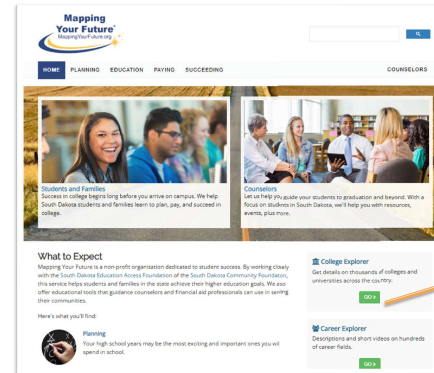




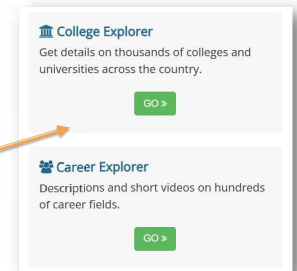
2027-28 Financial Aid Event

High School
September 2026

South Dakota Mapping Your Future website



Comprehensive website for students, parents, counselors, and other professionals at <https://SouthDakota.MappingYourFuture.org>



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2

Agenda

Paying for College

Financial Aid

FAFSA

Scholarships

Resources



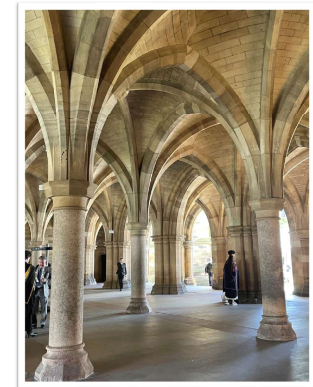
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3

Planning for life after high school

Congressional changes to financial aid underscore the need for students and families to plan ahead to pay for college.

- Parent borrowing is now limited
- Part-time students can now only borrow based on enrollment
- Pell Grant was expanded to cover short-term and credential programs
- New loan limits for graduate and professional students
- Asset exemptions
- 529 plans



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New limits on what parents can borrow

- Parent borrowing limited to \$20,000 annually per student with a lifetime limit of \$65,000.
- Legacy provision for parents who borrowed before July 1, 2026.
- Parents wanting to borrow more money may need to consider private loans or other financing options.
- Parent PLUS loans disbursed after July 1, 2026, can only be repaid in the new tiered standard plan.



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Paying for education



Savings



Earnings



Financial aid



Tax credits & deductions

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Financial aid process



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Types of financial aid



Grants



Scholarships



Work-study programs



Loans

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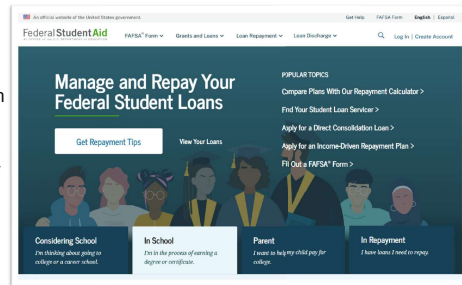
<https://StudentAid.gov>

Navigation tool for the applicant when accessing the FAFSA on the website

Includes Dashboard for the user

Provides options and messaging based on the status of the student's FAFSA:

- Start a 2027-28 FAFSA
- View the FAFSA Submission Summary
- Make FAFSA corrections
- View correction history
- Complete and submit a Renewal FAFSA



Create an StudentAid.gov account (FSA ID)

Key StudentAid.gov account (FSA ID) points:

- Students and at least one parent for FAFSA purposes need one (see parent wizard information)
- Cannot share an e-mail address or phone number for FSA ID
- Must be set up before completing the 2027-28 FAFSA
- Identity verification is real-time

Go to StudentAid.gov, Create Account

- Enter your personal information
- Create your username and password
- Enter your e-mail address
- Create security questions
- Submit your information

The screenshot shows the 'Create an Account (FSA ID)' form, Step 1 of 7: Personal Information. It includes a disclaimer about the user's responsibility for the information provided. The form fields are: First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name, Date of Birth (Month, Day, Year), and Social Security Number. A note states: 'Note: A user can only have one account associated with his or her Social Security number.' There are 'Cancel' and 'Continue' buttons at the bottom.

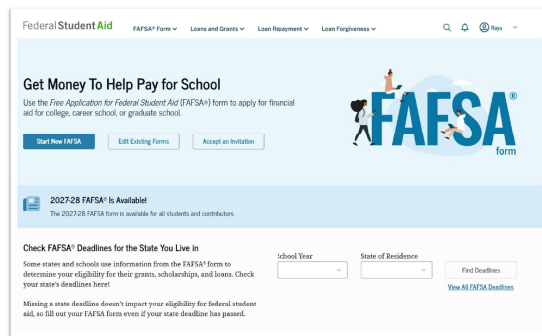
What is the FAFSA?

Free Application for Federal Student Aid

Base application for various forms of financial aid (need based and non-need based)

- Federal
- State
- Institutional
- Private

2027-28 FAFSA available by October 1 for the following academic year



Who is the parent for FAFSA purposes?

- Your **biological** and/or **adoptive** parents are considered your legal parents.
 - Must report information for **both** biological or adoptive parents if they are married or unmarried and living together
- Grandparents, foster parents, legal guardians, older brothers or sisters, and aunts and uncles are **not** considered parents unless they have **legally adopted** you.
- Parent wizard tool in the FAFSA helps determine which parent's or parents' information to include.
- Department of Education has made the parent wizard tool available outside of the FAFSA to help students and parents prepare to complete the form.
<https://studentaid.gov/fafsa-apply/parents>

Which parent provides information/needs a StudentAid.gov account (FSA ID)

Married

Report information on both parents:

- Only one parent needs an FSA ID if filed joint taxes.
- If filed separately, both parents need an FSA ID.

Unmarried but living together

Report information on both parents and both parents need an FSA ID.

Never married and not living together

Parent who provided the most financial support reports information and needs an FSA ID.

Divorced or Separated

Parent who provided the most financial support reports information and needs an FSA ID.

Remarried

Parent who provided the most financial support reports information for parent and step-parent

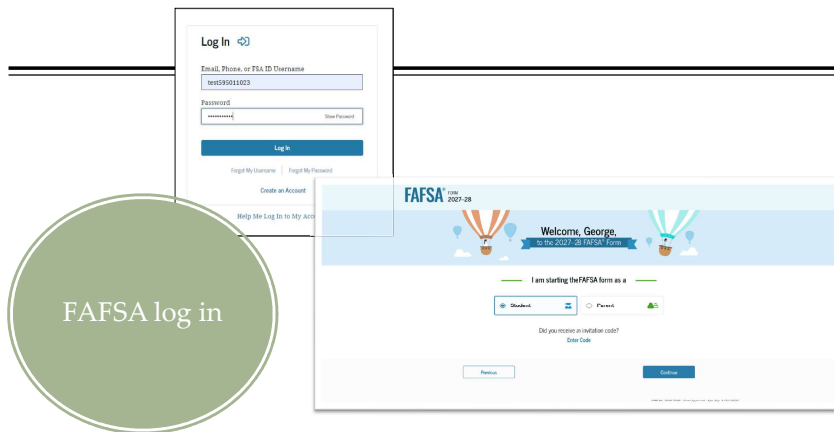
- Only the biological parent needs an FSA ID if filed joint taxes.
- If filed separately, parent and step-parent needs an FSA ID.

Widowed

Surviving parent provides information and needs an FSA ID.

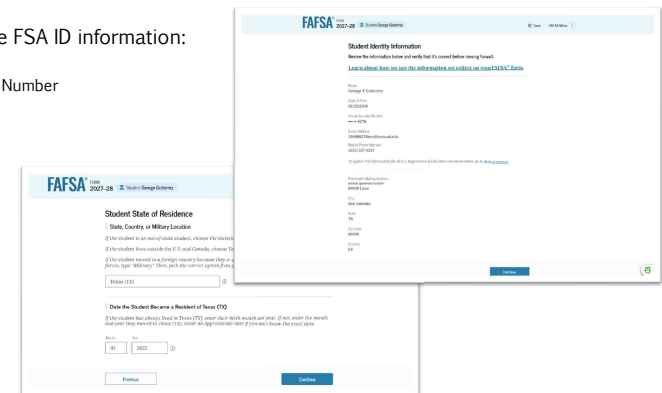
Gathering documents needed

- Government-issued ID
- Your Social Security number
- Your parents' Social Security numbers
- 2025 federal tax information, tax returns, W-2's for you and for your parents
- Records of your 2025 untaxed income
- Information on cash, savings and checking account balances, investments, businesses and farms



Student identifiers

- Prefilled from the FSA ID information:
 - Name
 - Social Security Number
 - Date of birth
 - Email address
 - Phone number
- Mailing address
- Residency



Direct Data Exchange (DDX)

- Allows student and parents to transfer federal tax information directly from the IRS to the FAFSA
- Requires consent of all FAFSA contributors
- IRS transfers information for income questions on the FAFSA
- Eliminates the need for manual entry of tax and income information

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Background

- Marital status
- College or career school plans
- Student personal circumstances
- Homeless
- Unusual circumstances

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Student's college or career plans

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Student's personal circumstances

- 24 years of age
- Married
- Master's or doctorate program
- Active-duty military
- Veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces
- Have children
- Have dependents
- Orphan, foster care or ward of the court
- Emancipated minor
- Legal guardianship
- Homeless or self-supporting and at risk of being homeless

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Unusual circumstances

- Left home due to abusive or threatening environment
- Been abandoned or estranged from parents, and have not been adopted
- Been granted refugee or asylee status and are separated from parents
- Been a victim of human trafficking
- Been incarcerated, or parents are incarcerated and pose a risk to them
- Been otherwise unable to contact or locate their parents, and have not been adopted

FAFSA FORM 2027-28 Student George Gutierrez

Student Unusual Circumstances

This information will help us evaluate the student's ability to pay for school.

Do unusual circumstances prevent the student from contacting their parents or would contacting their parents pose a risk to the student?

A student may be experiencing unusual circumstances if they:

- left home due to an abusive or threatening environment;
- are abandoned by or estranged from their parents;
- have refugee or asylee status and are separated from their parents or their parents are displaced in a foreign country;
- are a victim of human trafficking;
- are incarcerated, or their parents are incarcerated and contact with the parents would pose a risk to the student; or
- are otherwise unable to contact or locate their parents.

If the student's circumstances resulted in not having a safe and stable place to live, they may be considered a homeless youth and should receive the answer to this previous question about being unaccompanied and homeless.

☐ Yes ☒ No

[Previous](#) [Continue](#)

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Student demographics

FAFSA FORM 2027-28 Student George Gutierrez

Student Demographics

We'll ask questions about your background and family.

[Previous](#) [Continue](#)

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Parent's education status

Question to identify possible first-generation college students

FAFSA FORM 2027-28 Student George Gutierrez

Parent Education Status

Did either of the student's parents attend college or complete college?

☐ Neither parent attended college

☐ One or both parents attended college, but neither parent completed college

☒ One or both parents completed college

☐ Don't know

[Previous](#) [Continue](#)

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High school information

FAFSA FORM 2027-28 Student George Gutierrez

Student High School Completion Status

Will the student be doing with high school when they start their college classes for the 2027-28 school year?

☒ Yes high school diploma

☐ Yes GED or other state-recognized high school equivalent

☐ No (deselecting under state law)

☐ No, none of the above

[Previous](#)

FAFSA FORM 2027-28 Student George Gutierrez

Student High School Information

From what high school did or will the student graduate?

Search for the Student's High School

Attend a school outside of the US? [Manually Add Foreign School](#)

State:

County:

City:

Zip:

[Search](#)

FAFSA FORM 2027-28 Student George Gutierrez

Confirm Your High School

Verify that your high school information below is correct. Once you're ready, select "Continue" and we'll add it to your FAFSA form.

High School Name:

City:

State:

[Previous](#) [Continue](#)

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Student Financials

The first screenshot shows the 'Your Finances' section of the FAFSA 2027-28 form for Student George Gutierrez. It includes a progress bar at the top with steps: Background, Demographics, Financials, Colleges, Contributor Info, and Review & Sign. The 'Your Finances' section asks for information about the student's ability to pay for school and includes a 'Continue' button.

The second screenshot shows the 'Student Assets' section of the FAFSA 2027-28 form. It includes a progress bar at the top with steps: Background, Demographics, Financials, Colleges, Contributor Info, and Review & Sign. The 'Student Assets' section asks for information about the student's assets and includes a 'Continue' button.

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Select colleges

- Select up to 20 schools to receive FAFSA information
- Use Search or enter school's Title IV code

The first screenshot shows the 'Select Colleges and Career Schools' section of the FAFSA 2027-28 form for Student George Gutierrez. It includes a progress bar at the top with steps: Background, Demographics, Financials, Colleges, Contributor Info, and Review & Sign. The 'Select Colleges and Career Schools' section asks for information about the schools the student wants to attend and includes a 'Continue' button.

The second screenshot shows the 'Where should we send the FAFSA information?' section of the FAFSA 2027-28 form. It includes a progress bar at the top with steps: Background, Demographics, Financials, Colleges, Contributor Info, and Review & Sign. The 'Where should we send the FAFSA information?' section asks for information about the schools the student wants to send the FAFSA information to and includes a 'Continue' button.

Inviting a parent as a contributor

- Parent wizard to help determine the parent
- Student invites the parent through the FAFSA by entering parent's e-mail address
 - The second parent may be invited to contribute later, especially if the parents did not file joint taxes.

The first screenshot shows the 'Invite a Parent as a Contributor' section of the FAFSA 2027-28 form for Student George Gutierrez. It includes a progress bar at the top with steps: Background, Demographics, Financials, Colleges, Contributor Info, and Review & Sign. The 'Invite a Parent as a Contributor' section asks for information about the parent and includes a 'Continue' button.

The second screenshot shows the 'Parent Contributor' section of the FAFSA 2027-28 form. It includes a progress bar at the top with steps: Background, Demographics, Financials, Colleges, Contributor Info, and Review & Sign. The 'Parent Contributor' section asks for information about the parent's contribution and includes a 'Continue' button.

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Dependent student review and signature

The first screenshot shows the 'Terms and Conditions' section of the FAFSA 2027-28 form for Student George Gutierrez. It includes a progress bar at the top with steps: Background, Demographics, Financials, Colleges, Contributor Info, and Review & Sign. The 'Terms and Conditions' section asks for information about the student's understanding of the terms and conditions and includes a 'Continue' button.

The second screenshot shows the 'The Form Isn't Ready To Submit' section of the FAFSA 2027-28 form. It includes a progress bar at the top with steps: Background, Demographics, Financials, Colleges, Contributor Info, and Review & Sign. The 'The Form Isn't Ready To Submit' section asks for information about the student's readiness to submit the form and includes a 'Continue' button.

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Parent accepts invitation

Parent receives email and clicks on “Accept my Invite.”

The first screenshot shows an email from FAFSA with the subject "George's FAFSA® Form Is Almost Done". It contains a link to "Accept My Invite" and a code "8MHN9QV". The second screenshot shows the "Accept FAFSA® Invitation" page where the parent enters the code "8MHN9QV" and clicks "Accept Invite". The third screenshot shows a confirmation message: "George G invited you to their FAFSA® form." with "Accept" and "Decline" buttons.

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Parent financial information

The first screenshot shows the "Parent Financials" section of the FAFSA form, which includes a progress bar and a "Parent Tax Filing Status" section. The second screenshot shows the "Federal Benefits Received" section, which includes a list of benefits and a "Continue" button.

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Family size

Can report if the number of dependents is different than the number of individuals claimed on 2025 tax return

The screenshot shows the "Family Size" section of the FAFSA form. It includes a progress bar and a "Family Size" section. The "Family Size" section has a text input field for "The parent's family size is 2" and a "Continue" button.

Who is included in the number in college?

Dependent student

- Student
- NOT the parent(s)
- Others attending at least half time in an approved program during 2027-28 that leads to a degree or certificate at a postsecondary school eligible to participate in any of the federal student aid programs
- Does not factor into need analysis calculation

The screenshot shows the "Number in College" section of the FAFSA form. It includes a progress bar and a "Number in College" section. The "Number in College" section has a text input field for "1" and a "Continue" button.

Parent financial questions

These questions are dependent on the information imported from the IRS.

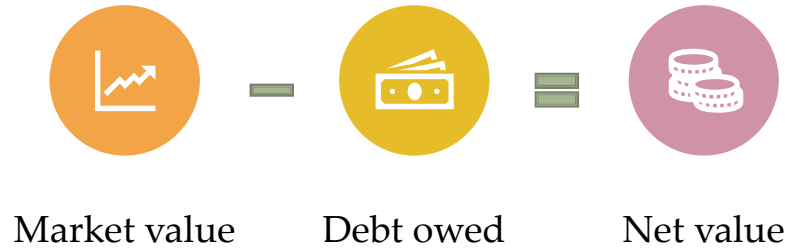
The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2020-21 Parent Section, Financials tab. It includes questions about income from work, capital gains, dividends, interest, and other income. It also asks about the parent's filing status, whether the parent is a student, and about assets like cash, savings, checking accounts, and real estate. The form includes input fields for dollar amounts and a 'Previous' button.

Asset questions

- Annual child support received
- Cash, savings, and checking accounts
- Businesses and investment farms
- Investments, including real estate (not parents' home)

The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2020-21 Parent Section, Financials tab. It includes questions about annual child support received, parent assets (cash, savings, checking accounts), current net worth of investments including real estate, and current net worth of businesses and investment farms. The form includes input fields for dollar amounts and a 'Continue' button.

Determining the value of assets



Other parent information

Could be a biological or adoptive parent or step-parent

The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2020-21 Parent Section, Demographics tab. It includes questions about parent spouse information, specifically asking for the spouse's date of birth (month, day, year) to determine the student's eligibility for federal student aid. The form includes dropdown menus for month, day, and year, and a 'Continue' button.

Parent review, signature and confirmation page

Terms and Conditions

Note
The FAFSA form is a legal document you will electronically sign with your student aid grant account username and password (SAI ID). Because your SAI ID is associated with your personal information, do not share it with anyone.

By signing this application electronically using your student aid grant account username and password, YOU, THE PARENT, certify that all of the information you provided is true and complete to the best of your knowledge and you agree, I affirm, to provide:

- Information that will verify the accuracy of your unearned income, and
- U.S. or foreign income tax forms that you filed or are required to file.

You also certify that you understand that the secretary of education has the authority to verify information reported on your application.

If you sign this application on any document related to the federal student aid program electronically using a username and password and/or any other credential, you certify that you are the person identified by the username and password, and/or any other credential and have not disclosed that username and password, and/or any other credential to anyone else. If you properly give false or misleading information, including applying as an independent student without meeting the stated circumstances required to qualify for such a status, you may be subject to criminal penalties under 20 U.S.C. 8801, which may include a fine up to \$2,000, imprisonment, or both.

Review and Sign Your Section

Sign

Congratulations!
The student's FAFSA form has been processed.

What to Know Next

- The student's FAFSA Submission Summary has information of their eligibility for federal student aid.
- The student should review the "Next Steps" section of their FAFSA Submission Summary to make sure they are aware of all the steps they need to take.
- Students will receive the student's FAFSA Submission Summary information to determine how much of the federal student aid they are eligible for. They will not know what they are eligible for until they receive the student's FAFSA Submission Summary.

Next Steps

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FAFSA Submission summary

- FAFSA Submission Summary is now immediately available.
- It is an estimate of federal financial aid.

FAFSA Submission Summary

Your Estimated Federal Student Aid

Aid Type	Amount
Federal Pell Grant	\$4,556
Federal Direct Loans	\$4,556
Federal Work Study	\$0
Total Estimated Federal Student Aid	\$4,556

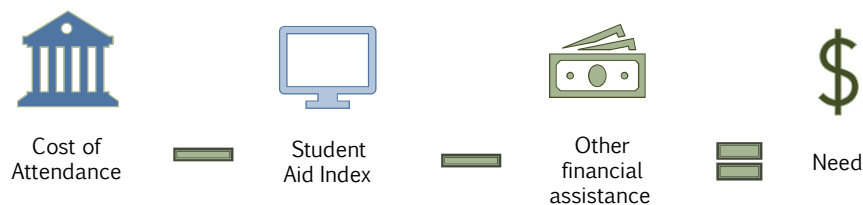
Find the Right College or Career School

Use College Navigator to compare schools by cost, location, graduation rate, and more.

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Financial aid calculation



Student Aid Index (SAI)

- The amount a family can reasonably be expected to contribute
- Calculated using data from the FAFSA and federal formula
 - May be a negative number
- Two components
 - Parent contribution
 - Student contribution
- Stays the same regardless of college

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Sample maximum federal financial aid amounts

- Federal Pell Grant: up to \$7,395*
- Direct Loan: \$5,500 for full-time undergraduates
 - Up to \$3,500 Subsidized with remaining amount Unsubsidized
 - Part-time students borrowing based on enrollment.
- Direct PLUS Loan: Parents can borrow up to \$20,000 per year per student for a total of \$65,000.
 - 9.07% interest rate*

*For the 2026-27 academic year

University of the United States (UUS)			PDF (2025-26)
Undergraduate College Financing Plan			Download
Student Name, Identifier			
Estimated Cost of Attendance 2026-2027			
	On Campus Residence	Off Campus Residence	
Room and Board	\$8,000	\$5,000	\$8,000
Books and Supplies	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Transportation	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Other Education Costs	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Estimated Cost of Attendance	\$12,000 / yr	\$9,000 / yr	
Student Aid Index			\$8,000 / yr
Based on the FAFSA			
The University of the United States (UUS) is an institution of higher education as defined by the FAFSA.			
Based on institutional need			\$8,000 / yr
Grants, Scholarships, and Other Gift Aid			
Scholarships and Grants are considered "Gift Aid." No repayment is required.			
Scholarships			
Need-Based Scholarships			
Scholarships From Your School	\$8,000		\$8,000
Scholarships From Your State	\$1,000		\$1,000
Other Scholarships	\$1,000		\$1,000
Employer Paid Tuition Benefits	\$1,000		\$1,000
Total Scholarships	\$11,000 / yr		\$11,000 / yr
VA Education Benefits			\$8,000 / yr
Total Grants			\$19,000 / yr
Estimated College Costs You Will Be Required to Pay			
Net Price To You			\$12,000 / yr
You must pay tuition, room and board, and books.			
Loan and Work Options to Pay the Net Price			
You must repay loans, plus interest and fees.			
Loan Options*			
Federal Direct Subsidized Loan	\$5,500 / yr		\$5,500 / yr
(A yearly interest rate of 4.53% (origination fee)	\$1,000 / yr		\$1,000 / yr
Total Loan Options	\$6,500 / yr		\$6,500 / yr
Work Options			
Work-Study	\$1,000 / yr		\$1,000 / yr
Hours Per Week (estimated)	20 / hr		20 / hr
Total Work	\$1,000 / yr		\$1,000 / yr
Contact Information			
University of the United States (UUS)			
Financial Aid Office			
123 Main Street			
Anytown, ST 12345			
Telephone: (555) 456-7890			
E-mail: financialaid@uus.edu			
*Loan Amounts			
Make sure the amounts listed are the maximum available to you. To learn about loan repayment choices and calculate your Federal Loan monthly payment, go to: https://studentaid.gov/repayments			
Customized Information from UUS			
Net Price			

Sample financial aid offer

Also referred to as award letter

State Scholarship programs

- South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship
- Dakota Corps Scholarship
- South Dakota Need-based Grant Program
- Build Dakota Scholarship
- Freedom Scholarship
- Jump Start Scholarship
- Critical Teaching Needs Scholarship



Scholarship tips



Develop a plan
Understanding the cost
Establish a scholarship goal



Conduct research
Research local, college, state, employer programs
Organizations/employers that align with your career choice
Scholarship search



Prepare applications
Write the essay
Proof and edit, neatness counts



Stay organized
Use the scholarship tracking sheet
Follow deadlines, requirements
Have a dedicated e-mail address



FREE COLLEGE APPLICATION PERIOD

OCTOBER 1 - NOVEMBER 30, 2026

Apply to South Dakota's public colleges and universities free of charge each fall. The Free College Application Period is a great opportunity to explore your options and take the next step toward your future.

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Resources

- [SouthDakota.MappingYourFuture.org](https://southdakota.mappingyourfuture.org)
 - <https://southdakota.mappingyourfuture.org/college.cfm>
 - <https://southdakota.mappingyourfuture.org/career-sort.cfm>
- [MappingYourFuture.org](https://southdakota.mappingyourfuture.org)
- [StudentAid.gov](https://studentaid.gov)
 - <https://studentaid.gov/aid-estimator/>
 - 1-800-4-FEDAID
- Scholarship tracking sheet: https://mappingyourfuture.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/MappingYourFuture_Scholarship_Tracking2026.xlsx
- Scholarship searches
 - FastWeb: www.fastweb.com/
 - BigFuture: bigfuture.collegeboard.org/
 - Scholarship Resources: <https://mappingyourfuture.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/MappingYourFutureScholarshipTips.pdf>



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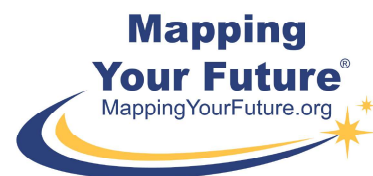
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QUESTIONS



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Thank you for participating

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