

It's FAFSA Time!

If you are a college-bound high school senior, it's time to complete your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) - the application for state, federal and college-specific financial aid. February is typically the time to apply as many colleges have a March 1 priority filing date. (Contact the college you plan to attend and ask for their priority date.)

Follow these steps to complete the FAFSA:

Step 1: Request a PIN

Request a Personal Identification Number (PIN) for you and one for a parent at pin.ed.gov. The PIN is your signature for the electronic FAFSA and is used to track your financial aid application.

Step 2: Complete your taxes early

The FAFSA requires current tax information so complete your taxes early.

Step 3: Gather these student and parent items:

- 2009 federal income tax forms and, if applicable, Schedule K-1 (Form 1065)
- 2009 W-2 forms
- Student's driver's license number
- Social Security numbers
- Birth dates
- Date parents were married, separated, divorced or widowed
- Current cash, savings and checking account balances
- Current investment values (stocks, bonds, mutual funds, CDs, etc.) excluding retirement accounts
- Value of business (if more than 100 employees)
- Value of investment farm (Do not include the value of a family farm that you or your parents live on and operate.)
- 2009 child support (paid and/or received)
- 2009 Worker's Compensation
- Other untaxed income in 2009 such as veteran's benefits, housing/food/living allowances for military and clergy
- Alien Registration Number for eligible non-citizens

Step 4: Complete and file the FAFSA

Complete and file the FAFSA at fafsa.gov. The colleges you list on the application will receive the results.

If you're filing the FAFSA for the first time and need help completing the form, EducationQuest will assist any Nebraska students. Just contact one of their offices nearest you to set up an

appointment. If closest to Kearney, you may call 800-666-3721, Lincoln, at 800-303-3745 or Omaha at 888-357-6300. All services are *free*.