1. **When can I complete my FAFSA for the 2020/2021 school year?**
   For the 2020–21 year, you can apply on or after Oct. 1, 2019. Certain Federal, State, and UNCW funds are limited, so be sure to apply as soon as you can once the FAFSA is open.

2. **Why should I fill out the FAFSA?**
   If you don’t fill out the FAFSA you could be missing out on a lot of financial aid! We’ve heard a number of reasons students think they shouldn’t complete the FAFSA. Here are a few:
   - “I (or my parents) make too much money, so I won’t qualify for aid.”
   - “Only students with good grades get financial aid.”
   - “The FAFSA form is too hard to fill out.”
   If you think any of these statements apply to you, then you should read *Myths About Financial Aid*. The reality is, EVERYONE who's getting ready to go to college or career school should fill out the FAFSA!

3. **How do I fill out the FAFSA?**
   There are several ways to do this. Complete the FAFSA online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. This is the fastest way possible.
   - Complete the FAFSA online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. This is the fastest way possible.
   - Complete the FAFSA offline; download a paper FAFSA
   - Sign up for assistance during FAFSA week in the UNCW Financial Aid Office: FAFSA Week Sign up

4. **What is the FSA ID and do both my parents and I need one?**
   The FSA ID is your unique signature that you will use for certain U.S. Department of Education websites. The student and the parent of a dependent student will each need their own FSA ID in order to sign the FAFSA electronically. Create your ID here: FSA ID

5. **What information do I need to have ready when I go to complete the FAFSA?**
   - Your Social Security Number- Be sure this is correct
   - Parents’ Social Security Numbers if you are a dependent student
   - Driver’s license number if you have one
   - Alien Registration number is you are not a U.S. Citizen
   - Federal Tax Information for 2018, including W-2 information for you and your parents if you are a dependent student (spouse if you are independent and married)
   - Untaxed income information (child support received, veteran non-educational benefits)
   - Asset information
6. I am 20 and don’t live with my parents, do I have to put them on the FAFSA?

Unless you can answer the questions on the FAFSA to be considered Independent:

- At least 24 years old
- Married
- A graduate or professional student
- A veteran
- A member of the armed forces
- An orphan
- A ward of the court or someone with legal dependents other than a spouse
- An emancipated minor or someone who is homeless or at risk of becoming homeless

Then you are considered a dependent student and you must list your parent(s) and their information. If you feel you have a special circumstance, please talk with a financial aid counselor.

7. What if my parents are unwilling to provide their information on my FAFSA?

You cannot be considered independent of your parents just because they refuse to help you with the FAFSA. Still, we understand that there are special cases and parents will refuse to provide their information. Please contact your financial aid counselor to discuss your situation one-on-one if this is the case.

8. What if my parents are concerned about providing their information because of their citizenship status?

Your parents’ citizenship status does not affect your eligibility for federal student aid. In fact, the FAFSA doesn’t even ask about your parents’ status.

9. I am just applying for scholarships, should I still complete a FAFSA?

Yes! We encourage everyone to complete a FAFSA so that you have the application on file with our office. Regardless of that, many scholarship organizations are going to want to see whether a student has need or not based on the FAFSA. Go ahead and complete the FAFSA now.

10. Stay in the loop!

- Check your UNCW email regularly for information regarding your financial aid and student account and respond to any requests for information promptly.
- Check your SeaNet account regularly for Active Messages.

✔ Contact us with your questions

- [http://uncw.edu/finaid/counselors.html](http://uncw.edu/finaid/counselors.html)
- Live Counselor available Monday- Thursday 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. and 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Please share any feedback you have via our Customer Satisfaction Survey: https://form.jotform.com/62815754202150.
Stay tuned for future invitations to chat with the Office of Scholarships & Financial Aid!