

COVID-19 & FAFSA

Important Message for Class of 2021 seniors

Unfortunately, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, many families are experiencing unexpected financial burdens, including unemployment or a decrease in pay.

If you plan to complete the **2021-22 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**, please note that this application uses tax information from 2019 to determine your eligibility for federal financial aid. The FAFSA will be available October 1, 2020. The deadline to complete the FAFSA in Maryland is March 1, 2020. **If your financial situation has changed drastically since 2019, it is very important to contact the college or university as soon as possible to discuss your options.** Each institution will have its own method for reassessing your financial need and documenting your new financial situation.

If you receive a check or deposit from the federal government in response to the COVID-19 emergency, The Department of Education has also clarified that you should not report this money as an asset on the FAFSA.

If you have additional questions or need help completing the FAFSA, contact your school Counselor, or email College Goal Maryland at collegegoalmaryland@gmail.com or the Maryland College Application Campaign (MCAC) at michelle.daley@maryland.gov or benee.edwards@maryland.gov