

Seven Ways to Delay Your Financial Aid

1. Do not apply for Financial Aid in a timely manner or complete the proper applications.

Students need to submit the [FAFSA](#) or [GSFAPP](#) at least 4 weeks prior to the Financial Aid Priority Deadline, and any other requested documents by the Financial Aid Priority deadline (view our [Schedules & Calendars](#)).

2. Uses two different names on documents.

When filling out your FAFSA you must use your legal name (your name as it appears on your Social Security Card).

3. Do not properly record your marital status.

Your status as of the day you complete your application is the correct status and cannot be changed during the award year except in extenuating circumstances.

4. Use the wrong tax information or record amounts incorrectly.

When filling out the FAFSA the student must use the correct tax information for the respective year they are applying.

- a) For the 2018-2019 aid year (August 2018 through July 2019)-the 2016 tax information and W2s must be used when completing the 2018-2019 FAFSA.
- b) For the 2019-2020 aid year (August 2019-July 2020)-the 2017 tax information and W2s will be used when completing the 2019-2020 FAFSA.

Note: It is highly recommended that you use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool (DRT) when completing your FAFSA. This tool allows students to transfer their tax information electronically from the IRS onto the FAFSA.

5. Do not submit any additional documents in a timely manner.

We will not know if documents will be needed for your file until we received the processed application. Fill out the FAFSA early. That way, if documents are requested you will be able to turn them in as soon as possible or prior to the Financial Aid Deadline.

6. Provide conflicting information on the FAFSA or other financial aid forms.

If conflicting/incorrect information is discovered, additional documentation will be needed.

7. Do not correctly report children/legal dependents on the FAFSA or other financial aid documents.

If you have children and you can show that you provide over half of their support, they are considered your dependents.

A student cannot qualify for financial aid when problems exist or information is conflicting. Financial Aid Specialists are available to answer questions about applications and documents. Accuracy is a must!