**DO**

Gather your materials:
- Tax returns for you and/or your parents
- Asset records for you and/or your parents, including bank statements and investments
- Social Security numbers for you and your parents
- Driver’s license or government ID
- Federal school codes for the schools you will be applying to
- FSA ID

**DO**

Fill out the application early.
- Application will be available October 1.
- Financial aid at some schools is first come, first served, so apply as early as possible.

**DO**

Fill out the FAFSA online.
- It takes about 30 minutes.
- Take advantage of the IRS Data Retrieval Tool to automatically transfer your tax info.

**DON’T**

Skip the FAFSA.
- Most people qualify for some financial aid.
- It’s the first step toward paying for college.

**DON’T**

Feel intimidated by the FAFSA.
- Use the FAFSA assistant at CollegeCovered.com to make sure you have the right materials and are prepared to fill out the application.

Visit CollegeCovered.com for other helpful tools on how to pay for college.

Sources: Federal Student Aid/US Department of Education

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