

# Tips for Navigating the FAFSA



# 6

THINGS YOU'LL  
NEED TO FILL OUT  
THE **FAFSA®** FORM

**Federal Student Aid**

An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION



**USERNAME AND  
PASSWORD (FSA ID)**



**SOCIAL  
SECURITY  
NUMBER**



**2019 TAX RECORDS  
INFORMATION**

(Automatically transfer  
tax info with the IRS  
Data Retrieval Tool!)



**RECORDS OF  
YOUR UNTAXED  
INCOME**



**RECORDS  
OF YOUR ASSETS  
(MONEY)**



**LIST OF  
SCHOOLS YOU'RE  
INTERESTED IN**

# Your **2021–22** Financial Aid Forecast



## **PELL GRANT**

You may be eligible  
for up to **\$6,345**



## **WORK-STUDY AWARD**

Varies

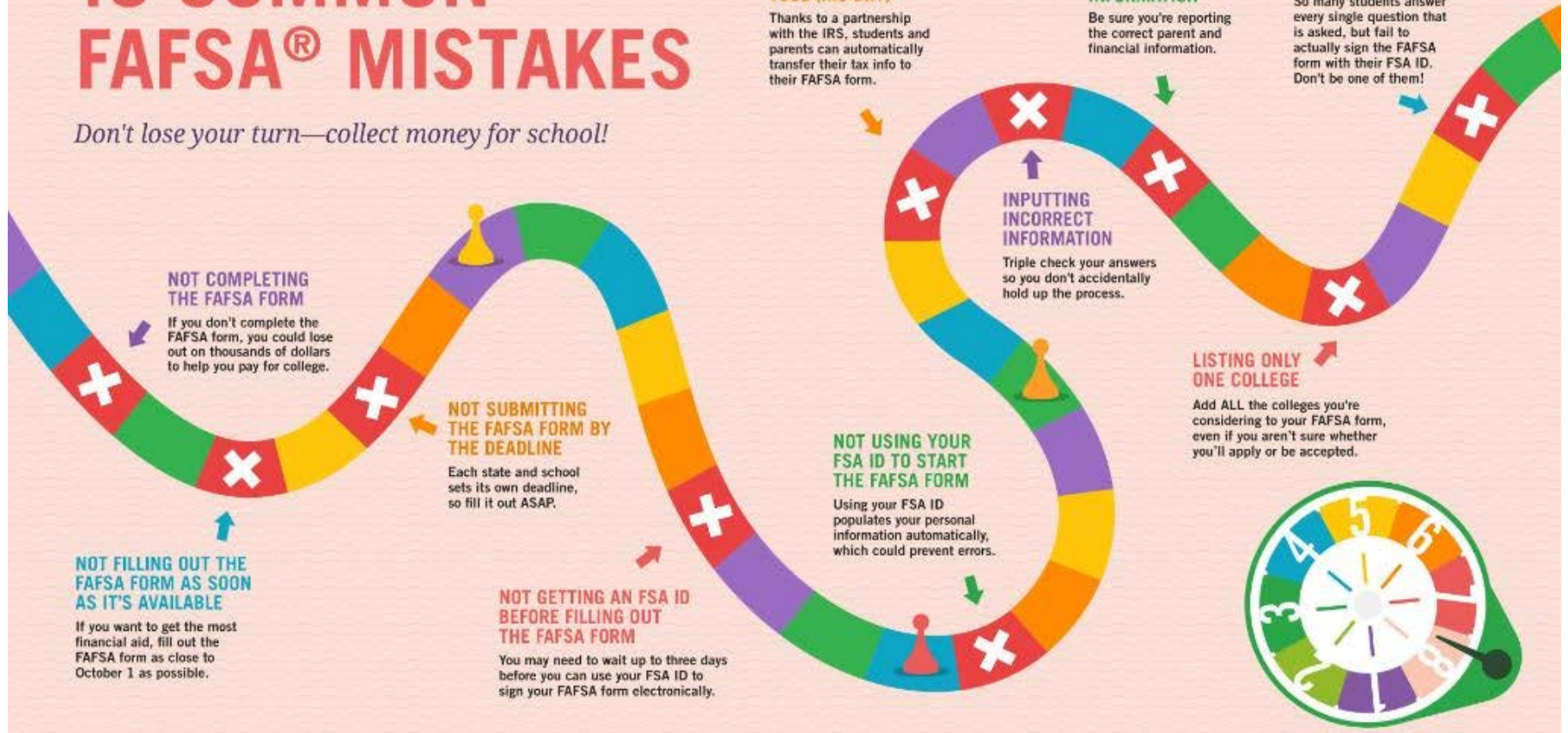


## **STUDENT LOANS**

Varies

# 10 COMMON FAFSA® MISTAKES

*Don't lose your turn—collect money for school!*



## NOT COMPLETING THE FAFSA FORM

If you don't complete the FAFSA form, you could lose out on thousands of dollars to help you pay for college.

## NOT FILLING OUT THE FAFSA FORM AS SOON AS IT'S AVAILABLE

If you want to get the most financial aid, fill out the FAFSA form as close to October 1 as possible.

## NOT SUBMITTING THE FAFSA FORM BY THE DEADLINE

Each state and school sets its own deadline, so fill it out ASAP.

## NOT GETTING AN FSA ID BEFORE FILLING OUT THE FAFSA FORM

You may need to wait up to three days before you can use your FSA ID to sign your FAFSA form electronically.

## NOT USING THE IRS DATA RETRIEVAL TOOL (IRS DRT)

Thanks to a partnership with the IRS, students and parents can automatically transfer their tax info to their FAFSA form.

## NOT USING YOUR FSA ID TO START THE FAFSA FORM

Using your FSA ID populates your personal information automatically, which could prevent errors.

## NOT REPORTING REQUIRED INFORMATION

Be sure you're reporting the correct parent and financial information.

## INPUTTING INCORRECT INFORMATION

Triple check your answers so you don't accidentally hold up the process.

## NOT SIGNING THE FAFSA FORM

So many students answer every single question that is asked, but fail to actually sign the FAFSA form with their FSA ID. Don't be one of them!

## LISTING ONLY ONE COLLEGE

Add ALL the colleges you're considering to your FAFSA form, even if you aren't sure whether you'll apply or be accepted.





# Common FAFSA® form **ERRORS**

- ✘ Not creating a username and password (FSA ID)
- ✘ Not reading FAFSA® form definitions carefully
- ✘ Not reporting required information
- ✘ Not signing the FAFSA® form



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