FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT FORMS MUST BE COMPLETED IN ORDER TO RECEIVE COLLEGE FINANCIAL AID?
If the student is a U.S. Citizen or Legal Permanent Resident, they should fill out the online FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) at https://fafsa.ed.gov.

If the student is not a US Citizen or Legal Permanent Resident, including recipients of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), they should apply for financial aid using the TASFA (Texas Application for State Financial Aid) application. The TASFA application is available on the THECB website at http://www.collegeforalltexas.com/index.cfm?objectid=A3119543-CBF8-C202-F1B0EEFD5F4B9805

Note: If the student falls under another legal immigration status contact the college’s financial aid office.

HOW SOON CAN I SUBMIT MY FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION?
FAFSA and TASFA applications become available October 1 of each year. Students are encouraged to submit their financial aid applications as soon as possible. Check with your college of choice to ensure you meet their financial aid priority deadline.

WHAT IS AN FSA ID?
If you are filing a FAFSA, you and your parents will need to create an FSA ID (Federal Student Aid ID) in order to electronically sign your application. You can create an FSA ID at: https://fsaid.ed.gov.

DOES THE STUDENT HAVE TO COMPLETE THE FAFSA/TASFA EVERY YEAR?
Yes. Eligibility for financial aid does not carry over from one school year to the next. Students need to fill out the FAFSA or TASFA for each school year in which they plan to attend college. The table below indicates what income tax information and what financial aid application you should submit depending on which semesters you plan to attend college.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE OF COLLEGE ATTENDANCE</th>
<th>FAFSA/TASFA APPLICATION</th>
<th>USING INCOME AND TAX INFORMATION FROM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2019</td>
<td>Spring 2020</td>
<td>Summer 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2020</td>
<td>Spring 2021</td>
<td>Summer 2021</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DOES THE STUDENT HAVE THE OPTION TO USE THE MOST RECENT INCOME TAX INFORMATION ON THE FAFSA/TASFA?
No. Students are required to use the prior-prior year income tax information for the FAFSA and TASFA. For example, if the student is completing the 2019-2020 FAFSA or TASFA, they will use the 2017 income tax information (two years prior). If the family’s income has changed substantially since that tax year, talk to the financial aid office at the college of choice.

WHAT IS THE IRS DATA RETRIEVAL TOOL (DRT)?
The IRS DRT allows students and their parents to transfer tax return data directly into the online FAFSA application. The IRS DRT is available approximately three weeks after taxes are filed. Students who are filling out the FAFSA/TASFA may need to submit an IRS tax return transcript. The IRS tax return transcript is available approximately three weeks after taxes are filed. Request your tax transcript at www.irs.gov/individuals/get-transcript.

HOW SOON WILL I RECEIVE NOTICE OF MY FINANCIAL AID AWARD?
Award timelines vary by institution. Follow up with your college of choice regarding their financial aid award timeline.
1) FILE YOUR FAFSA OR TASFA EARLY! APPLICATIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OCTOBER 1.

2) BE PREPARED WITH THE FOLLOWING ITEMS

**FAFSA**
For U.S. Citizens & Legal Permanent Residents

- Social Security Number
- If you are not a U.S. Citizen—Alien Registration Number (A#)/USCIS Number/NIS Number
- Does not apply to students under DACA.
  - In most cases, DACA students should fill out TASFA

- Prior-Prior Year Income Tax Return
- Selective Service Registration (males only)
- FSA ID for electronic signature
  - (students and parents can create one at https://fsaid.ed.gov)

**TASFA**
For students who are not U.S. Citizens or Legal Permanent Residents and for students under DACA

- Affidavit of Intent to Become a Permanent Resident

- Confirmation of Eligibility Texas Educational Opportunity and Texas Grant

- Prior-Prior Year Income Tax Return Transcript or Non-Tax Filer Forms
  - Refer to your Financial Aid Office for guidelines.

- Selective Service Registration Card (males only)

- For additional information regarding the TASFA process reference Family Guide for DREAMers in the Rio Grande Valley

3) AFTER YOU SUBMIT YOUR FAFSA OR TASFA, VISIT, CALL, OR EMAIL THE FINANCIAL AID OFFICE AT YOUR COLLEGE OF CHOICE TO CONFIRM YOUR APPLICATION WAS RECEIVED.

**CONTACT INFORMATION for RIO GRANDE VALLEY FINANCIAL AID OFFICES**

- **South Texas College**
  - Federal School Code: 031034
  - Phone: (956) 872-8375
  - Email: fnaid@southtexascollege.edu
  - Website: studentservices.southtexascollege.edu/finaid/index.html

- **Texas Southmost College**
  - Federal School Code: 030646
  - Phone: (956) 295-3620
  - Email: financialaid@tsc.edu
  - Website: www.tsc.edu/financialaid

- **Texas State Technical College Harlingen**
  - Federal School Code: 003634
  - Phone: (956) 364-4330
  - Email: hrffnaid@tsttc.edu
  - Website: www.tsttc.edu/financialaid

- **University of Texas Rio Grande Valley**
  - Federal School Code: 003599
  - Phone: 888-882-4026
  - Email: fnaid@utrgv.edu
  - Website: www.utrgv.edu/fnaid

4) CHECK YOUR EMAIL OR COLLEGE PORTAL REGULARLY FOR CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE FINANCIAL AID OFFICE REGARDING POSSIBLE REQUIRED DOCUMENTS FOR VERIFICATION PROCESSES.