

# BENSON POLYTECHNIC HIGH SCHOOL

## SPRING FINANCIAL AID NIGHT



**Tuesday, February 13, 2018**

**ATTENTION:** Seniors and Parents

Scholarships and college application deadlines are quickly approaching. Don't miss out on financial opportunities. Get your FAFSA/ORSAA, Oregon Promise, and OSAC applications done!

**Join us in the Counseling Center from 6:00-7:00PM for a hands-on workshop and pizza! Don't forget your 2016 tax documents.**

## Let's get it done!

What you need to bring with you:

To complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), you will need:

- **Your Social Security Number**
  - You can find the number on your Social Security card. If you don't have access to it, and don't know where it is, ask your parent or legal guardian or [get a new or replacement Social Security card](#) from the Social Security Administration.
- **Your Alien Registration Number** (if you are not a U.S. citizen)
- **Your federal income tax returns**, W-2s, and other records of money earned. (
  - Your 2016 tax records\*)
- **Bank statements** and records of investments (if applicable)
  - This includes savings and checking account balances, as well as the value of investments such as stocks and bonds and real estate (except the home in which your family lives).
- **Records of untaxed income** (if applicable)
  - The FAFSA questions about untaxed income may or may not apply to you, but they include things like child support received, interest income, and veterans noneducation benefits.
- **A FSA ID** to sign electronically.
  - An FSA ID is a username and password that you can use to log in to certain U.S. Department of Education (ED) websites. Each student, and one parent of each dependent student, will need an FSA ID to complete the FAFSA process on [fafsa.gov](#).

### DACA

If you are DACA or qualify for DACA, you can still apply for financial aid. It's called the ORSAA. **The ORSAA is an alternative to the FAFSA** for undocumented Oregon students, including students who have DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) status. The ORSAA opens in October each year. Do *NOT* complete the ORSAA if you are a U.S. citizen or a legal noncitizen with an Alien Registration number.

If you are a DACA student, you *may* want to complete the FAFSA in addition to the ORSAA. Contact the financial aid office at your college to find out if you should complete both the FAFSA and ORSAA.

Eligible undocumented and DACA students in Oregon can get help to pay for college. Learn more about [Financial Aid for Undocumented and DACA Students](#).

Information retrieved from: <https://blog.ed.gov/2017/09/7-things-need-fill-2018-19-fafsa-form/> and <https://fafsa.ed.gov/help/before003.htm> and <https://oregonstudentaid.gov/fafsa-orsaa.aspx>

## *What's the difference?*

### **Grants**

Federal and State grants are financial assistance monies that do not need to be paid back. This guide provides links to find out the qualifications for grants.

### **Federal Loans**

Loans are funds that help put you through school but need to be paid back after graduation.

### **Loan Conditions and Planning**

Federal and state grants, as well as scholarships, are "free" money. They don't need to be repaid by the student. However, loans are another matter entirely. Federal and state-sponsored loan programs have a variety of repayment terms and conditions. Some loans require payment of just the interest during the student's time in school, with repayment of the principle to commence upon graduation.

It's important to read all the fine print about repayment conditions, especially if they might have to terminate classes before graduation. Go to [Maintaining Eligibility for federal financial aid](#) to learn more. To calculate how much money will have to be repaid for student loans, use a calculator to run your numbers.

### **Scholarships**

Scholarships are funds given for academic excellence, athletic skill or other unique personal characteristics.

Information retrieved from: <http://blog.classesandcareers.com/advisor/financial-aid-guide-for-moms/>

## **FINANCIAL AID FAQ's**

### **FAFSA/ORSAA Questions**

**Q. How soon after October 1 should the FAFSA form be sent in?**

**A.** Send in the form as soon as possible after October 1.

**Q. If my parents are undocumented but I am a legal resident, can I apply for the FAFSA?**

**A.** Yes. Your parents' citizenship status does not affect your eligibility for federal student aid. In fact, the FAFSA does not ask about your parents' status.

**Q. What do I do if my parents don't have a SS#?**

**A.** If your parent does not have a Social Security number, you may simply enter all zeroes in the question that asks about their number on the FAFSA. Because your parents don't have a valid Social Security number, though, they will not be able to create a FSA ID and therefore cannot sign the FAFSA electronically. In this case, you should electronically sign and submit the FAFSA form, then print the signature page so that your parents can sign it. Once they have signed it, you should mail it. Note: It will take longer to process your FAFSA, so plan accordingly.

**Q. My parents didn't file their taxes, can I still file my FAFSA?**

**A.** Maybe you or your parents were sick, incarcerated or just overwhelmed. Whatever the reason, you *should* have filed an income tax return, but you didn't — and neither did you request an extension. This is called an "unauthorized failure to file," and it disqualifies you from being eligible for any federal aid.

**Q. Do I need to fill out the FAFSA if I want to take advantage of Oregon Promise?**

**A.** All students must complete FAFSA or an ORSA to receive federal and state aid before they are awarded through Oregon Promise.

**Q. If I am undocumented, can I still apply for Financial Aid?**

**A. YES, undocumented students in Oregon are eligible to file the ORSAA.** Undocumented students are not eligible for the FAFSA, but the ORSAA allows you to apply for state financial aid.

**Q. What is the ORSAA and who is the ORSAA for?**

**A.** The ORSAA is the Financial Aid Application for the Oregon Opportunity Grant and for Oregon Promise. It is for DACA, Dreamers, and undocumented students that cannot get an EFC from the FAFSA.



**Q. Do my parent's also need an FSA ID or can I share with my parent(s).**

**A.** If you're a dependent student, then two people will need their own FSA ID to sign your FAFSA online:

1. You (the student)
2. One of your parents

An FSA ID is a username and password that you must use to log in to certain U.S. Department of Education (ED) websites. Your FSA ID identifies you as someone who has the right to access your own personal information on ED websites such as the FAFSA.

*If you are a parent of a dependent student*, you will need your own FSA ID if you want to sign your child's FAFSA electronically. If you have more than one child attending college, you can use the same FSA ID to sign all applications. You'll need your own e-mail address for each FSA ID.

### **General Financial Aid Questions about Eligibility and Applying**

**Q. I probably don't qualify for aid. Should I apply for aid anyway?**

**A. Yes.** Many families mistakenly think they don't qualify for aid and prevent themselves from receiving financial aid by failing to apply for it. In addition, there are a few sources of aid such as unsubsidized Stafford and PLUS loans that are available regardless of need. The FAFSA form is free. There is no good excuse for not applying. Also if your financial status changes (parent loses a job, death etc.) while you are in school and you don't have a previous fafsa filed the institution can not help you.

**Q. Do I need to be admitted before I can apply for financial aid at a particular university?**

**A. No.** You can apply for financial aid any time after October 1. To actually receive funds, however, you must be admitted and enrolled at the university.

**Q. Why can't I submit my financial aid application before October 1?**

**A.** You cannot submit the form before this date because it isn't open yet! October 1 is the day it opens.

**Q. Do I have to reapply for financial aid every year?**

**A. Yes.** Most financial aid offices require that you apply for financial aid every year. If your financial circumstances change, you may get more or less aid. After your first year you will receive a "Renewal Application" which contains preprinted information from the previous year's FAFSA. Note that your eligibility for financial aid may change significantly, especially if you have a different number of family members in college.

Renewal of your financial aid package also depends on your making satisfactory academic progress toward a degree, such as earning a minimum number of credits and achieving a minimum GPA.

***Q. How do I apply for a Pell Grant and other types of need-based aid?***

**A.** Submit a FAFSA. To indicate interest in student employment, student loans and parent loans, you should check the appropriate boxes. Checking these boxes does not commit you to accepting these types of aid. You will have the opportunity to accept or decline each part of your aid package later. Leaving these boxes unchecked will not increase the amount of grants you receive.

***Q. Are my parents responsible for my educational loans?***

**A.** No. Parents are, however, responsible for the Federal PLUS loans. Parents will only be responsible for your educational loans if they co-sign your loan. In general you and you alone are responsible for repaying your educational loans.