



## COLLEGE COUNSELING/GUIDANCE

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### FAFSA

On October 1, students may begin filling out the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#) (FAFSA).

This affects seniors most immediately, but all families should consider learning a bit about this process now. For instance, [here is some advice for all families about maximizing FAFSA opportunities](#), with regard to retirement and student savings.

Public colleges and universities and some private institutions rely on FAFSA to determine need-based financial aid, and many private institutions tie their financial support to completion of the FAFSA (or another form called [the CSS Profile](#)). Georgia students can benefit from completing the FAFSA as a step toward HOPE/Zell Miller eligibility. Many schools and colleges have a financial aid deadline as well as an application deadline, so we recommend that families apply as early as possible and in advance of college decisions.

- [Here is a useful graphic overview of the process.](#)
- [Detailed instructions for the FAFSA are here.](#)
- The FAFSA form is on the myStudentAid app, available on the [App Store](#) (iOS) or on [Google Play](#) (Android).
- [Here is some advice about maximizing FAFSA opportunities](#) with regard to retirement and student savings.

Don't assume that your income disqualifies you or makes this form pointless! [Here is a brief article/video explaining three good reasons why everyone should fill out the FAFSA](#), and [here are some common misconceptions about the process](#).

More info about HOPE Scholarship is here: [GA Futures HOPE/Zell Miller Scholarship Application Directions](#).

As always, feel free to contact us with any questions!