

# Financial Aid & the FAFSA



## Getting Started

- PIN's can be created now at [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov). One can create their PIN or let the computer generate a number. I would recommend creating your own and using the last four digits of a phone number, social security number, or something that you will remember. Write it down in a safe place, you will need it later.
- THERE IS NO FEE TO FILL OUT THE FAFSA, it is a free application for federal student aid.
- Colleges have different deadlines for submitting the FAFSA. Check deadlines.
- If your FAFSA is completed after the priority deadline you will receive lower priority consideration for many grants, need based low interest rate loans, and work study.
- Do not wait for an admissions decision before filling out your FAFSA.
- Complete ALL items on the FAFSA application. Use a "0" for items that are not applicable.
- Enter your Social Security Number CORRECTLY. If you enter it incorrectly, your SAR will have a reject code and your application will be rejected. You will need to file a new FAFSA.
- Include both your e-mail and your physical mailing address.
- Use your PIN (and your parent's use their PIN if you are dependent) to electronically sign the FAFSA application. (You may also print, complete, and mail the Signature Page to the Federal Processor within 10 days of submitting your FAFSA. Be aware that mailing in a signature page will slow down the processing of your application.)
- Print the confirmation page. This will verify that the Federal processor received your FAFSA.
- Some colleges also require the CSS/Financial Aid Profile.

## Checking and Making Corrections

- You can check the status of your FAFSA online. (You will need to provide your PIN.) It is ideal to check your status:  
3-5 days after submitting your FAFSA if you signed with an electronic PIN  
7-10 days after submitting your FAFSA if you printed, completed, and mailed in a Signature Page
- While actual tax information is preferred, due to deadline dates, use of estimated tax information is acceptable. If you use estimated tax information to fill out the FAFSA, you may need to make online corrections if this information changes after filing your tax returns.

## Financial Aid Workshop

Jerry Lester, a financial aid officer, will be at FCHS to give a workshop on completing the FAFSA. It will be Thursday, January 5, at 6:30 in the library. Also, RU will be hosting Super Saturday on January 28. Financial aid representatives will be available to help you complete your FAFSA online.