



Part 1, Module 4: The FAFSA

Lesson Overview:

The purpose of this lesson is to help students understand the importance of filling out the FAFSA for student loans. It will help students answer questions they may have about completing the FAFSA, as well as get them connected with resources available to them at universities.

As a result of this lesson, students will:

- Have a chance to ask questions about the FAFSA
- Learn how and when to fill out the FAFSA
- Learn how to avoid problems in receiving federal student loans
- Become familiar in working with university staff and faculty members
- Understand resources available to them as a student

Preparation to teach this lesson:

Call the Financial Aid office at a local school. Schedule a time with a representative from the school to meet with your class and discuss financial aid requirements and procedures. Explain what topics you would like to have covered. Possible ideas include:

- The FAFSA deadlines
- Satisfactory Academic Progress guidelines
- Independent vs. Dependent status while filling out the FAFSA
- Federal student loan limits
- Loan repayment plans

Instructions:

Instructor: Review the importance of filling out the FAFSA with students. Point out that the interest rate on federal student loans is typically lower, and less variable than private student loans. Remind students that if they need to take out loans for school that they should exhaust all federal student loan options before looking into any other methods of payment. Introduced the guest speaker to the class and let them know that there will be time for questions at the end.

Variations on this lesson:

- Have students write a one paragraph summary about what they learned during the presentation.
- If it is before January 1st of the student's senior year in high school they could go to www.fafsa.gov and click on the FAFSA4caster section so they can become familiar with the type of information needed on the FAFSA.
- If it is after January 1st of the senior year in high school or any year in college and the student expects to enroll in college in the next fall semester, they should complete a FAFSA as soon as possible.