

Complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
Complete and submit the Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA)
Submit a signed opt-out form

Opt-Out Form

A student may graduate without completing a financial aid application by submitting an opt-out form signed by the student's parent or guardian, counselor, or the student if age 18 or older to authorize the student to decline to submit a financial aid application. Students who have emancipated from their parents and are under the age of 18 are authorized to sign the form. A parent can also decline to complete the financial aid application by signing the opt-out form.

The opt-out form is available on the Texas Education Agency website in English and Spanish at <https://tea.texas.gov/academics/college-career-and-military-prep/financial-aid-requirement>. Students can also request a copy of the opt-out form from their high school counselor. It's important to note that students who opt out can still complete and submit a financial aid application at any time if they change their mind. High school counselors can answer additional questions about applying for financial aid and opting out.

FAFSA or TASFA?

Completing a FAFSA or TASFA will meet the financial aid application graduation requirement. Students should complete

Student Aid and the office of the U.S. Department of Education (USDE).

The FAFSA is available on the Federal Student Aid website at <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply->

by institutions of higher education in the state of Texas. The application is available to Texas residents who are not eligible to apply for federal student aid through the FAFSA.

A general TASFA application is available on the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's College for All Texans website at <http://www.collegeforalltexas.com/index.cfm?objectid=a3119543-cbf8-c202-f1b0eefd5f4b9805>. The current TASFA form can be completed on a computer but will need to be printed and mailed to the college(s). Some schools may have their own electronic TASFA students can submit online. Students should check with the Texas college(s) to which they are interested in applying for more information. High school counselors can also help students access the correct TASFA form.

Important dates and deadlines

The windows to submit the FAFSA and TASFA to apply financial aid funds for the next school year open in the fall. High school seniors must note the following deadlines in order to complete the graduation requirement and be eligible for financial aid for the school year after they graduate.

October 1 – the FAFSA and TASFA become available

January 15 – the state priority deadline to submit an application (more aid may be available to students who apply by this deadline)

Students should check with a high school counselor about their high school's deadlines for completing the financial aid application requirement to graduate on time. A financial aid application or opt-out form must be completed to meet the graduation requirement.

Students should check with the institution of higher education they wish to attend for more information. For more information, contact the Financial Aid Office at (913) 238-2111.