

# Admissions and Financial Aid

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W.O.M.E.N. Event Parent Program

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"I would found an institution where any person can find instruction in any study." - Ezra Cornell, 1868

# Why Attend College?

- **Conventional reasons:**

- Job opportunities and security in a changing economy
- Greater earning potential
- Gain independence

- **Other reasons:**

- Stability for a family
- Better health
- Community engagement

- **Attending college helps students:**

- Build knowledge, skills, and brainpower
- Discover new passions
- Follow and satisfy curiosity
- Learn more about themselves
- Bond with new friends
- Prepare for a future in which they are better equipped to give back



# Admissions





# Application Process

- **A typical application fee is \$50-\$80.**
  - Many schools will waive fees for students who qualify for free or reduced lunch
  - Some schools will waive fees for attending recruiting events
- **Three ways to apply:**
  - Regular decision
  - Early decision – admission announced early and this school must be attended
  - Early action – admission announced early but it is nonbinding
- **The application type does not affect ability to apply for financial aid.**

# Cornell Admission Timelines

	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL
Early Decision			●	◎							
Regular Decision					●			◎	◎		
<div> <div>● Application due</div> <div>◎ Decisions announced</div> <div>◎ Submit reply</div> </div>											

# Application Process



- **Typical application components:**
  1. Application and fee
  2. Official secondary school transcript of grades
  3. Midyear report from school counselor
  4. SAT or ACT results
  5. Letters of recommendation from teachers
  6. Letter of recommendation from school counselor
  7. A personal statement (essay) describing a special interest or important/meaningful achievement
  8. School-specific financial aid application
- **Almost all schools only accept online applications.**
  1. Unique to university
  2. Common Application
  3. Universal College Application

← These allow for easy application to multiple schools
- **Application requirements and deadlines vary by institution. Visit school websites for the most accurate information.**

# Finding the Right College

- **College Board:**

- [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)
- SAT preparation
- College search
- Professional development
- College planning



- **Compiled for each university:**

- At a Glance (General Statistics)
- Application Requirements
- Standardized Test Scores
- Deadlines
- Cost & Financial Aid
- Academics & Support
- Majors & Learning Environment
- Housing & Campus Life
- Sports & Activities

# Finding the Right College

Dream Schools	<p><b>Academic:</b> Your credentials fall in the lower end, or even below, the average range.</p> <p><b>Financial:</b> Large price tag.</p>
Match Schools	<p><b>Academic:</b> Your credentials fall within the average range.</p>
Safety Schools	<p><b>Academic:</b> Your credentials exceed the average range. You should be reasonably certain that you will be admitted to these schools.</p> <p><b>Financial:</b> There should be at least one school on this list that your family can afford.</p>



# Finding the Right College

When choosing a list of schools, consider:

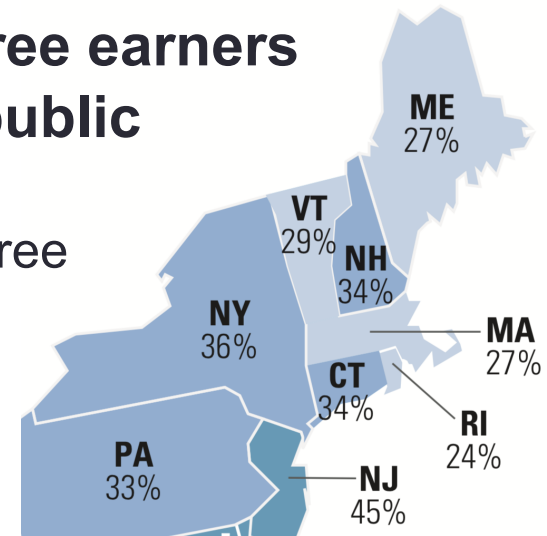


- **Total undergraduate enrollment** – Do you want a big/small school?
- **Distance from home** – Do you plan to live in the dorms or commute?
- **Public vs. private** – The biggest difference might be cost of tuition
- **Urban vs. rural** – Do you want to live in or near a major city?
- **Average class size** – Can affect ease of access to professors
- **Technical or not** – Some schools offer primarily STEM majors
- **Sports** – Is playing sports or attending events important to you?
- **Flexibility of class schedule** – How many electives can you take?  
Can you take time off to pursue internships?
- **Clubs** – Joining clubs will help you find people with similar interests

# Community Colleges

- **In NY, 36% of 2015-2016 bachelor's degree earners were previously enrolled at a two-year public institution.**

- In the US, 37% completed their bachelor's degree within 2-3 years of their most recent prior enrollment at a two-year institution



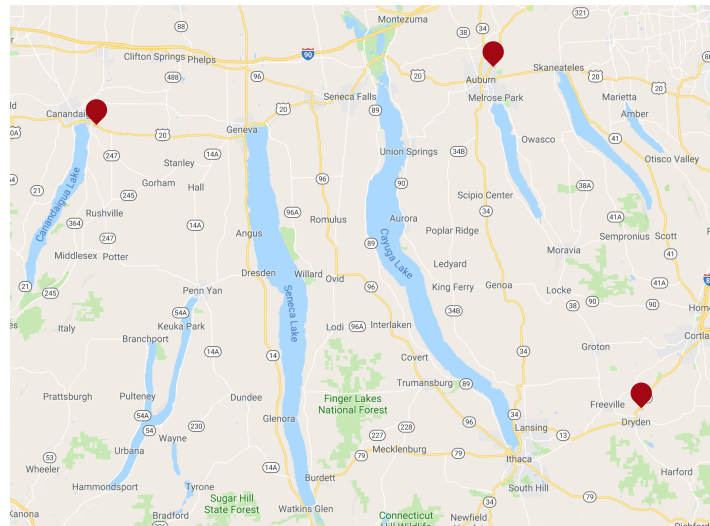
- **Consider community college if:**

- You are tight on funds
- You are not sure if you want to go to a four-year college
- You are not sure what kind of program you want to pursue
- You want to build your skills or GPA before transferring to a four-year university
- You are seeking a flexible schedule to work around a job or other commitments

# Community Colleges

- **Many local community colleges have transfer articulation agreements with four-year institutions.**

- Tompkins Cortland: 33
- Cayuga: 20
- Finger Lakes: 38



- **There is typically a transfer services office on campus.**

# What to Do After Being Accepted

- **Visit each campus and ask the tour guide or other students lots of questions:**
  - What is the work/life balance?
  - What do you do for fun?
  - What is the culture like here? Ask someone in your department as well
  - What is the cost of living? Include food and off-campus housing, if allowed later
  - Do you have a car? How much does parking cost?
  - Does the school offer career support?
- **If possible, spend some time in the areas surrounding campus**
- **Discuss options with family members or teachers/counselors**
- **Compare colleges and their financial aid awards by making lists**
  - Decide what can be afforded or how loans will be managed
- **Make the decision**
  - Respond to the college you decide to attend
  - Let the other colleges know you will not be attending
- **Finish high school**





# In the Event of No Acceptances

- **Consider:**
  - Retaking standardized exams
  - Rewriting the personal statement
  - Strengthening the overall application by participating in extracurricular/volunteer activities
  - Applying to community college
- **If the dream, match, and safety school categorization is used, it is very unlikely to get no acceptances.**



# Financial Aid



# Cost of Attending College

## Average Published Charges for Full-Time Undergraduates in the US by Sector, 2018-19

	Public Two-Year In-District	Public Four-Year In-State	Public Four-Year Out-of-State	Private Nonprofit Four-Year
Tuition and Fees	\$3,660	\$10,230	\$26,290	\$35,830
Room and Board	\$8,660	\$11,140	\$11,140	\$12,680
Total	\$12,320	\$21,370	\$37,430	\$48,510
Change from 17-18	2.3%	2.8%	2.6%	3.2%

# Types of Aid

- **Four main types of aid:**



1. **Grants – do not have to be repaid**

- Can be awarded by federal, state, or institution
- Can be based on financial need (household income), based on merit (GPA, test scores), or student-specific (minorities, women, students with disabilities)

2. **Scholarships – do not have to be repaid**

- Can be awarded by institutions or private organizations
- Can be based on academic performance, athletic ability, among others

3. **Work Study – provided a federally funded job on campus**

- Pay is variable depending on position and school

4. **Loans – must be repaid**

- PLUS: taken out by parents of students with need
- Federal Subsidized: interest does not accrue while in school
- Federal Unsubsidized: interest does accrue while in school
- Private: provided by private institutions at higher interest rates

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# FAFSA

- **FAFSA – Free Application for Federal Student Aid:**
  - The first stop for financial aid, <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>
- **Application information for the 2019-2020 year:**
  - Federal Financial Aid Deadline: June 30, 2020
  - State Financial Aid Deadline: June 30, 2020 for NY, but each state is different
    - Additional forms are required for many states
  - Some schools can run out of financial aid, so these applications should be filled out as soon as possible (mid-February)



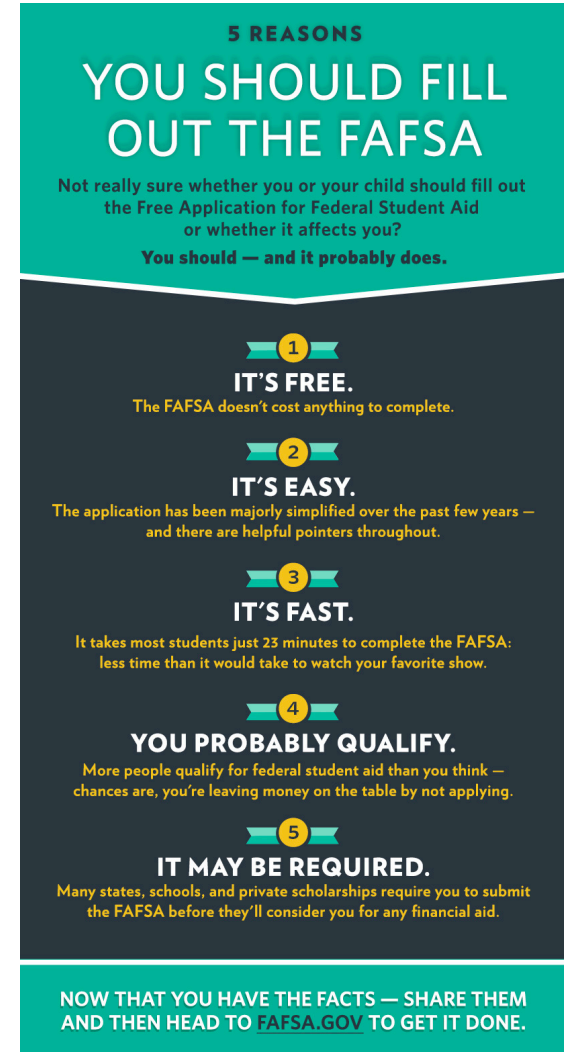
# What is Needed to Apply For FAFSA

- Social Security Number. It is important to enter this correctly!
- Driver's License (if applicable)
- Alien Registration Number (if not a U.S. citizen)
- Most recent federal income tax returns, W-2s, and other records of money earned
- Bank statements and records of investments (if applicable)
- Records of untaxed income (if applicable)
- Business or investment farm records (if applicable)
- Records relating to any unusual family financial circumstances (if applicable)
- Title IV Institution Codes for each school being applied to
- A Federal Student Aid ID to sign electronically

**If the student is a dependent, then they will also need most of the above information for the parent(s).**

<https://fafsa.ed.gov/help/before003.htm>

<http://www.fastweb.com/financial-aid/articles/fafsa-checklist>

An infographic titled "5 REASONS YOU SHOULD FILL OUT THE FAFSA". It lists five reasons why students should fill out the FAFSA: 1. IT'S FREE. 2. IT'S EASY. 3. IT'S FAST. 4. YOU PROBABLY QUALIFY. 5. IT MAY BE REQUIRED. The infographic is designed with a teal header and footer, and a dark grey body with yellow and teal accents.

**5 REASONS**

## YOU SHOULD FILL OUT THE FAFSA

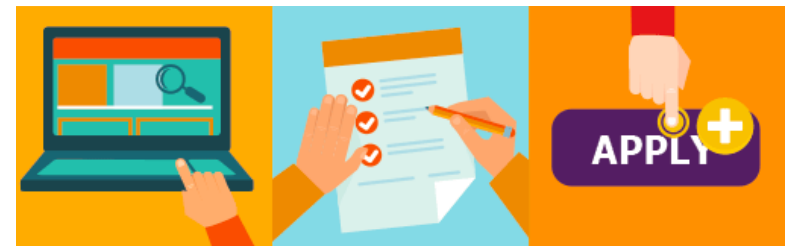
Not really sure whether you or your child should fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid or whether it affects you?  
**You should — and it probably does.**

- 1 IT'S FREE.**  
The FAFSA doesn't cost anything to complete.
- 2 IT'S EASY.**  
The application has been majorly simplified over the past few years — and there are helpful pointers throughout.
- 3 IT'S FAST.**  
It takes most students just 23 minutes to complete the FAFSA: less time than it would take to watch your favorite show.
- 4 YOU PROBABLY QUALIFY.**  
More people qualify for federal student aid than you think — chances are, you're leaving money on the table by not applying.
- 5 IT MAY BE REQUIRED.**  
Many states, schools, and private scholarships require you to submit the FAFSA before they'll consider you for any financial aid.

**NOW THAT YOU HAVE THE FACTS — SHARE THEM AND THEN HEAD TO [FAFSA.GOV](https://fafsa.gov) TO GET IT DONE.**

# School-Specific Financial Aid

- **When providing offers, schools make need-blind or need-aware admissions decisions.**
  - Need-blind schools admit students independent of their ability to afford the school
  - Need-aware schools consider the students' financial situations in the admissions process
- **Many schools require applicants to create a CSS (College Scholarship Service) profile through College Board.**
  - This is an application for non-federal aid (to be completed in addition to FAFSA) in the form of grants and scholarships
  - The awards are need-based
  - The applications for 2019-2020 opened on October 1, 2018
  - Start the profile at least two weeks before the application deadline



# Additional Notes

- **Plan ahead for relocation expenses:**
  - Transporting belongings, purchasing dorm room accessories
  - For off-campus housing: down payment, security deposit, furniture
- **The best place to buy books is online:**
  - <http://www.amazon.com/>
  - <http://www.ebay.com/>
  - Buying used or digital books is typically cheaper
- **If possible, pay for these expenses out of pocket.**







Thank you for your attention!  
Questions?

Contact Colleen at [ccl233@cornell.edu](mailto:ccl233@cornell.edu) with any questions in the future.