

Seven Ways to Delay Your Financial Aid

1. Do not apply for Financial Aid in a timely manner or complete the proper application. Students need to submit the [FAFSA](#) (or if you are only interested in state aid, you may submit the [GSFAPP](#) instead) at least 4 weeks before the Financial Aid Priority Deadline, and any other requested documents prior to the Financial Aid Priority Deadline (view our [Schedules & Calendars](#)).
2. Use 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 and submit your FAFSA application is the correct status and cannot be changed during the award year.
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 for. The FAFSA uses tax information from two years prior and each FAFSA states which taxes to use. For example: For the 2022-2023 aid year (August 2022 through July 2023), the 2020 tax information and W2s must be used.

*Please note: If your marital status changed since the date your taxes were filed for the respective tax season, you may want to contact the Financial Aid Office to explain the change in your marital status and get clarification on what/how your tax information should be used.

5. Do not submit all additional documents in a timely manner—We will not know if documents will be needed for your file until we receive the processed FAFSA. Fill out the FAFSA early. That way, if documents are requested, you will be able to turn them in as soon as possible prior to the Financial Aid Priority 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 or legal dependents other than children and you can show that you provide over half of their support, they are considered your dependents and must be counted in the household.

Accuracy is a must! A student cannot qualify for financial aid when problems exist or information is conflicting. Financial Aid Specialists are available to answer questions you may have about applications and documents by phone (1-866-983-4682), or [E-mail Financial Aid](#).