

PAYING FOR COLLEGE

It's time to complete the FAFSA!

NOW ? WHAT

WHAT?

FAFSA stands for **Free Application for Federal Student Aid**. It's the tool the federal government, universities, and even some state aid agencies use to determine your eligibility for federal and other sources of financial aid.

The new Prior Prior Year FAFSA available beginning October. Many universities have a priority FAFSA deadline, so be sure to submit the FAFSA before that date. **GMercyU's Priority FAFSA Deadline is January 15.**

You'll need to complete the FAFSA each year you're planning to attend college.

WHEN?

HOW?

Filling out the FAFSA should take less than an hour if you follow these simple steps.

1 GATHER YOUR INFORMATION

- ✓ Social Security Number
- ✓ Current or previous year's Federal Tax Return or Tax Information that includes earnings, untaxed income, savings and investments

Students who are supported by a parent(s) need to provide information for both the student and the parent(s)

2 LOG ON

- ✓ Go to fafsa.gov
- ✓ Set up or enter your FSA ID
- ✓ Follow the step-by-step instructions provided. You can even save your information and come back later if you need to.
- ✓ Enter the school code for each school you want to receive your information.
GMercyU's code is 003270.



GET HELP!



There are trained financial aid professionals available to help at no charge. So, if you have questions, just ask. GMercyU's financial aid office can be reached at 215-646-7300, ext. 216 or financialaid@gmercyu.edu. You can also contact fafsa.gov or 800-433-3243.

TIP:

Help in completing the FAFSA is available to you at NO COST. Don't pay for help you can get for free!

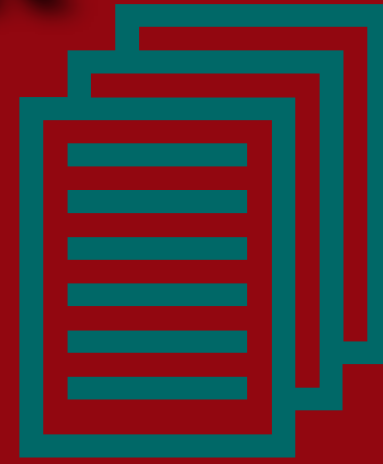
YOU'RE ALMOST THERE!



Once your FAFSA has been submitted, you may be asked to provide additional documentation. Be sure to respond promptly to these requests! Schools cannot send you a comprehensive financial aid award letter until all required documentation is received.

REVIEW YOUR OPTIONS

Once your financial aid application is complete, you should receive a comprehensive financial aid package within just a couple of weeks from the schools you listed on the FAFSA form.



TIP:

Not all financial aid is created equal. Grants and scholarships do not need to be repaid, but loans do. Carefully compare the types of aid being offered by each school.

ACCEPT YOUR AWARD

To accept your award, you will need to sign your award letter (or a financial aid acceptance form) provided by the school. Be sure to sign and return the letter/form by the deadline provided so your financial aid can be disbursed.



TIP:

Remember, loans need to be repaid so it's best not to borrow any more than you need to cover your direct educational costs.



Gwynedd Mercy University

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