CSS Profile

The College Scholarship Service (CSS) Financial Aid Profile® vs. Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

The CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE® is the financial aid application service of the College Board. Many private colleges and universities require that students submit a CSS PROFILE in addition to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

The CSS PROFILE determines your eligibility for non-government financial aid, such as the institutional grants, scholarships and loans. Below is a comparison between the CSS PROFILE and the FAFSA.

FAFSA vs. CSS PROFILE

The FAFSA:

- **Submission Allowed** - After January 1st
- **Specificity of Questions** - Less Specific
- **Methodology** - Primarily includes Income Information
- **Minimum Student Contribution** - No
- **Cost** - Free

The CSS Profile:

- **Submission Allowed** - In The Fall
- **Specificity of Questions** - More Specific
- **Methodology** - Includes Detailed Asset Information
- **Minimum Student Contribution** - Yes
- **Cost** - $9 Base Fee + $16 Per School

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