

FAFSA DAY

Gulfport High School



Parents, chances are your child is eligible to receive money for college that does not have to be repaid! The first step in becoming eligible for college financial aid is to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid – the FAFSA. This form is the student's application for federal and state grants, plus some college and private scholarships.

At the school FAFSA Day, Get2College counselors and college representatives will provide **FREE**, confidential, one-on-one assistance submitting the FAFSA and the grant application for funds from the State of Mississippi. But to participate in FAFSA Day, the student or parent **MUST sign up for a 30-minute appointment**. **To sign up, please call Angie Powell in the counselors' office at 228-897-6040.**

In order to complete the FAFSA, your child will need to bring information for the parent(s) and the student. If parents are divorced or separated, bring all information below for the parent the child has lived with the most in the last 12 months. If that parent has remarried, bring information for the step-parent as well. Do not bring information on a grandparent, aunt, or anyone other than a parent unless the child has been legally adopted (even if someone else claims the child on the federal tax return.)

Checklist for what to bring to the FAFSA appointment:

- Parent(s) and student's legal names
- Parent(s) and student's Social Security numbers
- Parent's driver's license numbers
- Email address for student and parent
- Cell phone to verify secure code text to the phone for student and parent
- Info for parents with whom the student lives: marriage date, divorce date, or separation date
- If student is in a legal guardianship, bring court papers for the guardianship
- W-2 forms and other records of money earned in 2017 (student and parents)
- 2017 Federal Income Tax Return (the 1040 form for student and parents) – if parents or parent and step-parent file separately, bring copies of both tax returns
- Value of bank accounts and investments

QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS ABOUT THE FAFSA?

Think the student doesn't qualify for money? Think the FAFSA only awards Pell Grants and that the student doesn't qualify or that the family makes too much money to qualify?

File the FAFSA anyway! You may be surprised to see what the student may be eligible to receive! The FAFSA is used by colleges to determine eligibility for more than the Pell Grant – the FAFSA is required for some other federal monies, funds from the State of Mississippi, some colleges, and some private scholarship sources.

Think the FAFSA means the student must take out a student loan?

The student is NEVER required to take out a student loan! Even if the college award says the student is eligible for a loan, it is the student's choice whether to accept all or any part.

Think the FAFSA includes a credit check?

The FAFSA does not check the student's or parents' credit.

Think filing the FAFSA means the IRS will review your tax returns?

The FAFSA uses tax information to help colleges determine eligibility for financial aid. The FAFSA is a document of the U.S. Department of Education, not the Internal Revenue Service.