

Tips for Successful FAFSA Completion

Staff from ESU Financial Aid will be available at Marais des Cynges Valley High School on October 4th from 6:00p-7:30p to help you complete your FAFSA for 2022-2023. You do not have to be attending Emporia State to come to this event for help.

Financial aid to help pay for college comes in all types: grants, loans, work-study, scholarships, tuition assistance and more. Many types of financial aid require that you complete a FAFSA. The *Types of Federal Student Aid 2022-2023* handout tells you about the types of financial aid the government offers, and your FAFSA used to see if you are eligible.

- *Pro Tip:* It is highly recommended that you complete the FAFSA even if you think you won't qualify for grants. If you are offered loans or work-study, you do not have to accept it; however if a scholarship application requires you complete the FAFSA, it will be good to already have it done.

If you come prepared with all information listed on the *2022-2023 FAFSA Completion Checklist*, it should only take you 20-30 minutes to fill out your FAFSA. Make sure you bring your electronic device with you as well (laptop, mobile phone, etc).

- *Pro Tip:* It is very important to create your FSA ID 3 days prior to the FAFSA event. This allows the match to go through the Social Security Administration before you start on your FAFSA. You don't want to find out later that you used info on the FAFSA that didn't match their database and have to start over!
- *Pro Tip:* Don't autosave your FSA ID log in info on your browser. This can cause issues for you in the future when you need it to complete other forms.
- *Pro Tip:* Do not share your FSA ID with **ANYONE**, including your parents or student. This is your electronic signature on the FAFSA, as well as other loan forms.

In the coming weeks, complete the *2022-2023 After the FAFSA Checklist*. It is very important to stay in contact with the financial aid office at the school(s) you plan to attend. They are there to help you through your financial aid process. Ask them any and all financial aid related questions that you have.

- *Pro tip:* Find out how they will communicate with you about financial aid requirements and your financial aid offer. Respond to those communications quickly, or you might have a delay in getting your financial aid.
- *Pro tip:* If you have a change in your family that impacts the family's finances (for example, loss of a job or less hours at work), talk to your financial aid office about a Professional Judgement.