



INTRODUCTION TO THE CSS/FINANCIAL AID PROFILE

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If you are applying to college for the 2018-19 school year you may find that one or more of your schools will require the submission of a financial aid form called the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE. The CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE, from the College Board, is an online application used by some schools to determine a student's eligibility for institutional financial aid.

ABOUT THE CSS/FINANCIAL AID PROFILE



While all schools require the Free Application for Federal Aid (FAFSA), there are only about 400 schools and programs that require the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE®. The FAFSA is used to determine eligibility for federal and state aid, and the underlying financial aid formula used to calculate the student's expected family contribution (EFC) is known as Federal Methodology (FM). In contrast, the colleges and scholarship providers that rely on the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE award financial aid funds based on a different formula, known as Institutional Methodology (IM). Be sure to check the [CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE Participating Institutions](#) list found at the College Board website.



Students only need to complete one CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE application each year. However, there is a fee for submitting the application to schools. The first school is \$25, and each additional school is \$16.



Students who are completing a PROFILE for the first time and who used an SAT fee waiver can receive up to eight PROFILE fee waivers. To qualify, students must log in to the PROFILE using the same account used for the SAT. Students who did not use an SAT fee waiver may still qualify for a PROFILE fee waiver based on income. The income limit is established by the College Board.



The CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE application is available on October 1st (this is the same date that the FAFSA becomes available). Both forms should be completed as early as possible to take advantage of aid that is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. All schools have their own filing deadlines in place, but earlier is always better, especially for first-time applicants.

**THERE ARE MAJOR DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE FAFSA AND THE CSS/
FINANCIAL AID PROFILE THAT MAKES COMPLETING BOTH—WHERE
REQUIRED—VERY IMPORTANT.**

1.

FAFSA

The FAFSA is used to award eligible students with federal grants, scholarships, and loans.

2.

CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE

The CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE assists schools in the awarding of non-federal institutional aid.

NOTE: There are significant differences between the two forms. Some of these differences are explained in the section “How is my expected family contribution calculated?” Assets reported in the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE play a more significant role in determining institutional financial aid eligibility. An applicant may also be required to submit a Non-Custodial PROFILE form to report financial information about the parent not living with the student applicant. There is also a Business/Farm Supplemental form required if the custodial parent is self-employed. The school will inform the student if this form is needed.

Additional filing instructions and a CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE worksheet can be found at <https://student.collegeboard.org/css-financial-aid-profile>.



FUN FACT

Did you know Meryl Streep, Emma Watson, Jake Gyllenhaal, Natalie Portman, Matt Damon, Mindy Kaling, and John Legend went to Ivy League schools? (We wonder what their SAT scores were.)