

FAFSA and TASFA Made Simple

Una guía paso a paso para familias

Last reviewed: August 2026. Deadlines and requirements are set by each school and change every year. Confirm with each institution. / Última revisión: agosto de 2026.

The FAFSA and the TASFA are the forms that open access to financial aid for college and career training. The FAFSA is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. The TASFA is the Texas Application for State Financial Aid.

La FAFSA y la TASFA son los formularios que dan acceso a la ayuda financiera para la universidad y la capacitación profesional.

Texas seniors are required to complete one of these forms, or an official opt out form, in order to graduate.

Los estudiantes de último año en Texas deben completar uno de estos formularios, o un formulario oficial de exención, para graduarse.

Which form applies to you / Qué formulario le corresponde

A U.S. citizen, permanent resident, or eligible noncitizen completes the FAFSA at studentaid.gov.

Un ciudadano estadounidense, residente permanente, u otra categoría de no ciudadano elegible completa la FAFSA en studentaid.gov.

If you are not eligible for the FAFSA, you may qualify for the TASFA at collegeforalltexas.com. Whether you do depends on current Texas rules and on the individual school. Some schools ask for documentation connected to both forms.

Si no es elegible para la FAFSA, podría calificar para la TASFA en collegeforalltexas.com. Eso depende de las reglas vigentes de Texas y de cada escuela.

Do not guess on this one / No adivine en esto

Rules on residency and state financial aid changed in 2025. Which form applies depends on the specific student and the specific school.

Filing the wrong form, or signing a document that does not apply to you, can create problems that are hard to undo.

Ask before you file. Bring it to AP Clínica. A Navigator will not ask about immigration status.

Las reglas de residencia y de ayuda financiera estatal cambiaron en 2025. Pregúnte antes de presentar cualquier documento. Un Navigator no le va a preguntar sobre su estatus migratorio.

When to apply / Cuándo solicitar

The 2026 to 2027 FAFSA is open now and covers July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027. Apply as early as you can. Some aid is limited and is awarded in the order applications are received.

La FAFSA 2026 a 2027 ya está abierta y cubre del 1 de julio de 2026 al 30 de junio de 2027. Solicítela lo antes posible. Algunos fondos son limitados y se otorgan en el orden en que llegan las solicitudes.

Deadlines vary by school and by program. Check with each school's financial aid office for its priority deadline. TASFA timelines also vary by school.

Las fechas límite varían según la escuela y el programa. Verifique con la oficina de ayuda financiera de cada escuela.

Creating an FSA ID / Crear un ID de FSA

Before starting the FAFSA, the student and any required contributors each create an FSA ID at studentaid.gov/fsa-id. This works as the electronic signature on the form. Who counts as a required contributor depends on the household.

Antes de empezar la FAFSA, el estudiante y cada contribuyente requerido crean un ID de FSA en studentaid.gov/fsa-id. Esta es la firma electrónica del formulario.

Some contributors without a Social Security number may still be able to create an FSA ID through the current Federal Student Aid process. Check the instructions at studentaid.gov before starting.

Algunos contribuyentes sin número de Seguro Social aún podrían crear un ID de FSA mediante el proceso actual de Federal Student Aid. Verifique las instrucciones en studentaid.gov antes de comenzar.

What to gather / Qué reúna

- Student's legal name and date of birth as they appear on official documents
- Tax returns and W-2 forms for the year the application asks for. For the 2026 to 2027 award year, that is 2024.
- Records of any income that is not on a tax return
- Current bank balances
- Records of other investments or property, if you have them
- A list of the schools or programs being applied to
- *Nombre legal y fecha de nacimiento del estudiante, declaraciones de impuestos y W-2 del año que pida la solicitud (para 2026 a 2027, el año 2024), registros de otros ingresos, saldos bancarios actuales, y la lista de escuelas.*

Common mistakes / Errores comunes

- Waiting too long. Some aid is limited and is awarded in the order applications arrive.
- Mixing up student and parent information. Check names and Social Security numbers.
- Not signing. Every required contributor has to sign electronically.
- Using the wrong tax year. For the 2026 to 2027 award year, use 2024 information.
- *Esperar demasiado, confundir la información del estudiante con la del padre, no firmar, o usar el año fiscal equivocado.*

Texas licensing alert / Alerta de licencias en Texas

As of January 26, 2026, TDLR requires some applicants to submit documentation establishing lawful presence in the United States for certain professional licenses.

This applies when a student is entering a licensed field. If a licensed profession is the goal, check those requirements before enrolling in training and before paying for it.

A partir del 26 de enero de 2026, TDLR exige que algunos solicitantes presenten documentación que establezca presencia legal en Estados Unidos para ciertas licencias profesionales. Verifique los requisitos antes de inscribirse en la capacitación y antes de pagar.

Working out what it costs / Calcular lo que cuesta

This guide covers the forms. To work out what a program actually costs your family, what help is available, and what is left, use the Anchored Pathways workbook *What Will This Cost*.

Esta guía cubre los formularios. Para calcular lo que cuesta de verdad, use el cuaderno Antes de Decir Que Sí y el cuaderno de costos de Anchored Pathways.

When you get stuck / Cuando tenga dudas

AP Clínica

Thursdays, 5:15 to 7:45 PM

East Harris County Activity Center, 7340 Spencer Hwy, Pasadena, TX 77505

Reserve your spot. Time slots are 30 minutes. Free, in English and Spanish.

Or request a private meeting at anchoredpathways.org

Jueves, 5:15 a 7:45 PM. Reserve su espacio. Las citas son de 30 minutos. Gratis, en inglés y español. O solicite una reunión privada en anchoredpathways.org