

4 PAYING FOR COLLEGE: ALL ABOUT WASFA

WHAT IS THE WASFA?

The Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA) is the first step to apply for **financial aid** for some *undocumented students* who live in Washington state. Completing the WASFA is free and gives eligible students access to **state financial aid** to pay for vocational, technical, 2-year and 4-year colleges in Washington. Students granted Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (**DACA**) status should complete the WASFA. **If you are a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident, check out the "All About FAFSA" handout and do not complete the WASFA.**

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

Eligibility is based on **immigration status**. Students must meet individual program and residency requirements. For specifics, use the eligibility questionnaire at readysetgrad.org/wasfaelig

HOW DO I COMPLETE IT?

1. Go to readysetgrad.org/wasfa and click on "Start a New WASFA."
2. Complete the eligibility questionnaire.
3. Create an account and save your login and password.
4. Complete and submit your application.

What is the parent signature on the WASFA? You will need to send an email invitation to one parent (biological or adoptive) to electronically sign your WASFA. Be sure you and your parent use separate email addresses.

- * **Don't Forget:** Your parent's electronic signature is needed to complete your application.
- * **Your parent must electronically sign within 72 hours of being invited.**

WHEN SHOULD I DO IT?

File as early as **October 1 of your senior year.**

Make sure you **know the financial aid priority deadlines** at the colleges you are interested in. (Often the WASFA deadline is not listed, but it is the same as the FAFSA deadline.)

You need to **submit the WASFA** every year while in college.

WHAT INFO DO I NEED?

Basic information, such as legal name, birthdate, etc.

Parent and student **tax/income info**

Your **list of colleges** (Washington state colleges only)

Your **DACA number** if you have one

Is my family's information protected?

The Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) and colleges that access your application only use your information to determine eligibility for state financial aid. Campuses are not permitted to use the information for other purposes or share the data with other parties.

If you have questions about the WASFA, contact the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) at 1-888-535-0747, option 2 or email wasfa@wsac.wa.gov

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