

Early Aid Estimator 2021 - Preliminary Worksheet

Please take time prior to submitting to consider if you plan to complete both the merit aid and need-based aid sections, or if you would like to receive a merit-only estimate. If you decide to submit the merit-only estimator, please know that you cannot submit a need-based estimator at a later date. A student can submit only one Early Aid Estimator form.

Our financial aid estimator is designed to be completed in one session—you cannot save your work and return to it later—so we encourage you to use this worksheet to assemble the necessary information before you go online. You have the option for one of the following:

- **Merit aid AND need-based aid estimator** – Submitting both sections will allow us to estimate both your merit and potential need-based aid.
- **Merit-ONLY estimator** – Submitting only this section will allow us to estimate your merit aid; *if you choose this option, you are opting out of completing the need-based aid section.*

Merit aid section: In addition to routine questions like your address, telephone number, and email addresses, the merit aid section asks about your high school experience:

- senior year courses
- GPA and class rank (option to upload an unofficial transcript/report card or enter manually)
- Honors, AP, IB, and/or college courses from 9th grade on
- activities and leadership positions (option to upload an activities resume or enter manually)
- awards and honors you have received. *We know that your recent academic experiences may have been disrupted, so we understand that many of the academics and activities you have been involved with aren't happening in typical ways.*

Need-based section: The need-based aid section requests family member information – including birth dates and college enrollment for 2022-2023- and information about the family's finances, so having 2020 federal income tax returns on hand might prove helpful:

- 2020 income for yourself and your parents
 - adjusted gross income (line 11 of IRS 1040)
 - income from employment
- 2020 federal income tax liability (line 24 of IRS 1040)
- untaxed income such as
 - child support received
 - pre-tax contributions into IRAs or 401k/403b retirement accounts and the like (Codes D, E, F, G, H, and S from boxes 12a through 12d on W-2 form)
 - tax-exempt interest/dividend or pension income
 - housing and living allowances for clergy and military
- estimates of your assets and your parents' assets as of late 2021 or early 2022 (when you file the FAFSA)
 - cash, savings, and checking accounts
 - stocks and bonds
 - real estate and other investments (but not your primary residence)
 - 529 educational savings plans
 - business/farm value (unless it is a small business or a family farm)

We are looking forward to receiving your Early Aid Estimator!