FAFSA
Free Application for Federal Student Aid
Who should fill out the FAFSA?

- Students planning to attend college next Fall, should fill out the FAFSA for next school year.

- In addition, Seniors planning to start college next semester or next summer, should fill out the FAFSA for the current school year.
What documents do I need to fill out the FAFSA?

- Tax information from 2017, including W2’s (student and parent)
- Records of any benefits you receive from the government
- Records of any untaxed income
- Bank statements and records of investments
- FSAid (student and parent)...more about this on the next slide...
Where

Where do I start?

fsaid.ed.gov

- student creates a username and password
- parent creates a username and password
- each is linked to the person’s SSN and personal email address
- REMEMBER THIS! TAKE A PICTURE! DATE STAMP IT! PUT IT IN YOUR NOTES! WRITE IT DOWN! WRITE IT DOWN AGAIN! TAKE ANOTHER PICTURE! YES, I AM YELLING!
- This is your electronic signature, and the student’s ticket into the application

Where do I go to fill out the FAFSA?

fafsa.gov

- The online version is convenient and immediate
- Of course, you can use a paper version if you prefer
When do I fill out the FAFSA?

- The FAFSA opens October 1st.
- Each college, university, or program has a priority filing date. This is the date by which they want all of your financial information.
- Remember: it is not rocket science, fill it out early so you won’t have to worry.
- Fill it out every year.
WHY should I fill out the FAFSA?

- The Federal Gov’t uses the information you put on the FAFSA to determine if you qualify for any federal student aid.
- Most schools use the FAFSA information as a starting point when creating a financial aid package for the student.
- If you choose not to fill out the FAFSA, your school will not consider you for financial aid.
- Some scholarships require a copy of the FAFSA in order to apply.
- If you don’t apply for aid, you will not receive it!
What is Federal Student Aid?

Money from the federal government (U.S. Department of Education) that helps a student pay for college, career schools, or graduate programs.

3 Types of Aid:
- Grants
- Loans
- Work Study
Grants

- Free money, given on the basis of need, from the U.S. Department of Education that does NOT have to be repaid

- Federal Pell Grant
  - For undergraduate students with financial need
  - Approx. $6,000 per year

- Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)
  - For undergraduates with exceptional financial need
  - Up to $4,000/year
Grants

- Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH)
  - For students planning to go into a career in education

- Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant
  - For students who do not have enough financial need for a Pell Grant and who lost a parent due to military service in Iraq or Afghanistan after 9/11
Loans

- Borrowed money that must be repaid with interest

  - Direct Subsidized Loans
    - Fixed rate, low interest loans based on financial need
    - Government pays interest when student is enrolled in school
    - Up to $3,500/year

  - Direct Unsubsidized Loans
    - Fixed rate, low interest loans Not based on financial need
    - Borrower is responsible for all interest
    - Up to $2,000/year
Loans

▶ Direct PLUS Loans
  ▶ For parents of dependent undergraduates and graduate and professional students
  ▶ Fixed rate
  ▶ Maximum amount is the cost of attendance minus any other financial aid received

▶ Federal Perkins loan
  ▶ For students with exceptional financial need
Work Study

- It provides part-time employment while you are enrolled in school.
- It’s available to undergraduate, graduate, and professional students with financial need.
- It’s available to full-time or part-time students.
- It’s administered by schools participating in the Federal Work-Study Program. Check with your school’s financial aid office to find out if your school participates.
- Indicate on your FAFSA that you will consider work study. You can always refuse an offer later, but you might not be able to sign up for work study later.
Review

Who, when, where...
Who is Eligible for Federal Student Aid

- Financial need (for most programs)
- Be a U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen
- Have a valid social security number
- If male between the ages of 18 and 25, must register with the Selective Service
- Maintain adequate academic progress while in college or career school
- Must graduate from high school or be enrolling in an eligible career pathways program
When Should the FAFSA Be Completed?

- If your child plans to attend college or a career school in the Fall of 2019, you should complete it as soon as possible after it becomes available on October 1st.
- Schools often use the FAFSA information to award non-federal aid.
- Some states use the FAFSA to award state level financial aid.
Getting Started!

Create your FSA ID at fsaid.ed.gov
(one for the student, one for the parent)

▶ This will be used to confirm your identity and electronically sign your FAFSA documents
▶ It is linked to your SSN and your personal email address

Complete the FAFSA at fafsa.gov

▶ You can use a paper form if needed
Scholarships
Local and National
Local Scholarships

Community Foundation of the Central Blue Ridge

Naviance

Other local school’s pages

Organizations in the Community, including fraternal organizations

Employers
Virginia/National Scholarships

GRASP

JLV Counseling

Big Future

Scholarships.org

FastWeb
SO, there are several types of financial aid...

**Grants** = Free $$$ Don’t refuse them

**Scholarships** = Free $$$ Don’t refuse them, usually have to apply, sometimes a one-time deal

**Work-Study** = Work for your $$$$$ Consider it

**Loans** = Borrowed $$$ (your money) + interest (more of your money) Accept or refuse as much or as little as you want/need
Set up an appointment through the counseling department to meet with your GRASP advisor.

- Free and confidential
- Learn more about special circumstances and unique situations
- Fill out the FAFSA
- Hear more about scholarship opportunities
- Talk about next steps
College Applications!
Types of Applications

- Common Application (850+ Schools, including all 8 Ivys and 50 international)
- Coalition Application (150 Schools)
- Individual School Application Portal
- Paper and Pencil
Paper & Pencil

1. Receive application in the mail or pick up from admissions office
2. Fill out application
3. Put school in Naviance “Schools I’m Applying To”
4. Under Application Delivery Type, select “Mail Only”
5. Request recommendations from teachers and transcripts through Naviance
6. Mail application, we will take care of the rest - you can track it through Naviance
Individual School Application Portal

1. Set up account on the college/university/trade school’s portal

2. Put school in Naviance “Schools I’m Applying To”

3. Under Application Delivery Type, select “Electronic”

4. Request recommendations and transcripts through Naviance

5. Complete and submit application, we will take care of the rest - you can track it through Naviance
Common Application

1. Create Common Application account
2. Sign FERPA Waiver/Add Lee as “School Attending”
3. Match Account to Naviance (Every Senior has a video explaining the process in their Naviance Tasks - If you have questions, please come ask us!)
4. Complete application information needed in the Common App
5. Make sure all schools you are applying to appear in Naviance “Schools I am Applying to” - if not, see your counselor!
6. Request recommendations and transcripts through Naviance
7. Submit applications, we will take care of the rest - you can track it through Naviance
Coalition Application

1. Create Coalition Application account

2. Invite “Collaborators” (teachers and counselors you want to be part of your application process)

3. Choose the schools you are applying to in the application portal

4. Put school in Naviance “Schools I’m Applying To”

5. Request recommendations from teachers and transcripts through Naviance

6. Under Application Delivery Type, select “Electronic”

7. Submit applications (applications have different requirements, so pay close attention)

8. We will take care of the rest - you can track it through Naviance
Recommendations From Outside of Lee

- Ask the teacher/coach/pastor/etc. to write a letter
  - give them information about the schools you are applying to and why you want them to write a letter for you
  - If a Common App school - print a PDF of the “Form” - you can print this in the counseling center - give this to the recommender as well
  - Have the recommender mail or email the letter and form to your counselor
  - We will upload the letter and form in Naviance for you
  - You can track it in your Naviance account
SVGS & VCTC Students

- Do not indicate SVGS or VCTC as a second high school on your applications! If you do, the school will require a transcript from that school as well and SVGS and VCTC do not generate their own transcripts.

- Out of state school know what Governor’s Schools are - I promise.

- The SVGS information is on the Lee school profile.