

WORTHY OF NOTE:

Seniors:

January kicks off FAFSA submission time!

Submit the form online at www.fafsa.ed.gov/

Jan. 28
FAFSA Financial Aid Workshop
W&M Room 201
Blow Memorial Hall
Richmond Road
(for all colleges)

College Acceptances

Auburn U

Belmont U

Christopher Newport U

Gonzaga U

Johnson & Wales U

James Madison U

Liberty U

Longwood U

Lynchburg College

UNC Chapel Hill

U of Kentucky

U of Mary Washington

U of Portland

U of Richmond

Radford U

U of Texas

U of Vermont

VCU

VMI

VA Tech

FOCUS ON THE FAFSA

To get financial aid, you need to apply for it!

It's Free!

In the world of financial aid, FAFSA is the acronym to know. FAFSA is the Free Federal Application for Federal Student Aid, which all U.S. colleges require students to submit for financial aid. Sending in the FAFSA means you'll be considered for aid from the U.S. government, such as the Pell Grant, Perkins Loan, Stafford Loan, and Federal Work-Study. State governments and individual colleges also use the FAFSA to assess whether you need more financial help than the U.S. government can give.

You can fill out the FAFSA application [online](#) (or from College Corner if you do not have access to the Internet). As you can tell by the name, the FAFSA is free.

It's Online!

Both the Department of Education and college financial aid officers encourage students to consider completing the [FAFSA on the Web](#).

Because the online FAFSA has built-in logic, it helps you avoid some of the errors common to the paper form (like accidentally skipping a question). You'll also cut the time it takes to process your application and get back to you.

Apply Now!

January is the month to fill out the FAFSA if you're planning to attend college this fall. (It won't be accepted before January 1, but get it in as soon as you can after the first.) The early bird definitely gets the worm when it comes to financial aid. Your state may have an early deadline for aid applications. And colleges only have a certain amount of money in their financial aid budgets. If you're late, the money could be gone.

One reason students and their parents delay filling out the FAFSA is that it asks for numbers from their income tax forms. Unless you can complete your income taxes in January, don't wait until they're done to start on the FAFSA.

It is better to make your best estimate and update later on.

College Acceptances—Bring in Your Good News!

Congratulations to all our seniors who have gained acceptance to college through early decision, early action, or rolling admission!

1. Bring in a copy of your letter of acceptance or online acceptance notification from all schools to the counseling office. The counselors appreciate admissions updates. The list on the left shows college acceptance letters that we have heard of at this

point in time. Please let us know your good news if you haven't already done so!

2. If you applied [Early Decision](#) and were accepted, it is wise to notify any other schools that you applied to, as backups, that you are withdrawing your application.

3. If you applied Early Decision and were deferred to regular decision, it is wise to notify the school that they are

still your first choice (but only if they really are) and you plan to attend if accepted through regular decision.

4. Early Action, Rolling candidates and Regular Decision applicants may want to wait to hear from all the institutions they applied to before deciding. This allows you to compare financial aid offers or even visit classes before you make a final decision.



Thank You!
To all the
Teachers and
Counselors Who
Spend HOURS
Writing Letters
of
Recommendation
For College and
Scholarship
Applications!!



Thank You!
Seniors who
bring in all
college
application
forms completed
and on time

FOCUS ON THE FAFSA *continued*

After you submit the FAFSA, you'll receive a Student Aid Report (SAR). Check it carefully to make sure that there are no errors. If you made estimates and now have the "real" numbers, update them on the SAR and send it back. If you made any corrections on your SAR, you'll receive a second one to confirm your corrections.

But Wait! There's More!

The FAFSA is not the only form in town, although it is the only one required by all colleges. Some colleges do require students to fill out other forms in addition to the FAFSA.

One common form is the [CSS Profile](#), which is administered by the College Board. The Profile asks for additional information that may not be on the FAFSA. It

may have different questions depending on which colleges you're sending it to. Unlike the FAFSA, the Profile has a fee. Some colleges don't use the Profile, preferring instead to send students their own form.

For More Information, Call Now!

Do all these forms have your head spinning? No need to panic. Your first source of information on financial aid applications is the colleges themselves. If you're not sure which forms to send to which colleges, call the colleges' financial aid offices and ask. While you're on the phone, double-check their financial aid deadlines.

And if the FAFSA is getting you down, visit the [FAFSA web site](#) or call 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243).

Written by Jennifer Gross for NACAC

Check the College Information Bulletin Board

Scholarships are coming in frequently this time of year. The board located in the Upper Commons is constantly updated.

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS:

Laura W. Twyford Memorial

- * Due February 24, 2012
- * 3 awarded at \$1000 each
- * Top 30% of graduating class
- * Outstanding character, citizenship, scholarship, and leadership
- * Plan to pursue teaching career
- * Plan to enroll in Virginia public or private College with teacher certification
- * www.hrecu.org/hrecu/Upload/Twyford.pdf



George E. Allen Academic Scholarship

- * Due March 1, 2012
- * Plan to attend college or trade school
- * Demonstrate ability for high achievement despite obstacles or special challenges
- * Demonstrate academic progress in high school
- * www.allenandallen.com/scholarships

WJCC Community Scholarship Fund

The application becomes available online through the WJCC website in March. Varying scholarship amounts given through a general scholarship fund and some named scholarships. Last year seniors in Williamsburg James City County received over \$44,000 in scholarships. **APPLY AS SOON AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE!!!**
www.wjcc.k12.va.us/content/schools/JLEF-site/index.html