Financial Aid Toolkit

Applying for Financial Aid

Getting Ready for FAFSA/CASFA:

- DSF Financial Aid Resources
- Creating a StudentAid.gov account (also called FSA ID) for FAFSA
  - Students
  - Parents
    - Note that parents without SSNs may experience challenges with creating accounts or completing FAFSA right now
- Information you need to complete the FAFSA or CASFA

Resources for help completing the FAFSA:

1. Educational Opportunity Center (housed at Community College of Denver, but serving Denver metro students regardless of college plans)
   - 303.352.8746 or eoc@ccd.edu
   - Sign up for an appointment: ccd.edu/org/educational-opportunity-center
2. Helpful videos from Federal Student Aid: youtube.com/user/FederalStudentAid
3. College Financial Aid Offices (they often host workshops to help students with their financial aid applications)

Resources for help completing the CASFA:

1. Should I Submit FAFSA or CASFA?
2. Information about completing CASFA, including FAQs (available in Spanish & English)
3. College Financial Aid Offices (they often host workshops to help students with their financial aid applications)

Resources for help with Colorado residency or ASSET:

1. denverscholarship.org/coloradoresidency
2. Qualifying for ASSET (scroll to ASSET – Undocumented Students)
**CSS Profile** (additional financial aid application used by some private colleges):

- College/university’s financial aid office – if a college requires the CSS Profile, it will have trained staff who can help answer questions

- Everything You Need to Know to Complete the CSS Profile
  [usnews.com/education/best-colleges/paying-for-college/articles/everything-you-need-to-know-to-complete-the-css-profile](usnews.com/education/best-colleges/paying-for-college/articles/everything-you-need-to-know-to-complete-the-css-profile)

- Guide to Filling Out the CSS Profile

- CSS Profile FAQs
  [cssprofile.collegeboard.org/frequently-asked-questions](cssprofile.collegeboard.org/frequently-asked-questions)

**Scholarships**

*Am I eligible for the Denver Scholarship Foundation (DSF) Scholarship? How do I apply?*

- [denverscholarship.org/eligibility](denverscholarship.org/eligibility)

**Scholarship Ideas:**

- Most colleges/universities offer **institutional scholarships** (scholarships offered by the college), which are a great way to get additional financial support. Visit the college’s financial aid webpage to learn more and apply.

- **DSF Scholarship Directory**
- **Info for Scholarship Seekers** (from the National Scholarship Providers Assoc.)

**Student Loans**

- Repayment options
  [studentaid.gov/manage-loans/repayment](studentaid.gov/manage-loans/repayment)

- Forgiveness
  [studentaid.gov/manage-loans/forgiveness-cancellation](studentaid.gov/manage-loans/forgiveness-cancellation)

- Veterans
  [studentaid.gov/manage-loans/forgiveness-cancellation](studentaid.gov/manage-loans/forgiveness-cancellation) (scroll to Military Service Benefits)
Graduate School

How to pay for graduate school?

- Grants & fellowships: salliemae.com/student-loans/graduate-school-information/graduate-school-grants-and-fellowships/

- Scholarships: usnews.com/education/best-graduate-schools/articles/how-to-find-scholarships-for-graduate-school