

FAFSA INFORMATION AND TIPS

Before you even start the FAFSA, make sure, when you do your College of the Canyons admissions application, you **MUST** use your social security number on your application **EVEN** though the application says it is optional. You can apply here: www.canyons.edu/newstudent.

Create an FSA ID account (for you the student and ONE parent). This FSA ID gives you access to Federal Student Aid's online systems and can serve as your legal signature. www.fsaid.ed.gov

Fill out the FAFSA. Go to www.fafsa.gov and start answering the questions. You should gather the following information to complete your FAFSA: Social Security number, driver's license number, Federal tax information or tax returns (including W-2 information). If you are a dependent, you will need your parent's tax information.

Avoid Common Errors: Some of the most common FAFSA errors are:

- Listing an incorrect Social Security Number or driver's license number: Double-check and triple-check these entries to ensure accuracy. If your parents do not have Social Security Numbers, list 000-00-0000. Do not make up a number or include a Taxpayer Identification Number.
- Forgetting to list College of the Canyons as your school. **COC's Federal school code: 008903.**
- Do not enter nicknames; your name must be listed on your FAFSA as it appears on your Social Security card.
- Entering the wrong federal income tax paid amount: This amount is on your income tax return forms from two years prior, not your W-2 form(s).
- Incorrectly filing income taxes as head of household: If there is an error in the head of household filing status, the school will need an amended tax return to be filed with the IRS before paying out aid awards.
- Listing parent marital status incorrectly: If your custodial parent has remarried, you'll need to include the stepparent's information on the FAFSA
- Failure to list both parents if they live together: If both your legal parents (defined as biological or adoptive parents) live in the same household, you are required to list both parents on the FAFSA even if they are not married.
- Failing to register with Selective Service: If you are a male, aged 18 to 26, you must register with Selective Service. Failure to register will make you ineligible for federal student aid.
- Forgetting to have your parents sign and date: If you are filling out the paper FAFSA, be sure to print out the signature page and have your parents mail it to our office.

What is an EFC?

The Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is a measure of your family's financial strength and is calculated according to a formula established by law. Your family's income, assets, and benefits are all considered in the formula. Also considered is your family size and the number of family members who will attend college during the year.

Note: Your EFC is **not** your family's yearly income or the amount of money your family will have to pay for college **nor** is it the amount of federal student aid you will receive. It is a number used by your school to calculate the amount of federal student aid you are eligible to receive.

Still have questions? Contact us!

Financial Aid Office

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