**Financial Aid for College**

1. FAFSA
2. Mississippi Aid
3. Private Scholarships
4. College Scholarships

What is FAFSA? The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is required to determine eligibility to receive any federal money, but may also be used by individual colleges for awarding need-based financial aid. The FAFSA is also required to determine eligibility for certain state financial aid programs and can also be required by private scholarship providers.

Students can complete the FAFSA at **studentaid.gov** as soon as the application opens, typically in October of their senior year. **This year, the 2026-2027 FAFSA application will open in October, as a result of the new simplified FAFSA.** Some Mississippi university scholarship programs require the FAFSA with deadlines as early as December 1. Attend your high school's FAFSA completion event or make an appointment with a Get2College counselor to get our help completing your FAFSA. The Get2College website has a wealth of information on all types of financial aid!

Some colleges may require the **CSS/Financial Aid Profile®** in addition to the FAFSA.

➔ **What you need to complete the 2026-2027 FAFSA**

In order to complete the FAFSA, you will need to bring information for the parent(s) and the student. If your parents are divorced or separated, bring the information below for the parent you have lived with the most in the last 12 months. If that parent has remarried, bring information for the step-parent as well. Do not bring information on a grandparent, aunt, or anyone other than a parent unless you have been legally adopted (even if someone else claims you on the federal tax return).

- Parent(s) and student's legal names
- Parent(s) and student's Social Security numbers
- Parent(s) and student's dates of birth
- A parent's MS driver's license or MS issued ID
- Email addresses for student and parent
- Permanent resident card (if applicable)
- List of colleges (up to 10) that you want to receive your FAFSA results. Mark the college in Mississippi that you are most likely to attend (only one allowed on the state aid application).

- Access to cell phones for parent and student to verify phone number via text
- Info for parents with whom you live: marriage date, divorce date, or separation date
- If you are in a legal guardianship, bring court papers for the guardianship
- W-2 forms and other records of money earned in 2024 (student and parents)
- Entire 2024 Federal Income Tax Return (including the 1040 form and Schedules for student and parents) – If your parents or parent and step-parent file separately, bring copies of both tax returns
- Value of bank accounts and investments (separate out those in retirement accounts)
- Child support and other untaxed income

*Parents who have completed the FAFSA for themselves or other children will use the same FSA ID (username and password) for all children. Please have this information and be available for an access code via email or call, this will be necessary to complete the FAFSA.

**MISSISSIPPI AID**

For Mississippi financial aid, go to www.msfinancialaid.org. Complete the online application and mail in or upload the supporting documents (Read "How to Submit Documents" in the orange box.). Be sure to look at the qualifications for the MTAG and HELP Scholarships and send in any supporting documents for each scholarship before the deadlines.

**PRIVATE SCHOLARSHIPS**

- Tri-State Scholarship Deadline: April 15, 2026. You need to print the first page of the student aid report (SAR) from the FAFSA and highlight your SAI number; have 3 letters of recommendation in sealed envelopes; a current wallet size picture (nice headshot); an essay with required information; and a high school transcript.

- The TCCTC Scholarship application is due Friday, April 7th, 2026.

- WEBSITE TO CHECK ON OTHER PRIVATE SCHOLARSHIPS: https://get2college.org/scholarships/

  *** Letters of recommendation: If you ask for a letter of recommendation, please present the person you are asking with some information about what is needed on the letter and list some additional information on what activities you have participated in and experiences you have had that need to be highlighted. SEE THE HANDOUT.

**PLEASE BE SURE TO CHECK OUR SCHOOL WEBSITE FOR NEW SCHOLARSHIPS. IF YOU ARE NOT SIGNED UP FOR REMIND, PLEASE DO SO!**

- **TCCTC Scholarships** – These scholarships are given out at an awards banquet, ***Attendance at the banquet is required unless prior approval from the administration is given .***

- Date and Time: MAY 2026

    - TCCTC Scholarships
        - Guaranty Bank Scholarship
        - TCEPA Scholarship
        - Lauren McCreary Sparks Scholarship

    - Belmont Bass Anglers Jared Mann Memorial Scholarship (See separate application)

    - Griffin-Taylor Memorial Scholarship

    - Michael Scott Walker Trade Scholarship

    - Sid's Trading Company Scholarship

✓ Scholarship Applications – Deadline for submission for TCCTC Scholarships is **April 7th, 2026**. Absolutely NO scholarship applications will be accepted after this date. These will be sent to the awards committees for each scholarship.

✓ All applications will be available on the TCCTC Counselor's Page on the TCSD webpage.

✓ Please check the deadlines for other scholarships not given by TCCTC.

******* All scholarship winners will be **required** to write a letter of thanks to the organizations or families that gave the scholarships. This should not take more than a few minutes. You will write the letter and then Mrs. Chanta or Mrs. Gaylor will mail it for you. The letter "releases" your scholarship to the college, however, you will need to provide proof of enrollment before the scholarship is funded.

**COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS**

- To fill out the online NEMCC Institutional Scholarship application, go to www.nemcc.edu; Get Started; Financial Aid; Scholarships. The deadline for the online application is April 1, 2026.

- To fill out the online Foundation Scholarship application, go to nemcc.edu. Click Get Started. Click Foundation Scholarships. Click online application. You will need your user a ID and password. If you have not registered, click register (do not use your tcsk12.com account). The deadline to complete the Foundation Scholarship application is **March 15, 2026**. You need your SAI (Student Aid Index) number from your FAFSA student aid report (SAR) for this scholarship application.

- Scholarships to all colleges can be found on their websites under Financial Aid.

Please contact Mrs. Chanta Smothers (csmothers@tcsk12.com) or Mrs. Heather Gaylor at (hgaylor@tcsk12.com) if you have any questions or need help filling out the applications.