



Ensuring Career and College Access for All

Post- Secondary Financial Aid



What is GRASP?



GRASP IS A NON-PROFIT, 501(C)(3) CHARITABLE EDUCATION ORGANIZATION FUNDED BY DONATIONS FROM INDIVIDUALS, BUSINESSES, FOUNDATIONS, AND THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA.



GRASP PROVIDES WEEKLY ADVISORY SERVICES IN 92 VIRGINIA SCHOOLS TO HELP STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES ESTABLISH A PLAN FOR EDUCATION AFTER HIGH SCHOOL.



ADVISORS ASSIST STUDENTS IN THE PROCESS OF IDENTIFYING, APPLYING FOR, AND OBTAINING SCHOLARSHIPS AND OTHER FINANCIAL AID AND WITH CAREER ACCESS.



GRASP'S PROGRAMS ALSO ASSIST STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES AND GRASP STUDENTS ENROLLED IN POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION.



GRASP ALSO PROVIDES LAST DOLLAR AND COMMUNITY COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS.

GRASP Advisors



Appointments through school counseling



Confidential and free



Assistance with college financial aid process and scholarships



Knowledgeable about special circumstances: foster care, adoption, legal guardianship, divorce, financial challenges (i.e. due to COVID-19), layoffs



Help accessing important opportunities



Last Dollar and Community College Scholarships

GRASP Advisors are prepared to help students and families both in person and virtually through...



In-person meetings
at high schools



Phone calls



Text messaging



Emails



Video conferencing



You Can Take Steps Now

- Learn estimated student aid eligibility:
<https://studentaid.gov/aid-estimator/>
- You can get preliminary results from net price calculators on college websites
- Use estimated information for income and assets
- Become familiar with financial aid forms

Financial Aid Forms – Which do You Need?

Not all students will
complete all of these

Depends on individual
circumstances



FAFSA – Free Application
for Federal Student Aid



VASA – Virginia Alternative
State Aid Application



CSS Profile – College
Board's Application



**College Scholarship
Applications**

Steps to Financial Aid Success

Scour college websites for scholarship dates, priority filing dates for financial aid, application dates

File FAFSA/VASA/CSS Profile on-time regardless of your perceived financial need

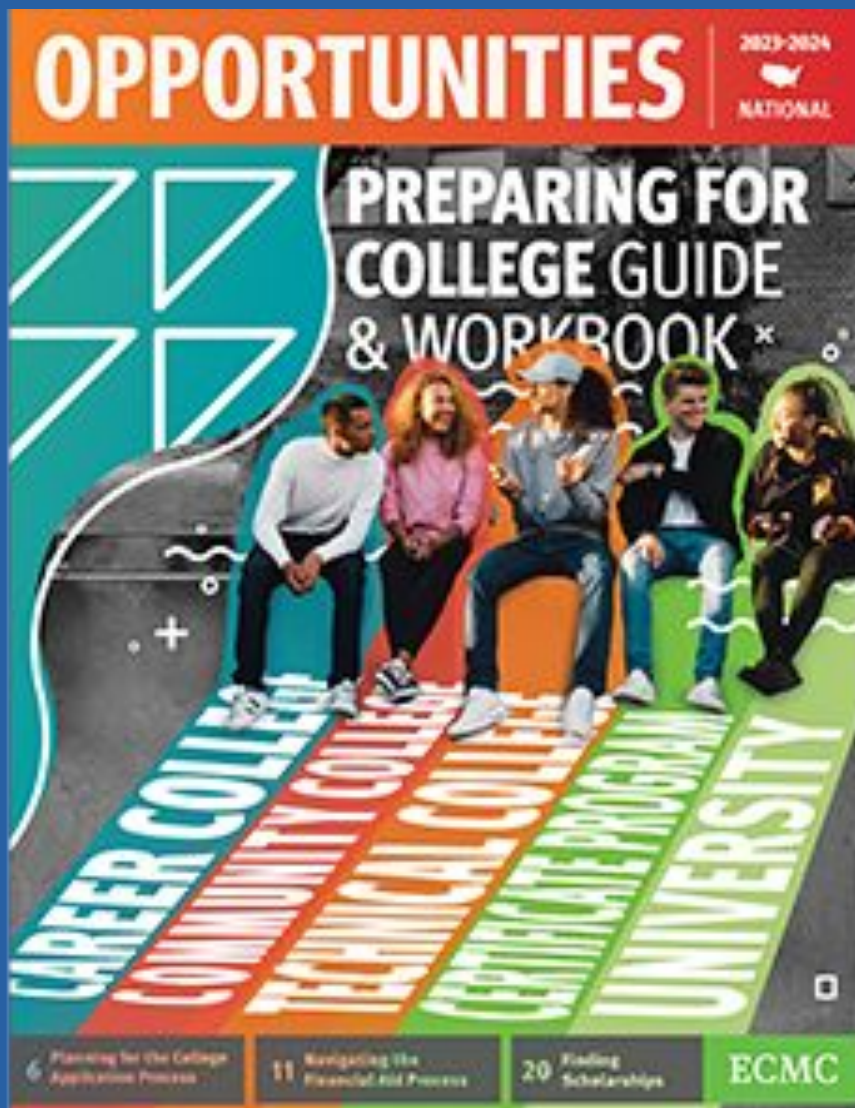
Don't get "emotionally hooked" on one school if finances matter

Maximize your high school's resources:

- Check out school counseling area of high school website for college information
- Let your school counselor know about special circumstances

Meet with your GRASP Advisor

Pay attention to emails and college assigned student accounts



**For more
information:**

<https://www.ecmc.org/studentseducators/student-resources/opportunities-guide-and-workbook>

**Available in English and
Spanish**

Why Complete the FAFSA?

COA

- SAI

=*Demonstrated
financial need*

- Cost of Attendance (COA) includes: books, fees, room and board, tuition, personal expenses and transportation.
- The FAFSA will tell you your family's Student Aid Index (SAI)
- The difference between your SAI and the COA is your *financial need*



Choosing to not file the FAFSA means that your school will not consider you for financial aid – including some loans, work study and “free money” like grants.



What is Financial Aid?

Non-need Based

- Merit Scholarships
- Athletic Scholarships

Need Based

- Grants
- Work-study

Federal Loans

- Subsidized 5.50%
- Unsubsidized 5.50%
- Parent Plus 8.05%

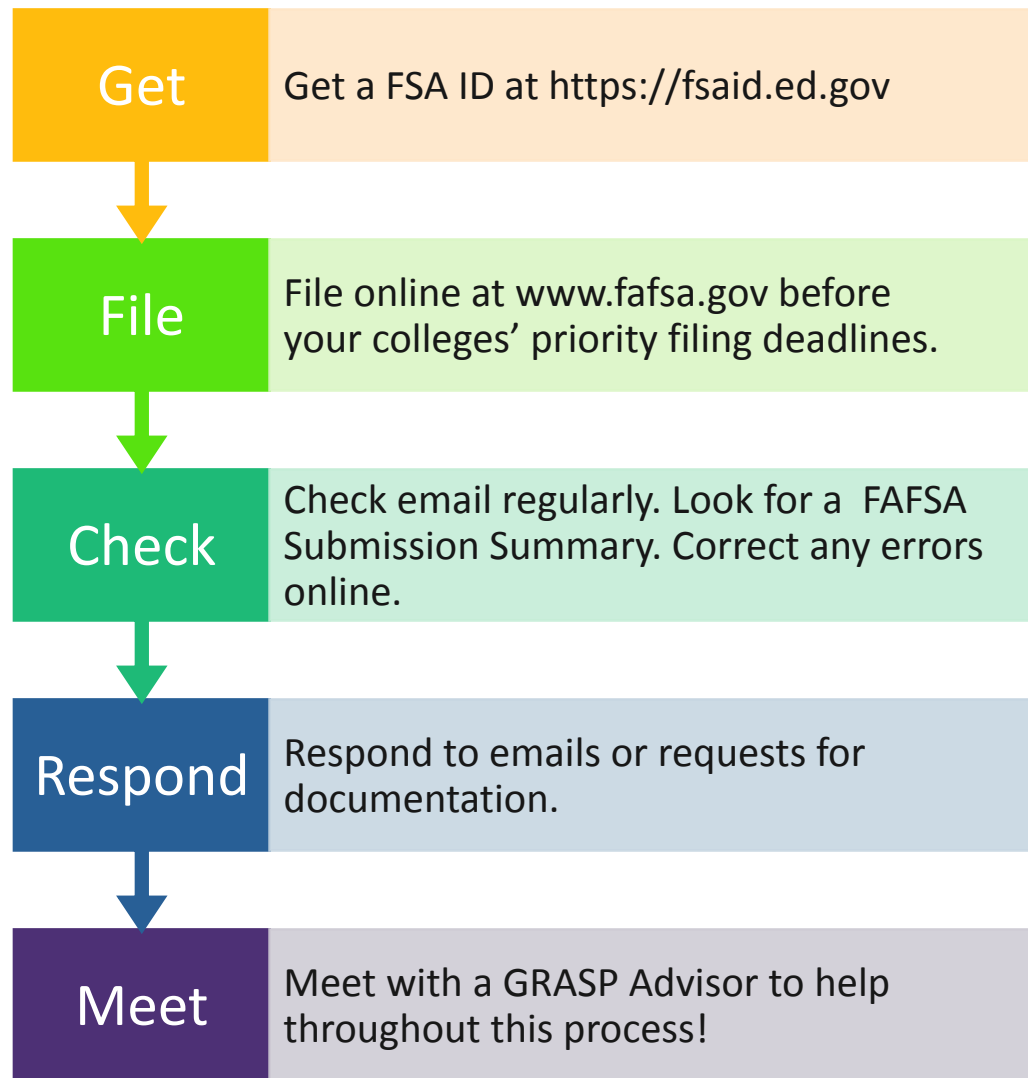




New This Year

- Comes out in **December**, not October 1
- Easier to complete
- Some terms are different from past years
- but identified as you go through it
- FAFSA.GOV website

FAFSA in 5 Steps



VASA – for qualifying noncitizen students

- Allows certain noncitizen students who are ineligible to complete the FAFSA to be considered for Virginia grants
- VASA stands for Virginia Alternative State Aid Application
- Summary of eligibility requirements:
 - Attendance at a Virginia high school for two years
 - Completion of high school is or will be after 7/1/2008
 - Student (and parents if student is dependent) filed Virginia taxes for at least two years
 - Student has or will register at a Virginia college or university
 - Precise requirements outlined at vasaapp.org



More Forms?

Some schools have additional forms, so look closely at the financial aid section of each school's website.

- Check if you need to file CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE. Examples: William and Mary, University of Richmond, Washington & Lee, University of Virginia
- School specific scholarship applications: University of Richmond, Washington & Lee, UVA, William & Mary, for example.
- Ask about due dates. You may lose aid if you miss due dates.

Award Notification Example

Sample School COA:	\$30,000
Sample Student SAI:	<u>\$5,000</u>
Sample Student Initial Need:	\$25,000

All numbers are estimates for illustration.

	Fall	Spring	Total
Federal Subsidized Loan	\$1,750	\$1,750	\$3,500
Federal Unsubsidized Loan	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$2,000
Federal Work Study	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$4,000
University Grant	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$2,000
Pell Grant	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$2,000
VGAP Grant	\$2,400	\$2,400	\$4,800
TOTAL	\$9,150	\$9,150	\$18,300

Initial need	-	Financial aid package	=	Unmet need
\$25,000	-	\$18,300	=	\$6,700

Community College Transfer Programs



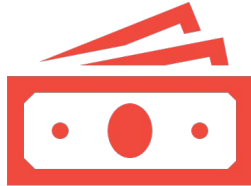
- Earn Associate's degree from a Virginia Community College for two years, followed by a four-year college for another two years to earn Bachelor's degree
- Helpful programs:
 - <https://www.vccs.edu/transfer-programs/>
 - Virginia Transfer Grant
 - Guaranteed Admissions Agreements
 - GRASP's Community College Pathways Scholarship



Virginia's Only Junior College

- Tuition, Room and Board about \$18,889 (for 2023-24)
- The curriculum is intended to allow students to acquire junior status after transferring to a four-year college or to pursue expanded career opportunities.
- Transfer agreements with a number of universities in Virginia

Fee Waivers



If you or a family member are eligible for free or reduced lunch, you may qualify for a fee waiver for the first time you take the SAT or ACT.

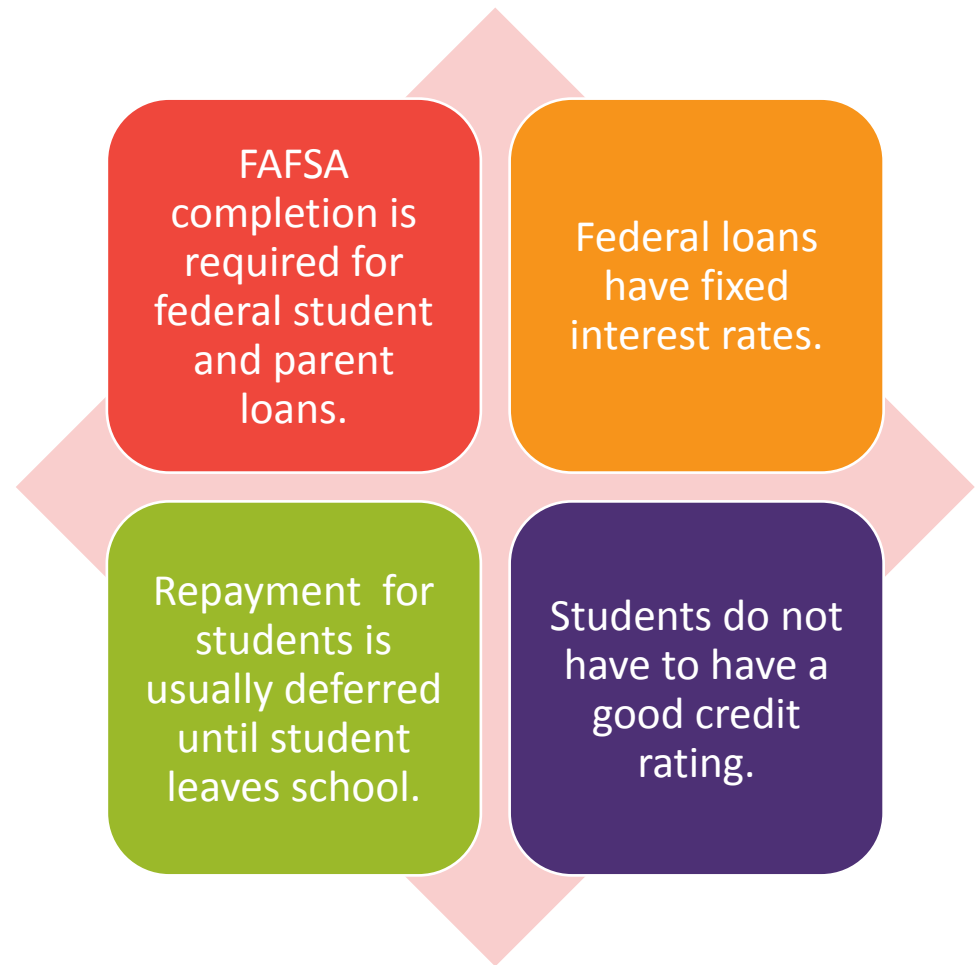


Colleges may waive admission application fees for certain circumstances:

Financial Need
Early Filing Date
Online Filing
Visiting Campus

Check each college's website.

Borrowing Money for College



Additional Career Paths

- Not all jobs require an Associate's or Bachelor's Degree
- Other great options:
 - Tech/Trades Schools
 - Apprenticeships
 - Career Certificate programs at Community Colleges
 - Military

Career Program SKILLS

In High Demand Today





Funding is Available for Many Career Programs

- Special Community College Programs: G3 and Fast Forward
- Contact your local community college to learn more
- Apprenticeships
- www.doli.virginia.gov/apprenticeships has great information

Thank You
from



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