

ASCA Standards Addressed:

- **M 4:** Self-confidence in ability to succeed
- **M 3:** Positive attitude toward work and learning
- **B-LS 1:** Critical-thinking skills to make informed decisions
- **B-LS 4:** Self-motivation and self-direction for learning
- **B-LS 5:** Media and technology skills to enhance learning
- **B-SMS 6:** Ability to identify and overcome barriers
- **B-SMS 10:** Ability to manage transitions and adapt to changes
- **B-SS 1:** Effective oral and written communication skills and listening skills

Learning Target: The students will know what the FAFSA is and what types of information are needed to complete it.

Resources Needed for this Activity:

- PowerPoint [**12_U1_A4_PP_Filling Out the FAFSA**]
- Electronic or paper copies [**12_U1_A4_Filling Out the FAFSA Worksheet**]
- YouTube video, “What Is FAFSA,” 1 minute, 57 seconds. Available at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NmEP38x-1Z8&t=1s>
- YouTube video, “Who is a Contributor on the FAFSA Form,” 1 minute, 29 seconds. Available at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HXHaDOOx-Zw>
- YouTube video, “What Does It Mean To Provide Consent and Approval on the FAFSA Form,” 2 minutes, 2 seconds. Available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wn0V_Yw8VE0
- YouTube video, “What Happens After Submitting Your FAFSA Form,” 2 minutes, 14 seconds. Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ijRzVjle0tw>

Opening: 1 minute – Slides 2 – 5: The instructor begins by stating that not everybody needs financial aid, but most do at some point in college, so it is good to know how to fill out the FAFSA. As its name indicates, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid is *free*. Family income is not the only factor. The size of a family and age of a student’s parents are part of the mathematical calculation. Some schools will not consider applicants for any scholarships unless they complete the FAFSA. School counselors are a great resource for more information, and once students are accepted into a college, the college’s financial aid office can assist as well. The instructor tells the students that today they will watch a series of four short videos that will help them understand the FAFSA and how to complete it. The videos have a lot of information, and students should try to not get overwhelmed.

Activity: 28 minutes – Slide 6: There are many key things students will need to know about filling out the FAFSA, and the instructor provides electronic or paper copies of the worksheet [**12_U1_A4_Filling Out the FAFSA Worksheet**] to guide students’ thinking while watching the videos. There are also a few reflection questions at the bottom of the worksheet for students to answer at the end of the video.

Slide 7: The video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NmEP38x-1Z8&t=1s>) provides an overview of what the FAFSA is and how it is used to determine financial aid eligibility.

Slides 8 - 9 : Upon conclusion of the video, the instructor asks students to share their answers from the worksheet.

Slide 10: For reference, responses may include:

- **What is the FAFSA and why is it important?**
 - The FAFSA form is the application that students complete each year to receive student aid for college or career school.
 - It typically takes less than one hour to complete.
 - The form is used to determine eligibility for federal student aid. Many states will use the same information to determine eligibility for state financial aid.
 - Financial aid may include grants, scholarships, work study, and student loans.
 - You can list up to 20 schools. Each school will use the information to determine financial aid.
 - The FAFSA must be completed every year.

Slide 11: The instructor indicates that the next video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HXHaDOOx-Zw>) provides an overview of who is considered a contributor on a FAFSA form and their role in completing the FAFSA.

Slides 12 - 13: Upon conclusion of the video, the instructor asks students to share their answers from the worksheet. For reference, responses may include:

- **Who is a contributor on the FAFSA form?**
 - Anyone required to provide information, consent and approval, and a signature on the FAFSA form is a contributor.
 - Tax information will be transferred directly from IRS to FAFSA form.
 - A contributor may include:
 - Student (you), student's spouse, biological or adoptive parent, or stepparent
 - Contributors are determined by dependency, tax filing, and marital status.
 - Being identified does not mean those listed are financially responsible.

Slide 14: The instructor states that the next video (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wn0V_Yw8VE0) provides an overview of what consent and approval on the FAFSA means and why it is needed.

Slides 15 - 16: Upon conclusion of the video, the instructor asks students to share their answers from the worksheet. For reference, responses may include:

- **What does it mean to provide consent and approval on the FAFSA form?**
 - Contributors (including you) are agreeing to:
 - Sharing your personally identifiable information provided on the FAFSA form with the IRS
 - Have your federal tax information transferred into the FAFSA form
 - Allow U.S. Department of Education to use your federal tax information to determine aid eligibility
 - Allow the U.S. Department of Education to share your federal tax information with schools listed on your FAFSA form and state higher education agencies
 - Allow the U.S. Department of Education to reuse your federal tax information on other FAFSA forms you're invited to and choose to participate on
 - Consent and approval is required to receive federal student aid.

Slide 17: The instructor explains that the next video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ijRzVjle0tw>) provides an overview of what students receive after they submit their FAFSA form.

Slides 18 - 19: Upon conclusion of the video, the instructor asks students to share their answers from the worksheet. For reference, responses may include:

- **What happens after submitting your FAFSA form?**
 - You will receive a confirmation email. This may include your estimated Pell Grant and your estimated Student Aid Index (SAI).
 - SAI is an index number calculated using your FAFSA information to determine eligibility for need-based aid.
 - Information is shared with your listed schools to determine financial aid.

Slides 20 - 24: The instructor then goes on to provide additional FAFSA tips:

- There are scam websites and services that charge to complete the FAFSA—and that they should absolutely not use them. Always go to fafsa.gov. This website is available in English and Spanish. There is also an app.
- Each year there is an updated FAFSA, and the new one is typically available in October for the following year. The federal government recommends that students complete the FAFSA as soon as possible after the release date.
- Families will need to create their own account and provide approval and consent to transfer federal tax info onto the FAFSA form.
- Some schools have deadlines for consideration for financial aid. Earlier is better. Be sure to pay attention!
- There are some restrictions on eligibility for federal aid. Citizens and permanent residents are eligible, and students in the United States on certain other categories of visas are also eligible. “Dream Acts” in some states have expanded eligibility.
- The first step is to apply for a FSA ID. This can be done a few days ahead of completing the FAFSA to make sure the FSA ID has been received. Contributors will need their own account.

Slide 25: Next, the instructor asks students to share the two things they learned about the FAFSA from the video that they did not already know.

Slides 26 - 28: Last, the instructor says that once the FAFSA is submitted, the student will be sent a report that summarizes everything the student entered on the FAFSA. The student and family should review it for accuracy. It will include the Student Aid Index, but not how much financial aid the student will receive. Only colleges to which the student is accepted, and has listed on the FAFSA, will send award letters with detailed offers of financial aid. Students who have eligibility questions should go to <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/eligibility>.

Closure: 1 minute – Slide 29: The instructor states that students can find a whole series of FAFSA videos (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zkw463ke8ho&list=PLtr3wy4M_CJ1dh4_EU1dkacmXyilGn-8m) that to guide them if they want more information.

The instructor closes by saying that although the form can look complicated, there are detailed guides, a customer service number to call, and videos on the FAFSA website. Students should consider sharing the video with their families. They will want—and likely need—the info! Students *can* do this and should not let finances be the reason they do not go to college.