.
- **18+ individuals designated as male on a birth certificate must...** complete the [Selective Service registration](#) to be considered for federal student aid.
- **DACA students...** apply for financial aid via the Minnesota Dream Act not FAFSA. See Ms Green for more details.
- **Undocumented parents...** use 000-00-0000 in the social security field. (Note: In the past, FAFSA information has not shared with other federal agencies. Be prepared to monitor any changes in this area.)



October 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Dechtman Wealth Mgmt \$3500 Personal finance essay Young Arts \$1000 Literary, Visual, Performing Artist		1 2021 FAFSA	2
3	4	5			8	9
Walt Disney UNCF Scholarship \$5000 African descent, 2.5 min GPA	11	Dr Pepper Tuition Giveaway \$2500-100,000 TikTok video	13	Innovation in Education \$500 Project that made a difference	15	16
18	19	20			22	Pretty Photoshop \$500 Essay
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	Coca-Cola Scholars Program \$20,000 Award recognizes achievement/leadership. VFW Voice of Democracy Scholarship \$30,000 Patriotic Essay					

[Equitable Excellence Scholarship](#)

\$2500-\$20,000

Demonstrate ambition, drive and community service

Apply NOW Only 10,000 applications accepted
Deadline 12/15

[Jack Kent Cooke Foundation](#)

Up to \$40,000

3.5GPA/low income
Deadline 11/18

[Farah & Farah](#)

\$500

Overcoming adversity

[Walt Disney UNCF Scholarship](#)
\$5000
African descent, 2.5 min GPA

[Dr Pepper Tuition Giveaway](#)
\$2500-100,000
TikTok video

[Innovation in Education](#)
\$500
Project that made a difference

[Pretty Photoshop](#)
\$500
Essay

[Advertisement Scholarship](#)
\$2500
Essay on social media tips
[Dyslexia/Auditory Processing](#)
\$1000
Essay

First a definition: merit aid is money a college or university awards to students based on academic, artistic, or athletic talent or other qualities and/or achievements. (*Institutional grants are funds that are made available to admitted students at a college or university based on demonstrated need.*) Merit aid may be important for students with non-demonstrated need (*ie. the family cannot afford the student's EFC*). [College Transitions](#) offers a tool that can help students and families consider potential merit aid options before applying.

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How do I find out if a college offers merit aid?



Institution	Cost of Attendance (In-State)	Cost of Attendance (Out-of-State)	% Received (All Freshmen)	% Received (Freshmen w/ No Need)	Average Merit Scholarship (Freshmen w/ No Need)
Adelphi University	\$61,325	\$61,235	68%	11%	\$18,983
Agnes Scott College	\$61,530	\$61,530	39%	18%	\$31,077
Albion College	\$66,900	\$66,900	99%	17%	\$32,818
Alfred University	\$53,730	\$42,038	50%	4%	\$12,750
Allegheny College	\$68,290	\$68,290	46%	22%	\$33,300
American University	\$70,371	\$70,371	22%	13%	\$13,347
Amherst College	\$78,180	\$78,180	0%	0%	\$0
Appalachian State University	\$19,908	\$34,715	5%	3%	\$4,178
Arizona State University	\$28,903	\$46,993	46%	37%	\$10,158
Auburn University	\$29,522	\$49,154	32%	27%	\$7,562