

What's So Great About Doing the FAFSASM Online?

The *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSASM) is available to fill out online at www.fafsa.gov. The site is known as *FAFSA on the Web*SM. You should use *FAFSA on the Web* instead of a paper FAFSA because:

It's quick.

- You'll get your results as much as three weeks faster than someone who uses the paper FAFSA. Speed is important when schools are awarding limited financial aid resources.
- You have instant access to an estimated Expected Family Contribution and estimates of how much federal aid you might receive.

It's easy.

- *FAFSA on the Web* has detailed help screens for every question.
- You can get live, private online help from a customer service representative.
- Based on your answers to certain questions, *FAFSA on the Web* skips lots of questions that don't apply to you. If you fill out the paper FAFSA, you'll have to read all those questions and figure out whether they are relevant to you.

It's accurate.

- *FAFSA on the Web* notices when you've supplied answers that contradict each other, and it gives you the chance to correct your mistakes before submitting the information.
- Because of the online help and the fact that *FAFSA on the Web* checks for contradictory answers, your online application is less likely than a paper FAFSA to be delayed by the need for corrections.

It's safe.

- *FAFSA on the Web* uses encryption, which means the information you send to the site is turned into code so that anyone attempting to access your information will not be able to read it.

Okay, I believe you! What do I do now?

- Get a personal identification number called a PIN at www.pin.ed.gov.
- Find out what documents you need using the checklist in "What Information Do I Need When I Fill Out the FAFSA?" at www.studentaid.ed.gov/pubs.
- Fill out the *FAFSA on the Web Worksheet* at www.studentaid.ed.gov/worksheet (this step is optional; the worksheet was designed for students who feel more comfortable filling something out on paper before going online to enter their application information).
- Fill out the FAFSA at www.fafsa.gov.
- Keep an eye on your e-mail inbox for a response and further instructions.

