What You Need to Complete Your FAFSA

- Your Social Security number.
- Your driver's license number, if you have one.
- Your W-2 Forms.
- Your federal income tax return.
- Your current bank statements and records of stocks, bonds, and other investments.
- Your records of other untaxed income received, such as Social Security, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), welfare or veteran's benefits.
- Your business or farm records, if applicable.
- Your alien registration number, if you are not a U.S. citizen.
- If you are a dependent student, you will also need:
  - Your parent(s)' Social Security number(s).
  - Your parent(s)' income and financial records (as listed above).

Use income records for the calendar year prior to the academic year for which you are applying for financial aid. For example, use 2002 income information to complete the 2003-2004 FAFSA.

WWW.FAFSA.ED.GOV

TIP 1 ▶ **Get a PIN.** To sign your FAFSA electronically, you (and your parent, if you are dependent) need a U.S. Department of Education PIN. If you don't already have one, apply now at **www.pin.ed.gov**. Your FAFSA will be processed faster if you sign using a PIN.

TIP 2 ▶ **Print the Pre-Application Worksheet.** Some students find it helpful to complete the Pre-Application Worksheet before completing their online FAFSA. Since the questions on the paper FAFSA are numbered differently from the online FAFSA, using the Worksheet will help you stay on track as you go along.

TIP 3 ▶ **Save Your FAFSA.** Save your application often using the "Save" button at the bottom of the screen. That way, if you lose your Internet connection, you can return to the FAFSA you already started. **NOTE:** If you click the "Exit" button, you'll not only close your application, but you'll also erase all the information you entered since the last time you saved it.

TIP 4 ▶ **Get Help.** Because there is plenty of FREE help available, you don't have to pay to get assistance filling out your FAFSA. The "Need Help with this Page?" button at the bottom of every online FAFSA page will lead you to more information to help you complete that page. The "Help" button at the top of every screen has a complete index of help topics. In addition, you can chat with a Customer Service Representative directly over the Internet by clicking the "Chat" button. If you still need more help, call 1-800-4-FED-AID.

TIP 5 ▶ **Sign Your Application.** If you have a PIN, you can electronically sign your FAFSA. Otherwise, you'll need to print the signature page and mail it in. If you are dependent, a parent will need to sign your FAFSA as well. Your parent(s) can sign either by using his/her own PIN or by mailing in a signature page.

TIP 6 ▶ **Submit Your Application.** Click the "Submit" button located on the very last page of the online FAFSA form. After submitting your application, you'll be taken to a new page that confirms your submission and gives you a confirmation number.

What You Can Do With Your PIN

www.pin.ed.gov

- Sign your FAFSA electronically.
- Review and, if necessary, correct answers on your processed FAFSA.
- Sign loan promissory notes electronically.
- View information about your federal loans and grants.
- Reapply for financial aid in the future.
- Conduct other online business with the U.S. Department of Education.

Remember, if you are dependent, your parent(s) can also electronically sign your FAFSA with their own PINs.