

FYI: YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE EFC

"I filled out the FAFSA, but they said I didn't qualify."
"My parents make too much money to get financial aid."
"How do they figure out whether I qualify anyway?"

The information you reported on your FAFSA, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, is used to calculate your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The formula used to calculate your EFC is established by law and is used to measure your family's financial strength on the basis of your family's income and assets. The EFC is used to determine your eligibility for federal student aid and may be used for institutional need-based aid or state financial aid.

The FAFSA does not tell you what you qualify to receive. The FAFSA processors simply process the data, calculate the EFC and send the information to the schools you list on the FAFSA. The COLLEGE determines the federal aid AND other need-based aid you are eligible to receive.

What's the formula that determines financial need?

If your EFC is below a certain number, you may be eligible for a Federal Pell Grant, assuming you meet all other eligibility requirements. For need-based aid programs, the financial aid administrator at your college takes their cost of attendance and then subtracts your EFC to determine your financial need. Your financial need is simply defined as your eligibility for need-based financial aid:

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS...

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{Cost of Attendance (COA)} \\ - \text{Expected Family Contribution (EFC)} \\ \hline = \text{Financial Need} \end{array}$$

The EFC is the same at each college

The higher the cost of a college, the more eligibility you will have for financial aid! Schools will try to meet 100% of your financial need using federal aid, state aid, and institutional aid in gift aid (scholarships and grants), work-study, student loans and parent loans. Your Financial Aid Administrator will work with you to make their college an option for you to attend. **The following example shows your need using sample Cost of Attendance and Expected Family Contribution figures.**

COLLEGE A	COLLEGE B	COLLEGE C
12,000	21,000	48,000
-9,000	-9,000	-9,000
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\$3,000	\$12,000	\$39,000