

**Washington Student
Achievement Council**



ON THE ROAD TO COLLEGE

What College Bound Students Need to Know About Their Scholarship

February 2012



CONGRATULATIONS

Your college journey is about to begin. You worked hard in school, had fun with your friends, and acquired a lifetime of memories from your middle and high school years.

Now, it's time to look ahead to the next part of your life's journey – attending college. Whether you go to a 2- or 4- year college or live at home or on campus, you are about to embark on a new adventure. One key component to your success will be understanding how your College Bound Scholarship works. So, let's begin!



COLLEGE BOUND CHECKLIST

To receive the scholarship, you must:

- ❑ Have a complete application on file at the Council (formerly known as HECB).
- ❑ File the FAFSA as soon as possible - you can file Jan.1!
- ❑ Graduate high school with a 2.0 or higher.
- ❑ Be a good citizen with no felony convictions.
- ❑ Enroll within one year of high school graduation in one of the 67 eligible institutions in Washington
<http://www.wsac.wa.gov/sites/default/files/SNG-EligibleInstitutions2012-13.pdf>
- ❑ Be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen.
 - Resources for undocumented students:
<http://www.wsac.wa.gov/PayingForCollege/FinancialAid/FAQ/Undocumented>





MILEPOST 1

FAFSA: What It Is and Why It's Important



WHAT IS THE FAFSA?

FAFSA is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid

It is the primary application for student aid and is used for federal and state grants, work study, and other assistance.

You should file the FAFSA even if you are unsure about attending college, how much financial aid you might need, or what other scholarships you may receive.

www.fafsa.gov



FAFSA FOR THE COLLEGE BOUND

- ❑ In your senior year, complete the FAFSA in a timely manner – as soon after January 1 as possible.
- ❑ File over the web – it is much faster than paper.
- ❑ Check with your college – there may be additional financial aid forms and deadlines.

And remember

- ❑ You may complete the FAFSA **before** your parents do their taxes – you can update your FAFSA later.
- ❑ Don't wait until you are admitted to college.

www.fafsa.gov



WHY HAVEN'T YOU FILED THE FAFSA?

- ❑ You forgot, the deadline has passed, and you are afraid it's too late.
- ❑ You heard it's really difficult to complete.
- ❑ You may not meet all the College Bound requirements (HS graduation, 2.0 GPA, income).
- ❑ Your parents haven't filed their taxes.
- ❑ You aren't sure you want to go to college.
- ❑ You do not have a Social Security Number



REASONS TO FILE THE FAFSA

- ❑ It's not too late. The deadline was to make sure you received the most financial aid possible. The state committed to provide you support if you are eligible – but you still have to complete the FAFSA.
- ❑ The FAFSA takes about 30 minutes and it's also available in Spanish. Need help? Go to www.fafsa.ed.gov/contact.htm
- ❑ Not eligible for College Bound? File anyway – you may be eligible for other financial aid programs.



MORE REASONS TO FILE

- ❑ You can use last year's tax information. After your parents do their taxes, log in to www.fafsa.gov to update the information.
- ❑ You don't have to know where, or even if you are going to college. When you come to that part on the FAFSA, enter the code for your local college. Then, when you decide, you will have the funding.
- ❑ To find out if you are eligible even if you don't have a Social Security Number, go to www.studentaid.ed.gov click on *Glossary* and scroll to "eligible noncitizen."



FAFSA TIPS

FAFSA Completion Tips

- ❑ Read the directions.
- ❑ Make sure your SSN & date of birth are accurate.
- ❑ You and your parents must sign the form.
- ❑ Keep copies of your family's prior year's taxes.
- ❑ Include codes for all the colleges you apply to.
- ❑ Complete the FAFSA every year and file early!
- ❑ Never pay someone to fill out the FAFSA. The FAFSA is always **FREE**.

www.fafsa.gov





MILEPOST 2

What Happens to Your
FAFSA



YOUR FAFSA RECORD

The Department of Education will send your FAFSA application data to the colleges you list on your FAFSA and to the Council, formerly known as HECB.

- ❑ The Council will match your FAFSA application to your College Bound application and notify you via e-mail if we are successful.
- ❑ The Council will send your name to the college(s) you listed on your FAFSA.



If you don't hear from the Council within 2 weeks of submitting your FAFSA, call us at 1-888-535-0747

- **notification will be to the email listed on your FAFSA**





MILEPOST 3

How Your Award is Prepared



YOUR COLLEGE BOUND AWARD

- ❑ Your name will be sent to colleges confirming that you are a College Bound student.
- ❑ The college will determine if your income meets the guidelines, calculate your financial aid award and send you an **Award Letter**.
- ❑ Completing the FAFSA early helps you receive the best financial aid award!



YOUR COLLEGE BOUND AWARD

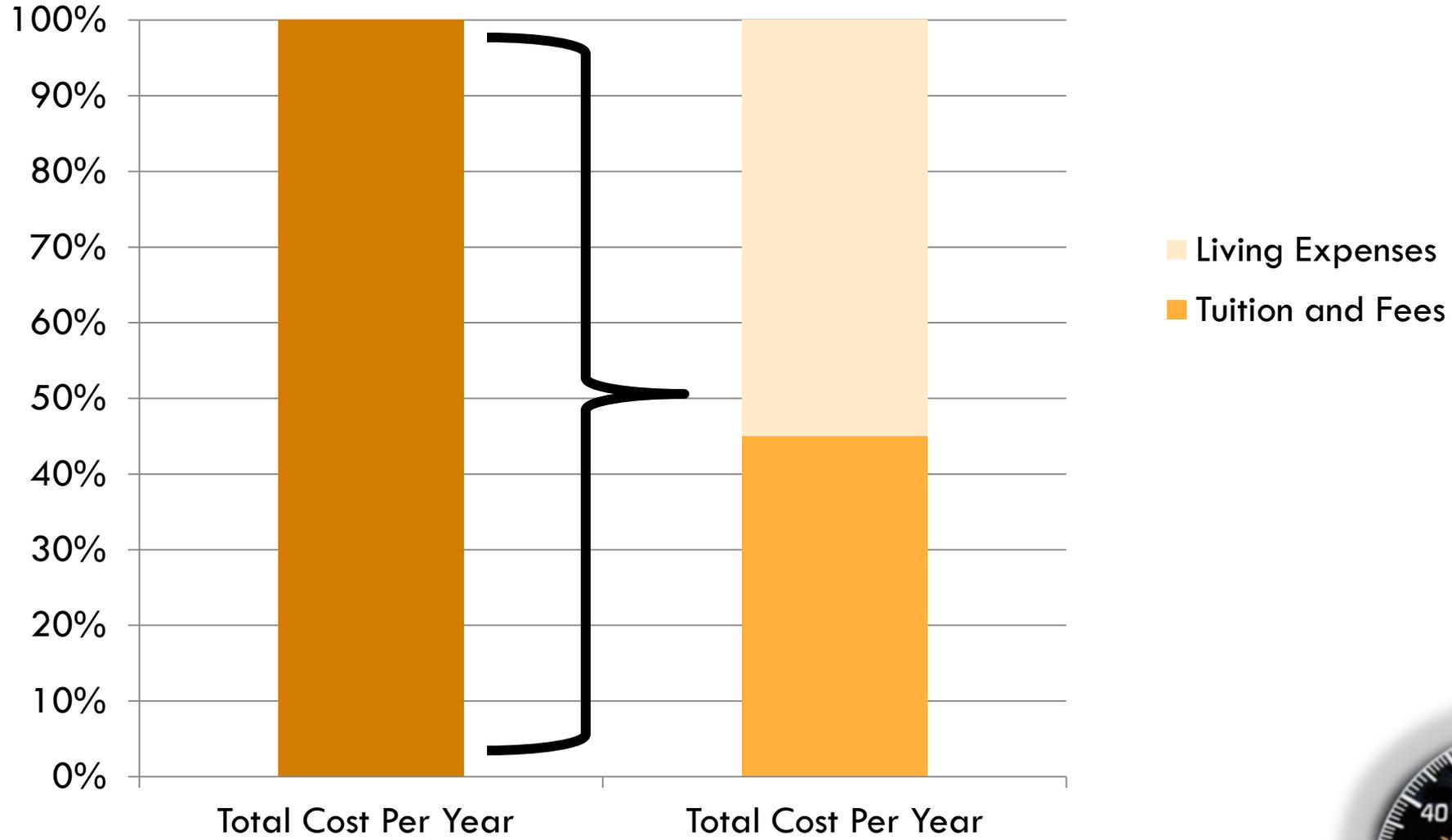
Your College Bound award may consist of State Need Grant, College Bound and other state aid.

State Need Grant is the largest state financial aid program.

- ❑ College Bound was designed to coordinate with State Need Grant to cover the maximum award.
- ❑ The maximum award is based on tuition (at public institution rates), fees and a book allowance.
- ❑ Your campus award letter will describe your specific award amounts.



COMBINED AWARD EXAMPLE



WHY YOU MAY NOT RECEIVE THE FULL AWARD

College Bound may not be offered or may be reduced if:

- ❑ Your family's income does not meet the income standard.
- ❑ Your financial aid award is greater than your financial "need."
- ❑ You do not enroll full-time.





MILEPOST 4

Final Tips for the Road



FAFSA REMINDERS

- ❑ Complete the FAFSA in your senior year. Be at the “front of the line” by filing as soon after Jan. 1 as possible.
- ❑ Check with your college’s financial aid office for additional forms and deadlines.
- ❑ Complete a new FAFSA every year you are in college; file early.
- ❑ Never pay to fill out the FAFSA – it is FREE.



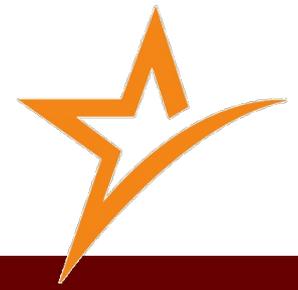
COLLEGE BOUND

IMPORTANT POINTS

- ❑ The College Bound Scholarship is a four-year scholarship that must be used within five years –
Equal to 12 quarters or eight semesters maximum.
- ❑ You must enroll in college within one year of high school graduation.
- ❑ Enrollment does not have to be continuous.
- ❑ You may enroll part-time but your scholarship will be reduced.
- ❑ You must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP).



YOUR JOURNEY ONWARD



Earning a college degree or certificate is one of the best steps you can take to ensure that your future will be rewarding, secure, and economically stable. You have demonstrated that you have what it takes to be successful – persistence, vision, and discipline.

You are now ready to begin this part of your journey-

YOU ARE COLLEGE BOUND!



RESOURCES

FAFSA and general financial aid information:

www.fafsa.gov



College Bound information

www.collegebound.wa.gov

Washington State financial aid programs:

www.wsac.wa.gov

theWashBoard.org: for Washington scholarships

www.thewashboard.org



Resources for undocumented students

www.wsac.wa.gov/PayingForCollege/FinancialAid/FAQ/Undocumented

 [College Bound Blog](#)



[I Am College Bound](#)

