



Early Aid Estimator 2026 - 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.

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

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.

Need-based section: The need-based aid section requests family member information – including birth dates and information about the family's finances, so having 2025 federal income tax returns on hand might prove helpful:

- 2025 income for yourself and your parents
 - adjusted gross income (line 11a of IRS 1040)
 - income from employment
 - other income sources (Add together: 1040 Line 2a; 1040 Line 4a-4b, excluding rollover amount; 1040 Schedule 1 Line 8d; and 1040 Schedule 1 Line 16+20)
- 2025 federal income tax liability (line 24 of IRS 1040)
- annual child support received/will receive in 2026
- estimates of your assets and your parents' assets as of late 2026 or early 2027 (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
 - NOTE – do not include retirement plans in your investment values

We are looking forward to receiving your Early Aid Estimator!