

FAFSA vs CSS Profile

FAFSA	CSS Profile
Required for federal financial aid.	Required by some colleges for institutional financial aid.
Administered by the U.S. Department of Education.	Administered by the College Board.
Used by nearly all colleges and universities.	Used primarily by many private colleges and a limited number of public institutions.
Determines eligibility for federal grants, loans, and work-study.	Helps colleges award their own grants, scholarships, and institutional aid.
Free to complete.	May require a fee, although fee waivers are available for eligible families.
Requests basic financial information.	Requests more detailed information about income, assets, home equity, business ownership, and special financial circumstances.