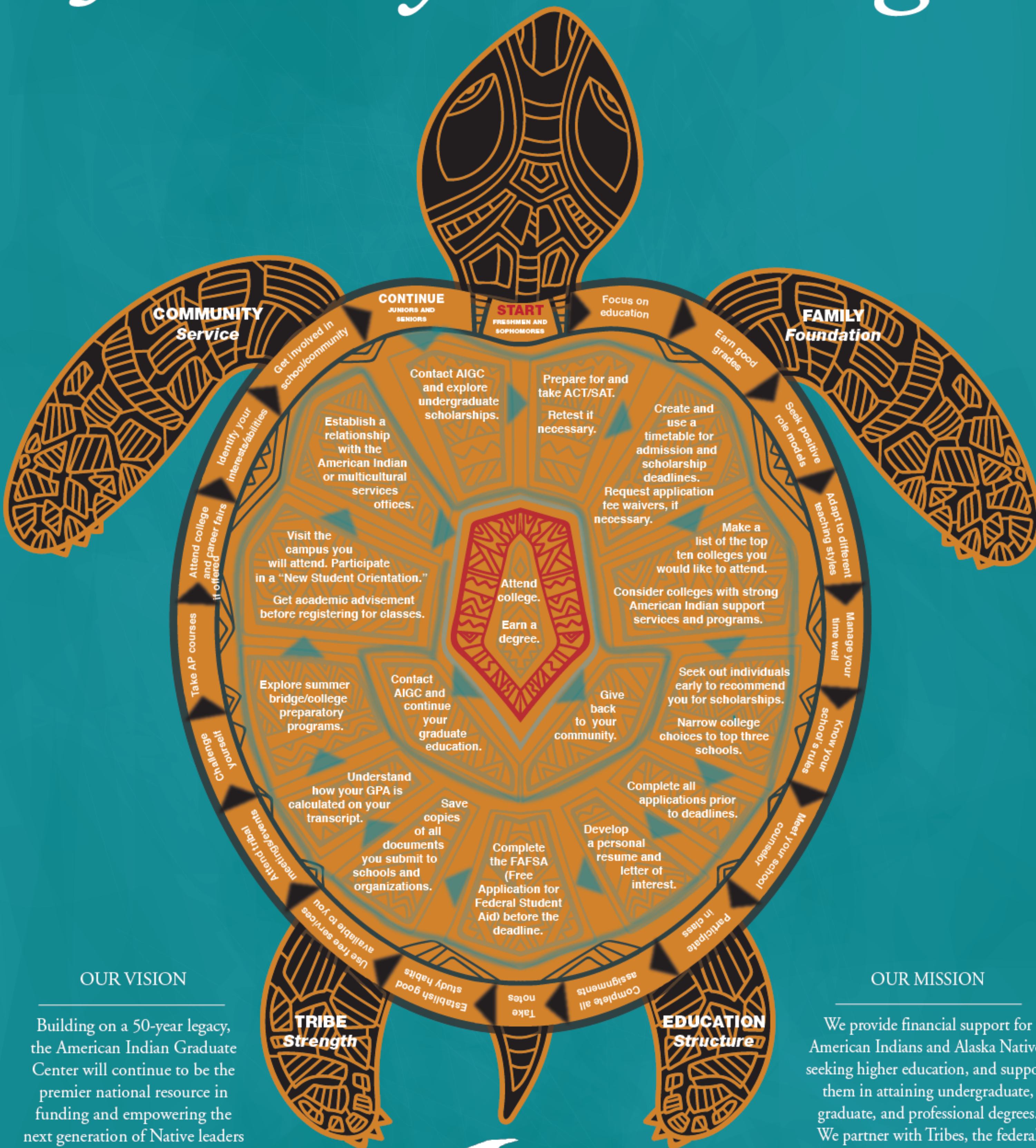


COLLEGE TERMS—Admission Requirements: Specific information required to be accepted at a college or university. **American College Test (ACT):** A widely used college entrance examination. **Associate Degree:** A degree awarded by two-year community colleges upon program completion. **Bachelor's Degree:** A degree awarded by colleges and universities upon program completion. **College:** An institution of learning beyond high school, which offers curriculum leading to degrees. **College Fair:** An organized event with representatives from various educational institutions.

Journey to College



OUR VISION

Building on a 50-year legacy, the American Indian Graduate Center will continue to be the premier national resource in funding and empowering the next generation of Native leaders across all sectors, by meeting the unmet need of every Native American student.

OUR MISSION

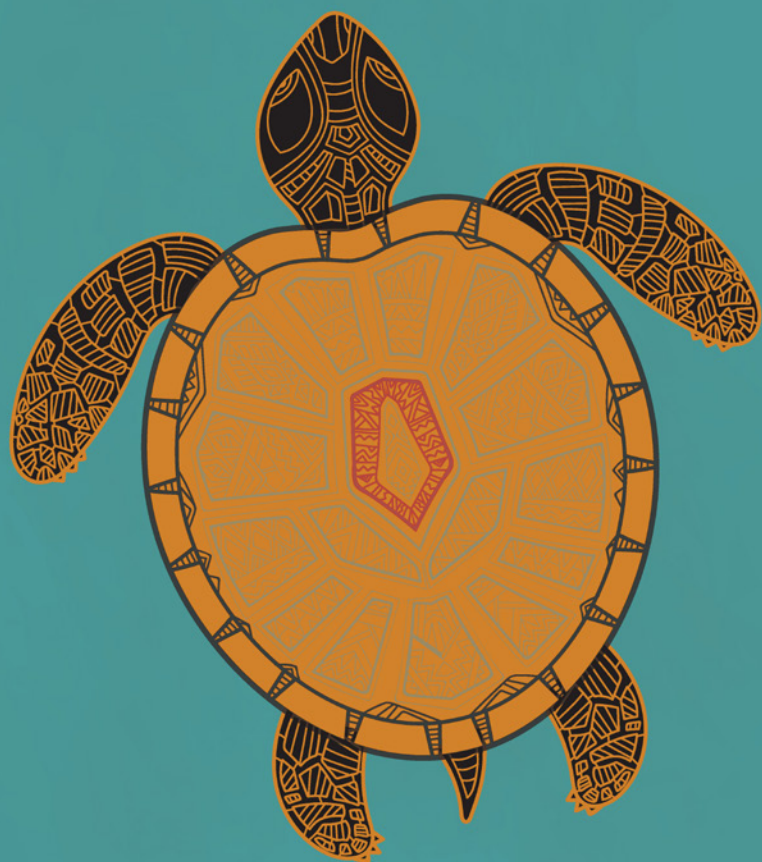
We provide financial support for American Indians and Alaska Natives seeking higher education, and support them in attaining undergraduate, graduate, and professional degrees. We partner with Tribes, the federal government, foundations, corporations, and individuals to ensure the growth and sustainability of scholarships.



First Generation Student: A student whose parents have not graduated from a four-year college. **Master's Degree:** A graduate degree earned after obtaining an undergraduate or bachelor's degree. **Orientation Program:** An introductory program designed to help students become familiar with a new educational setting. **Professional Degree:** Highly specialized degrees, such as law and medical degrees. **SAT:** A standardized aptitude test for college admission. **SAT Subject Tests:** Tests (previously known as SAT IIs) are hour-long, multiple-choice, content-based tests that allow you to showcase achievement in specific subject areas where you excel. **Transcript:** A record of a student's academic courses and grades, which is maintained by the school registrar.

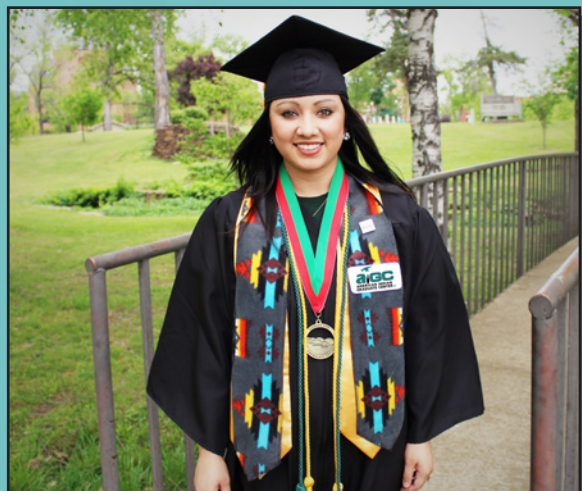
Common Application (Common App): The Common App allows students to use one admissions application online and submit the same general information to each school choice, providing that the college or university is one of the Common App's 500-plus members. **Competitive Admissions:** Admission policies with minimum qualifications, that assure competitive applicants. **CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE (PROFILE):** The College Scholarship Service PROFILE is an online application for student financial aid. It is used by select colleges, universities and scholarship programs to award non-federal financial aid such as grants and scholarships. Check with a college's financial aid department or website to see if it requires the PROFILE.

Doctorate Degree: A degree beyond a Master's, with an emphasis on new knowledge and theoretical perspectives. **Early Action (EA):** EA allows a student to apply early and receive an earlier decision without any obligation to enroll if accepted. **Early Decision (ED):** ED is a plan where a student applies by an earlier deadline to one first-choice college, receives an admission decision earlier (usually in December) and if accepted is obligated to enroll in that school. **Fee Waiver Request:** A written request not to pay admission, entrance examination or registration fees.

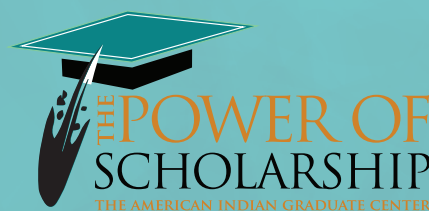


The turtle is wise and well respected. It embodies strength, solidarity, and patience. It teaches us to never give up.

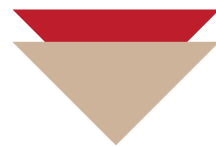
Apply Now!
aigcs.org



American Indian Graduate Center
3701 San Mateo Blvd. NE, #200
Albuquerque, NM 87110
1 (800) 628-1920 (toll-free)
(505) 884-0427 (fax)



WHY GO TO COLLEGE?



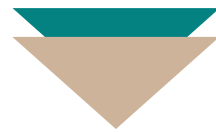
WHY GO TO COLLEGE?
Answer: How about...a good job!

CAN'T I GET A GOOD JOB NOW?
Yes, maybe you could, but statistics are against you. If you finish high school and go on to college, you'll have a wider variety of jobs to choose from, and you'll earn more in the long run.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT CAREER TO GO INTO!
If you're having trouble deciding what to do, talk to your school counselor or visit www.studentaid.ed.gov to fill out an interest inventory.

DOESN'T COLLEGE COST A LOT OF MONEY?
Think of college as an investment—you spend money now so you can earn more later. Take a look at www.studentaid.ed.gov for federal student aid programs or call the Federal Student Aid Information Center at: 1 (800) 4-FED-AID or 1 (800) 433-3243.

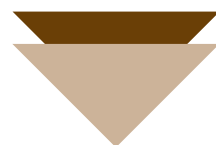
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION TIPS



- Apply only if you are eligible. Read all the scholarship requirements and directions carefully.
- Complete the application in full. If a question does not apply to you, note that on the application. Do not leave a question blank.
- Follow directions. Provide everything that is required.
- Neatness counts. Always type your application, or if you must print, do so neatly and legibly.
- Write an essay that makes a strong impression. The key to writing a strong essay is to be personal and specific.
- Watch all deadlines. Impose your own deadline that is at least two weeks prior to the official deadline.
- Make sure your application gets where it needs to go. Put your name (and social security number, if applicable) on all pages of the application.
- Keep a back-up file in case anything goes wrong. Before sending the application, make a copy of the entire packet.
- Give it a final once-over. Proofread the entire application carefully. Ask a friend, teacher or parent to proofread it as well.
- Ask for help if you need it. Call the funding organization to get information.

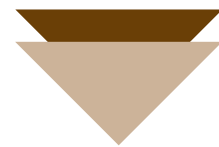
It is also important to make sure your letters of recommendation are addressed to the organization whose scholarship you are applying for, and that they are current.

TRIBAL COLLEGES, COMMUNITY COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES



Alaska: Ilisagvik College
Arizona: Diné College;
Tohono O'odham CC
Kansas: Haskell Indian Nations University
Michigan: Bay Mills CC; Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa CC; Saginaw Chippewa TC
Minnesota: Fond du Lac Tribal and CC; Leech Lake TC;
Red Lake Nation College; White Earth TC and CC
Montana: Blackfeet CC; Chief Dull Knife College;
Aaniiih Nakoda College; Fort Peck CC; Little Big Horn College;
Salish Kootenai College; Stone Child College
Nebraska: Nebraska Indian CC; Little Priest TC
New Mexico: Navajo Technical College; Institute of American Indian Arts;
Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute
North Dakota: Cankdeska Cikana CC; Nueata Hidatsa Sahnish College;
Sitting Bull College; Turtle Mountain CC; United Tribes Technical College
Oklahoma: College of the Muscogee Nation;
Comanche Nation College
South Dakota: Oglala Lakota College; Sinte Gleska University;
Sisseton Wahpeton College
Washington: Northwest Indian College
Wisconsin: College of Menominee Nation;
Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa CC
Wyoming: Wind River TC

TIPS FOR NATIVE YOUTH & PARENTS



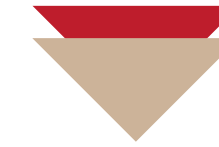
YOUTH—Culturally healthy youth take an active interest in learning their heritage and assume responsibility for their role as contributing members of the family and community in which they live.

- Learn all you can about your family, kinship relations, and community history and cultural heritage.
- Participate in traditional activities with parents, elders, and other members of the community, and learn the stories and lessons associated with those activities.
- Become actively involved in local activities and organizations that contribute to the quality of life in your community.
- Show respect to the elders in your community by assisting them in any way you can.
- Get involved in local, regional, state, and national issues and organizations that impact your community.
- Make healthy choices in your lifestyle that contribute to the wholeness and well being of yourself and those around you.
- Always be a good role model, show respect, and provide support to others.
- Participate in apprenticeships with cultural experts in the community and acquire traditional conflict resolution skills.
- Associate with friends who can provide healthy role models that will make a positive contribution to your growth, development, and education toward adulthood.

PARENTS—Parents are the first teachers of their children and provide the foundation on which the social, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual well being of future generations rests.

- Provide a loving, healthy, and supportive environment for each child to grow and achieve their fullest potential from prenatal to adulthood.
- Establish parenting circles in the community that provide an opportunity to share joys and frustrations.
- Connect with parents and grandparents in the community who can serve as role models for providing a nurturing family and home environment.
- Utilize traditional disciplining roles of uncles, aunts, elders, and other authority figures in the community to help children learn what is right and wrong in a constructive way.
- Participate as a family and encourage children to become actively involved in cultural activities and learn the traditional values of the community.
- Set aside time each day or week for family-oriented activities including extended family members whenever possible.
- Make arrangements to accompany your child through part/all of a school day at least once per semester or quarter to gain an understanding of what they are doing in school.
- Use traditional naming practices and help each child understand the significance of the names they carry.
- Volunteer to participate in activities that help make the schooling experiences of each child an extension of home and community life.
- Assist children in learning and using their Native language and understanding their family history and what shapes their identity.
- Make use of locally appropriate rituals and ceremonies to reinforce the critical events in children's lives.
- Serve as a positive role model and mentor for children by practicing and reinforcing traditional values and appropriate behaviors.
- Participate in community-sponsored programs that enhance parenting skills.

TIPS FROM NATIVE ELDERS



ELDERS—Respected Native elders are the essential role models who can share their knowledge and expertise on traditional values needed to nurture the cultural well-being of today's youth.

- Seek guidance and assistance from elders in your community.
- Listen and learn from others and pass on your knowledge.
- Practice and reinforce traditional values and appropriate behaviors in everyday life.
- Serve as a role model and mentor to others.
- Participate in storytelling opportunities and other cultural activities as a way of learning cultural values and traditions.
- Understand the world around you and how it has changed including the interconnectedness of human, natural and spiritual realms.

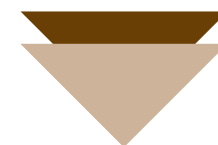
FEDERAL STUDENT AID AT A GLANCE



Federal Student Aid Program	Type of Aid	Program Details
Federal Pell Grant	Grant—does not have to be repaid	Available almost exclusively to undergraduates; the amount you receive is based on your financial need, your status as a part-time or full-time student and whether your attendance is for a full academic year or less.
Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)	Grant—does not have to be repaid	For undergraduates with exceptional financial need; priority is given to Federal Pell Grant recipients; funds depend on availability at school.
Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education Grant (TEACH)	Grant—does not have to be repaid unless you fail to carry out the service obligation	For undergraduate, post baccalaureate and graduate students who are taking coursework necessary to become an elementary or secondary school teacher; recipient must sign an agreement to serve.
Federal Work Study	Money is earned while attending school—does not have to be repaid	For undergraduate and graduate students; jobs can be on or off campus; students are paid at least federal minimum wage.
Direct Subsidized Loans	Loan—must be repaid; must be at least a half-time student	The U.S. Dept. of Education is the lender and pays interest on the loan while you are in school and during grace and deferment periods; must demonstrate financial need.
Direct Unsubsidized Loans	Loan—must be repaid; must be at least a half-time student	The U.S. Dept. of Education is the lender; the borrower is responsible for paying all interest on the loan, starting on the date the loan is first disbursed; financial need is not required.
Direct Plus Loans	Loan—must be repaid; must be at least a half-time student	Graduate students and parents of dependent undergraduate students; financial need is not required; borrower is responsible for paying all interest on the loan.

U.S. Department of Education, www.studentaid.ed.gov

THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA)



- 1 Complete a FAFSA each academic year you plan to attend college. The FAFSA application is available online at www.fafsa.ed.gov and opens October 1 each year. Apply early!
- 2 Report income information from the appropriate tax year. FAFSA now utilizes prior-prior year (PPY) tax information. Tax information reported should be from two years ago.
- 3 Report every college/university that you plan to apply for admission to.

