

**Tips**  
**How to fill out the FAFSA**

**NEED HELP ?**

**Filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**

1. Apply for your Federal FAFSA PIN early. March 2 is the deadline for priority filing status in California. You can file your FAFSA beyond March 2 but you will not have priority status for certain types of aid, a federal e.g., the Cal Grant.
2. Students and parents should apply for the signature PIN at <http://www.pin.ed.gov>; this will allow you to apply online and check your filing status online. No paper . . .
3. Be prepared. Have the following information available when filling out your FAFSA:
  - CSUF's Title IV School Code: 001137
  - Your and your parent(s) SSN#
  - Student's and parent's driver's license number and date of birth
  - If you are not a U.S. Citizen, your Alien Registration #
  - Your (and your parent(s), if dependent) Federal Income Tax Returns and W2's
4. To avoid delays in processing your application, be sure to use accurate information. Refer to your (and your parent(s)) Federal Income Tax Return, W-2 forms, and other records of money earned during the prior year, current bank statements, business records, and other investment records.

In order to meet the March 2<sup>nd</sup> deadline, you may need to **estimate** your income and taxes.

5. Complete the FAFSA on the Web Worksheet before going online; the worksheet is available in the Office of Financial Aid and on-line.
6. Apply early to avoid internet traffic problems.
7. Read questions carefully, think before you answer questions, and if you do not know the answer, ask.
8. If a question on the FAFSA asks for a numeric answer, do not leave it blank. If the answer to the question is zero, put zero. Do not forget to print out your Student Aid Report confirmation when you are done.

9. Read your Student Aid Report thoroughly; important information may be included which you may need to follow up on. If you have a reject, you will not be eligible for financial aid until it is resolved. Contact the Office of Financial Aid for assistance.
10. FANMAIL (Financial Aid Notification via eMail) is our paperless way to keep you up-to-date about your financial aid application and awards. Throughout the year, we will use FANMAIL to notify you whenever there is news about your financial aid application status, document requirements, registration fee payment, disbursements or academic progress.
11. Always check your CSUF Titan Online account for confirmation, document request, or information from the Office of Financial Aid.
12. Keep your email current. Cal State Fullerton provides a free email account to you when you apply for admission. We will only use your campus-assigned email address for FANMAIL.

