

Timely Tips for Financial Aid

1. Fill out your [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) early. The FAFSA applies for several things at once. The application applies for federal need-based aid, such as the Pell Grant. It also applies for Federal Student loans and some state-funded awards such as the APS (Alaska Performance Scholarship) and AEG (Alaska Education Grant), additionally, most scholarships will also require that you have at least filled out the FAFSA. Mark the date of the *FAFSA* and [University of Alaska Foundation Scholarship Application](#) openings, **October 1st. Don't forget to fill both applications out on an annual basis.**

-The 2023-24 FAFSA application **opened on October 1st, 2022**, and covers Fall 2023 through Summer 2024 and will require you to submit your (and if applicable, your parent's or spouse's) **2021** tax information.

-The 2024-25 FAFSA application opens up on **December 1st, 2023 (this is different than usual and will go back to the normal October 1st opening date after this year)**, covers Fall 2024 through Summer 2025 and will require you to submit your (and if applicable, your parent's or spouse's) **2022** tax information.

2. Follow up on your FAFSA and check to see if you have been selected for verification. 1 in 3 FAFSA filers are randomly selected for verification.

Procrastinating or not completing the verification process can delay financial aid payments.

3. Research scholarships you are interested in applying for and take note of the requirements and application submission deadlines. Don't forget to reapply yearly. Be wary of sites that charge for free services. The Mat-Su College scholarship page is a great place to start!

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4. Fine tune your statements of financial need and scholarship essay questions during slower parts of the year so you don't have to divert as much time from your studies during the busier parts of the year.

5. Comply with Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP), which is earning a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0, completing at least 67% of the classes you register for, and completing the program before you exceed 150% of the number of credits required for the program.

6. Ask for assistance! Make an appointment with a financial aid advisor. Financial aid advisors are here to help guide you throughout this process. We can help with technical questions, scholarship essays and funding resources. 7. Be aware of financial aid deadlines, you can add the financial aid calendar to your own calendar: [Financial Aid Calendar](#).