



The Financial Aid Process



1

1

“Providing Illinois students with information and assistance to help make education beyond high school accessible and affordable.” –ISAC Mission Statement

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) is the college access and financial aid agency in the state of Illinois that administers scholarship, grant, prepaid tuition, and student loan repayment/forgiveness programs.



2

2

Col·lege \kä-lij\

- **Noun:** Any institution of higher education that awards a degree or credential post-high school graduation. This includes, but is not limited to, universities, community colleges, trade schools and more.

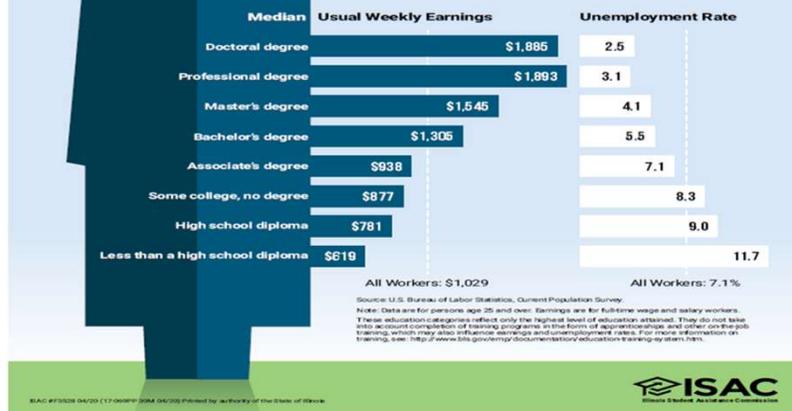


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3

WHAT'S THE VALUE OF A COLLEGE DEGREE?

Earnings and Unemployment Rates by Educational Attainment, 2020



4

4

Planning for College

- There are lots of things to *think* about and many questions you need to *ask*.
- **Can I afford college?**
- **How much will it cost?**
- **What is financial aid?**
- **What is a FAFSA?**
- **When and how do I apply?**
- **Where can I get help?**

Ask questions...

5

What is Financial Aid?

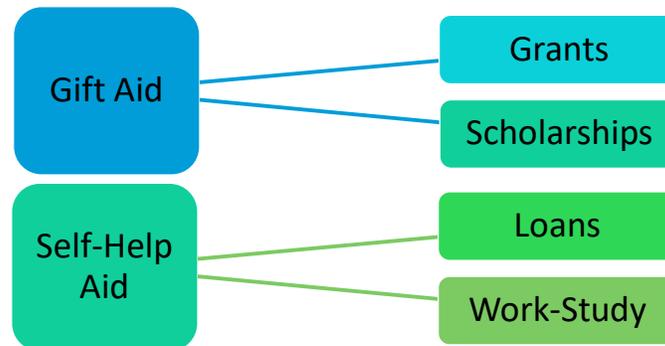
- It is ***borrowed, given, or earned*** money that can be obtained from various sources to help pay for college
- Financial aid makes college affordable for you
- It is intended to make up the difference between what your family can afford to pay and what college costs.

**If you think you can't afford college, think again.
There's lots of aid out there.**

6

Types of Financial Aid

- There are many types of financial aid
- Funds may be merit-based, need-based, or non need-based



7

Federal Work-Study



- It is a need-based employment program that provides on- and off-campus jobs to students.

A completed FAFSA is required

It is a campus-based financial aid program; funds are limited and available only at participating postsecondary institutions

Priority deadlines may apply

Compensation is at least the current federal minimum wage

A student must earn these funds

8

Sources of Financial Aid

- Financial aid comes from a variety of sources

Federal Government	State Government
College (Institutional Aid)	Outside/Private Sources

 9

9

Sources of Financial Aid

- The “Must-Get-to-Know” financial aid sources

 <p>Illinois Student Assistance Commission www.ISAC.org</p> <p>Agency in Illinois that administers state scholarship, grant, prepaid tuition, and student loan repayment and forgiveness programs.</p>	 <p>U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Federal Student Aid www.StudentAid.gov</p> <p>Federal agency that provides college funding in the form of grant, scholarship, work-study, and educational loan programs.</p>
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 10

10

The Big Grants

- Maximum award amounts for 2021-22



MAP Grant
Up to \$5,496 (est.)

Pell Grant
Up to \$6,495

- Total = \$11,991



11

11

Illinois Student Assistance Commission



Grant Programs	2021-2022 Award
Monetary Award Program (MAP)	Up to \$5,496 (est.)
Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG)	Tuition & Mandatory Fees
Illinois National Guard Grant (ING)	Tuition & Mandatory Fees
Grant for Dependents of Police/Fire/Correctional Officers	Tuition & Mandatory Fees
Teaching Programs	2021-2022 Award
Minority Teachers of Illinois Scholarship (MTI)	Up to \$5,000
Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver (SETTW)	No annual minimum or maximum amounts



12

12

U.S. Department of Education

Federal Grant Program	2021-2022 Award
Federal Pell Grant	up to \$6,495
Iraq & Afghanistan Service Grant	up to \$6,124
TEACH Grant	up to \$3,772
Campus-Based Program	2021-2022 Award
Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)	\$100-\$4,000
Federal Work-Study	Colleges determine annual minimum or maximum amounts

 13

13

Loan Programs

- When evaluating loan options, consider the following:

Source of Loan

Subsidized vs. Unsubsidized

Interest Rate

Repayment Options & Grace Period

 14

14

Subsidized v. Unsubsidized

- To understand the difference between the two, consider this: *When will interest begin to accrue?*

Direct Subsidized Loan	Direct Unsubsidized Loan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need-based Interest is paid by the federal government: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> While a student is in school at least ½ time During grace periods During deferment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not need-based A student is always responsible for paying the interest



15

15

Federal Loan Programs 2021-22



Loan	Type	Interest Rate	Grace Period
Direct Subsidized (Undergraduate)	Need-based	3.73% Fixed	6 Months
Direct Unsubsidized (Undergraduate)	Not need-based	3.73% Fixed	6 Months
Direct Unsubsidized (Graduate)	Not need-based	5.28% Fixed	6 Months
Direct PLUS (Parent/Graduate)	Unsubsidized Credit-based	6.28% Fixed	Repayment Starts within 60 days



16

16

Maximum Direct Loan Amounts



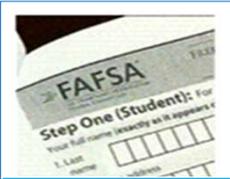
Year	Dependent Students	Independent Students
1 st Year	\$5,500 Max. \$3,500 subsidized	\$9,500 Max. \$3,500 subsidized
2 nd Year	\$6,500 Max. \$4,500 subsidized	\$10,500 Max. \$4,500 subsidized
3 rd Year and Beyond	\$7,500 Max. \$5,500 subsidized	\$12,500 Max. \$5,500 subsidized
Graduate or Professional	Not Applicable	\$20,500 (unsubsidized only)


17

17

How to Apply for Financial Aid

- To be considered for student aid, a student must complete all forms required by a college
- Communicate with each college to find out what is required for a complete application



FAFSA

ALTERNATIVE APPLICATION FOR ILLINOIS FINANCIAL AID

Intended for qualifying undocumented and

Alternative Application for IL Financial Aid



Other Forms


18

18

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

- The FAFSA is the first step in the financial aid process for most students
- It is used to apply for **state and federal financial aid** programs
- Some colleges use it to award institutional aid
- The application is available at **no cost**



19

Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid (Alternative App)

- This application is **only for state financial aid**
- It is open to qualifying undocumented students and transgender students who are not eligible to complete a FAFSA
- Some colleges use it to award institutional aid
- The application is available at **no cost**

ALTERNATIVE APPLICATION FOR ILLINOIS FINANCIAL AID

Intended for qualifying undocumented and transgender students

Alternative Application to apply for 2020-2021 Illinois MAP Grants

The Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid allows qualifying undocumented students and transgender students who are not otherwise eligible for federal financial aid to apply for Illinois Monetary Award Program (MAP) grants to attend eligible Illinois colleges, universities, and career education programs.

The pre-screening questions in this application will help you determine if you are a qualifying undocumented or transgender student who is not eligible for federal financial aid.

[See our User Guide & Resources for this program >>](#)

First-Time Applicants

- Click on the "Start" button to start a new 2020-2021 Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid
- Do not submit multiple applications for the same academic year

START

Returning Applicants

Complete or correct a 2020-2021 Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid

Forgot Username?
Forgot Password?

LOGIN

Submit Parent Signature

Click on the "Parent Signature" button to provide your parent's signature (required for dependent students)

PARENT SIGNATURE

Note: Students should complete either the FAFSA or Alternative App, but **not both**

20

2021-22 Financial Aid Applications

WHEN

- As soon as possible after October 1st
(Check with colleges for specific deadlines)

WHO

- High school seniors and college students

HOW

- FAFSA: www.fafsa.gov
- Alternative App: www.isac.org/alternativeapp

WHY

- Determine eligibility for federal and state aid programs
- Some institutions use these to award institutional aid

21

Parent Information

- Most students must report parental information until the age of 24
- For financial aid purposes, there are only three types of parents:
 - Biological parents
 - Adoptive parents
 - Stepparents (if married to biological parent)
- No one else should provide information on the FAFSA or Alternative App
- Legal guardians are not considered parents for financial aid purposes
- If parents are divorced, report information about the parent the student lived with most in the past 12 months

22

Information Needed

FAFSA Only

- Social Security Number
 - Parents who do not have a SSN must enter 000-00-0000
- Alien Registration Number, if student is not a U.S. Citizen
- Federal Student Aid (FSA) ID to sign electronically

FAFSA & Alternative Application

- Federal tax returns, W-2s, and other records of income
- Banking statements and records of investments (if applicable)
- Records of untaxed income (if applicable)
- List of colleges student would like to attend



23

23

Electronic Signature

FAFSA

- An FSA ID is needed to sign the FAFSA electronically
- Students and parents must each have their own FSA ID
- The FSA ID is needed to renew the FAFSA every year
- **Note:** Parents who do not have a SSN cannot obtain an FSA ID but can print a signature page instead

Alternative App

- A PIN is needed to sign the Alternative App electronically
- Students and parents must have their own PIN
- The PIN will be generated and sent via email by ISAC
- A PIN is needed every time you renew the Alternative App
- To obtain a PIN, parents only need to provide an email



24

24

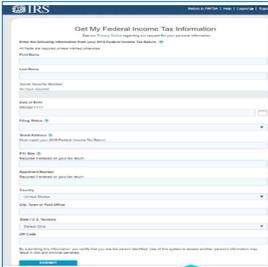
IRS Data Retrieval Tool

- Allows the transfer of individual tax data onto the FAFSA

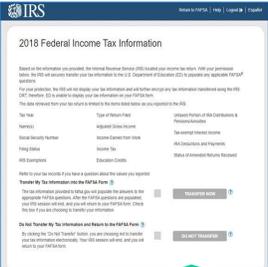


Applying is faster and easier if your parents transfer their tax return information to the FAFSA using the IRS Data Retrieval Tool (DRT).

[LINK TO IRS](#)



Look up tax data



Transfer to FAFSA

 25

25

Expected Family Contribution (EFC)

- The FAFSA/Alternative App will generate a number called the EFC

What is it?

- The amount a student and family can be expected to contribute in one academic year

Why does it matter?

- Used to determine a student's eligibility for most federal and state aid programs

 26

26

Verification

- This is a process used by schools to confirm that data reported on the FAFSA or Alternative App is accurate
- If you are selected for verification:
 - You may be asked to submit additional documentation
 - e.g., tax return transcripts, W-2s, income information, list of members of the household
 - Do not be alarmed – this is a common process
 - Provide only the information requested
 - Submit all documents **on time!**

How Much Does College Cost?

Tuition & Fees	<i>Direct Expenses</i>
+ Room & Board	<i>Direct or Indirect Expenses</i>
+ Transportation	<i>Indirect Expenses</i>
+ Books & Supplies	
+ Miscellaneous Living Expenses	
= Cost of Attendance (COA)	

Financial Need

- How much aid can a student receive?



29

Three Examples

	COA		EFC		Financial Need
College A	\$10,000	-	\$3,000	=	\$7,000
College B	\$20,000	-	\$3,000	=	\$17,000
College C	\$35,000	-	\$3,000	=	\$32,000

30

Financial Aid Offers

- The financial aid administrator at the college will package all available aid and send a financial aid offer for consideration.
 - Use ISAC's Financial Aid Comparison Worksheet at: studentportal.isac.org/finaid to make an informed decision.
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- What is the total cost of attendance?
 - What is a student's financial aid eligibility?
 - Was financial need met?
 - What is the Expected Family Contribution?
 - What types of financial aid are included?
 - What is the out-of-pocket cost?

31

FAFSA Tips and Reminders

Complete the FAFSA/Alternative App ASAP after October 1

Information reported on the FAFSA is confidential and only used to determine financial aid eligibility

You may be asked to submit documentation to the financial aid office for verification purposes

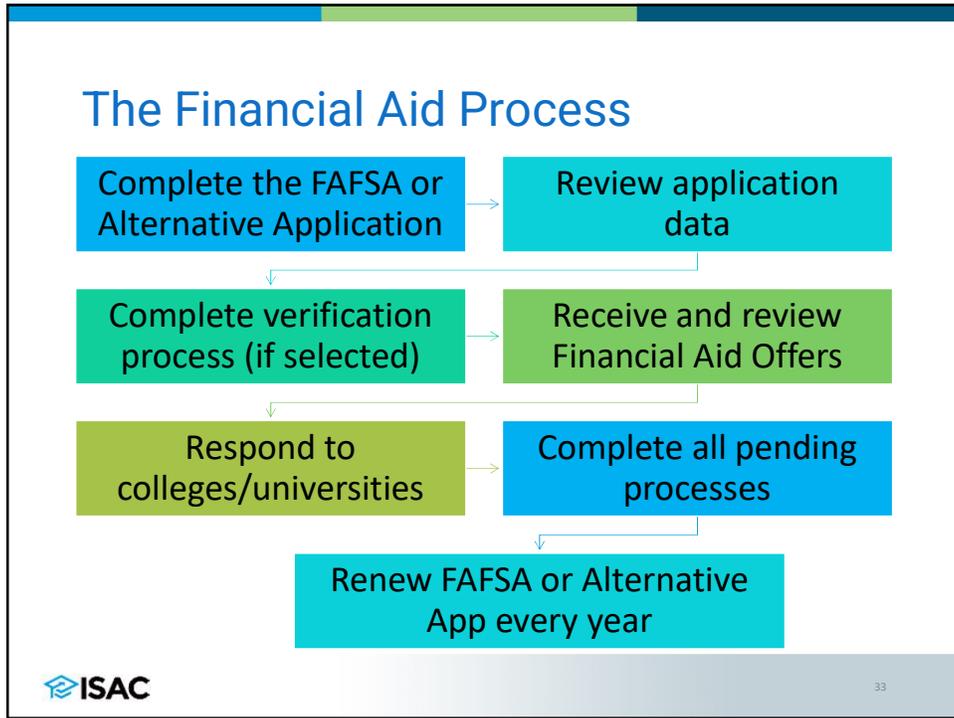
Supplemental applications or forms may be required

Keep track of application DEADLINES!

Keep a copy of everything you submit

You must reapply every year

32



33

ISAC Student Portal

COLLEGE PLANNING
MADE EASY.

The ISAC Student Portal has all the tools you need to help you with college planning, financial aid, student loans and money management, and even career exploration and job search—all free and just a click away!

 COLLEGE AND SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH <small>Check out ISAC partner College Greenlight™ to search college profiles with student reviews, videos and more. Plus search a database of billions of dollars in scholarships.</small>	 FINANCIAL AID <small>Need financial aid for college but not sure what's out there and how to apply? Learn about financial aid with the FinAid Game, use our Calculators to determine your eligibility for aid, and compare your Financial Aid Award Letters with our easy-to-use online tool.</small>	 MONEY MANAGEMENT <small>Play Claim Your Future, a game that lets you explore education and training after high school, future careers, and money management.</small>	 CAREERS AND JOBS <small>With ISAC partner Illinois workNet™ you can explore careers and salaries, build a resume and search for jobs. And if you are looking for a summer job or internship in Illinois, check out the regularly updated listings on the Student Job Board.</small>
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ISAC Program Applications/Status Create a student profile on the Portal to apply for the Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG) and Illinois National Guard Grant (ING), and to check your IVG and ING units used. Are you a current MAP recipient? You can also use the Portal to check your MAP paid credit hours.

Make College Happen!
[Visit isac.org/studentportal](https://www.isac.org/studentportal)

Need some in-person help with the process? Use the Portal to find a workshop in your area or to contact your local [ISACorps College Mentor](#) for free in-person assistance with the college-going and financial aid process.

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34

Trusted Websites

- Learn what you need to know and stay up-to-date with accurate and trusted sources of information



studentportal.isac.org



studentaid.gov



fafsa.gov



isac.org/alternativeapp



35

35

Find Answers to Your Questions

- Questions about financial aid?
- Questions about going to college?
- Text with our experts!

Pick the area code closest to you and text us your name

(217) 207-3265	(309) 306-7066
(618) 223-6450	(630) 216-4910
(708) 252-3890	(773) 453-9520
(815) 242-4630	(847) 243-6470



36

36

Questions?

Jocelyn Ramon
Jocelyn.Ramon@illinois.gov
1(847)544-8606

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