

FAFSA: What You Need to Know - Lesson Plan Script

For the 2025-26 FAFSA

Slide	Educator Script
FAFSAL What You Need to Know	Let's talk about the FAFSA and why you need to complete it.
What is the FAFSA?	The FAFSA is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and is your application for federal, state, and college-based financial aid.
FAFSA: HS Graduation Requirement	<p>Starting with the class of 2025, Nebraska law requires all public high school students to complete and submit the FAFSA, or actively opt out, as a graduation requirement.</p> <p>The law ensures that all Nebraska seniors complete the FAFSA, unlocking federal financial aid and encouraging you to consider further education beyond high school.</p> <p>Don't leave money on the table. In 2022, Half of Nebraska graduates missed out on \$23 million by not filing.</p> <p>Also, the law supports Nebraska's goal of 70% credential attainment by 2030.</p>
What is College?	College is more than a four-year institution.
Universities & College	College might be a four-year university or college where you earn a bachelor's degree. Many of those schools also offer master's and doctorate degrees.
Community College	College might mean a community college that offers certificates, diplomas, associate degrees, or academic transfer programs to a four-year college.
Trade Schools	Or, college might mean a trade school that offers certificates and diplomas. Typically, in Nebraska, you'd be looking at a cosmetology or massage therapy school.
Types of Financial Aid	Let's dive into the types of financial aid you might receive after completing the FAFSA.
4 Ways to Pay for College	There are four ways to pay for college, including scholarships, grants, work-study, and student loans. By completing the FAFSA, you are applying for grants, work-study, and student loans. Scholarships require a separate application process.

Scholarship Resources	<p>When searching for scholarships, check out ScholarshipQuest at EducationQuest.org. It contains more than 2,000 Nebraska-based scholarships.</p> <p>Most scholarships come from local resources and from the college you plan to attend.</p> <p>Don't ever pay for scholarship services!</p>
Grants	<p>Grants are based on financial need, and you don't repay them. Complete the FAFSA to see if you qualify for federal, state, or college-based grants.</p> <p>Some grants are awarded first come, first served, so don't delay in completing your FAFSA.</p>
Work-Study	<p>Work-study is offered to students based on their financial need and is usually a part-time job on campus. The earnings can be used for personal and transportation expenses.</p> <p>This is also a great way for a student to network with staff and faculty who can be used as references in the future for internships and jobs.</p>
How much can you borrow in student loans?	<p>These amounts are the total a student can borrow each year in college. The amount is comprised of subsidized and unsubsidized loans.</p>
Direct Student Loans	<p>Your FAFSA results will determine which type of loan you qualify to receive.</p> <p>If it's a subsidized loan, the government pays the interest while you are in school. If it's an unsubsidized loan, you are responsible for all accrued interest.</p> <p>Repayment begins six months after you graduate or drop below half-time status.</p>
Direct PLUS Loan for Parents	<p>These loans are in the parent's name and the college determines how much your parent can borrow.</p> <p>Repayment begins 60 days after the loan is fully dispersed, and the interest rate is higher than a student loan.</p>

What happens after you file the FAFSA?	Now that you know the types of financial aid, let's talk about what happens after you file the FAFSA.
Expect a FAFSA Submission Summary	<p>The FAFSA Submission Summary is the confirmation that the FAFSA has been filed and the results sent to all colleges listed on the FAFSA.</p> <p>It will inform the student of their Student Aid Index (SAI) and an estimate of the Pell Grant or Direct Student Loan they may be eligible to receive.</p> <p>It will also let them know if they were chosen for verification.</p>
Be prepared for Verification	If the student is selected for verification, the college will request additional documentation to verify the information on the FAFSA. The college will not offer financial aid to the student until the verification process is complete.
Financial Aid Formula	<p>Colleges use this formula to determine how much you qualify for in financial aid.</p> <p>The cost of education includes tuition and fees, housing and food, and personal and transportation expenses. The student aid index is your FAFSA results.</p> <p>The amount you show in financial need is what the college can award you in financial aid.</p>
Sample Financial Aid Offer	If you were accepted for admission, the colleges listed on your FAFSA will send you a financial aid offer outlining the amounts and types of financial aid you can receive at their school. Here is a sample financial aid offer.
FAFSA Deadlines	<p>Financial aid deadlines vary by state and institution, and some states and colleges have priority deadlines for awarding aid, usually in the spring.</p> <p>Your best option is to complete the FAFSA early! If you miss these deadlines, you can still submit the FAFSA to be considered for a Pell Grant or a student loan.</p>
Questions?	Do you have any questions?