STEPHEN F. AUSTIN
STATE UNIVERSITY

Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships

APRIL 2021 NEWSLETTER

DATA RETRIEVAL TOOL AVAILABLE

Now that the 2021-22 Free Application for Federal Student Aid application is open, students can start completing and sending it to schools they are interested in attending.

Use the Data Retrieval Tool to link student and parent tax information from the IRS to the FAFSA. This will help ensure no tax information mistakes are made and limit the chances of being selected for verification by the Department of Education.

DEPENDENT VS. INDEPENDENT

High school seniors are independent in many ways. However, the FAFSA has specific criteria for classification as independent for financial aid purposes.

Most students entering college immediately after completing high school don't qualify as independent students. Independent students are not required to include parental information on the FAFSA. Most high school seniors will need to provide parental data when filling out the FAFSA.

If a student has extenuating circumstances, we recommend contacting the financial aid office at the college the student plans to attend. Counselors can review student situations on a case-by-case basis. Communication is key when trying to determine a student's dependency status.

FINANCIAL AID AWARDS

Students eligible for 2021-22 financial aid awards will receive an award notification letter with instructions on how to accept or decline the award using your mySFA account. Awards will be canceled after 60 days if no action is taken.

SUMMER FINANCIAL AID 2020-21

If you plan to attend summer sessions and receive financial aid, you must complete the 2020-21 FAFSA online using your 2018 tax information. Be sure to check your mySFA email account for notifications from us.

CONTACT YOUR COUNSELOR

(by first letter of student's last name)

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