

# FAFSA *Completion*

GUIDE & WORKBOOK



*Class of*  
**2026**

**FAFSA  
ASSISTANCE**

*see Pg. 2*

**REGISTER TO WIN  
A \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIP**

*see Pg. 4*

**3**

**CREATE YOUR  
FSA ID**

*Pg. 3*

**3**

**FAFSA  
CHECKLIST**

*Pg. 3*

**4**

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

*Pg. 4*

LOUISIANA'S NONPROFIT RESOURCE FOR FAFSA COMPLETION & COLLEGE ACCESS

**2025-26** *Edition*

# LELA *Impact*



**21,336**  
*Families*

Lela assisted over 21,336 Louisiana families in 2024.



**\$15,000**  
*in Scholarships*

Lela awarded \$15,000 in scholarships to Louisiana students in 2024.



**1,439**  
**FAFSA**  
*Assistance*

Lela assisted over 1,439 students with the FAFSA in 2024.

For the eleventh consecutive year Lela provided its "how to" FAFSA Completion Guide & Parent Guide to every Louisiana high school.

## INTRODUCTION TO LELA

### *Who is Lela?*



The Louisiana Education Loan Authority (Lela) is Louisiana's nonprofit resource for free FAFSA completion assistance, college access and affordable financing, and is a division of the Louisiana Public Facilities Authority (LPFA)—a nonprofit public trust established to bring financing assistance and advantages to the people of Louisiana. Lela's mission is to develop projects and programs which provide resources for college access and statewide outreach initiatives to help ensure students' success on their path to and through college. The Lela team assists families remotely with FAFSA completion through its free virtual completion sessions, FAFSA HELpline, offers free resources to Louisiana high school counselors and provides low cost supplemental loans for college expenses. (see back cover)

 **Website: [Lela.org](https://lela.org)**

 **Follow Lela on:**   

This public document was designed at a cost of \$513.75. This document was published for Lela, a division of the Louisiana Public Facilities Authority (LPFA), 2237 S Acadian Thruway, Suite 650, Baton Rouge, LA 70808 to promote public awareness of the programs and services provided by Lela under authority of Title 9, chapter 2-A of the Louisiana Revised Statutes.



## *What is the* **FAFSA?**

The FAFSA is the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid**. Completing this free form is the first step toward getting federal financial aid to help pay for college. It can be filed at [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov).



 **FAFSA HELPLINE**  
**CALL (844) 463-2372**  
**(844) GO FAFSA**

## **NEED HELP** *Completing the FAFSA?*

### **STUDENTS & PARENTS**

 **Scan here to request a  
FREE virtual FAFSA session!**



**SCAN HERE!**

### **SCHOOL COUNSELORS**

**ELECTRONIC RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO  
POST ON YOUR SCHOOL WEBSITE**

-  **FAFSA Completion Guide and Workbook**
-  **Parent's Guide for College Planning**
-  **Senior Checklist for College Planning**

For more information visit @ [lela.org](https://lela.org)

**ALL SERVICES ARE *FREE!***

## STEP 1

## FSA ID

CREATE YOUR FSA ID AT [STUDENTAID.GOV/FSa-ID/CREATE-ACCOUNT](https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account)

## FSA ID ITEMS NEEDED

- ➔ Social Security or Alien Registration card
- ➔ Personal Email Address
- ➔ Cell Phone Number
- ➔ Download an Authenticator App

Create your FSA ID account at [studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account](https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account)

Student Username: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Password: \_\_\_\_\_

Personal Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Contributor Invitation Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Backup Code: \_\_\_\_\_

CREATE  
YOUR STUDENT  
FSA ID

## IDENTIFY YOUR PARENT CONTRIBUTOR

|                                                  |                                                                               |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Never married, divorced or separated             | ➔ Report parent who provided more financial support during the last 12 months |
| Unmarried and both legal parents living together | ➔ Report both legal parents                                                   |
| Married                                          | ➔ Report both of your parents                                                 |
| Remarried (after being widowed or divorced)      | ➔ Parent and stepparent                                                       |
| Widowed                                          | ➔ Report the surviving parent and step-parent (if remarried)                  |

Parent Username: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Password: \_\_\_\_\_

Personal Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Do not use the same email address as your child/student.)*

Cell Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Contributor Invitation Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Backup Code: \_\_\_\_\_

CREATE  
YOUR PARENT  
FSA ID

FAFSA COMPLETION - ONCE YOUR FSA ID IS CREATED, BEGIN YOUR FAFSA AT STUDENTAID.GOV

## STEP 2

## FAFSA

SUBMIT YOUR FAFSA AT [STUDENTAID.GOV](https://studentaid.gov) | Scheduled to launch on October 1, 2025

## FAFSA ITEMS NEEDED

- ➔ FSA ID for Student & Parents(s)
- ➔ Parent(s) Social Security number(s)
- ➔ Parent(s) legal name(s)
- ➔ Parent(s) date(s) of birth
- ➔ IRS Income Tax Return & W-2s for Year 2024 for student & parent(s)
- ➔ Records of Untaxed Income for student & parent(s)
- ➔ Records of Assets for student & parent(s)
- ➔ List of Schools you're interested in attending

QUESTIONS? CONTACT A LELA SPECIALIST FOR ASSISTANCE!

[info@lela.org](mailto:info@lela.org)

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES BEGIN AT [LELA.ORG](http://LELA.ORG).  
REGISTER TO WIN NOW!

STEP  
**3**

**SCHOLARSHIPS**



**2 WAYS TO WIN**  
*Lela Scholarships!*

**FAFSA COMPLETION**  
*Scholarship*  
**\$1,000**

**LOUISIANA  
HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS**

REGISTER FOR A CHANCE TO WIN AT



**CHOOSE LOUISIANA**  
*Scholarship*  
**\$1,000**

**LOUISIANA COLLEGE STUDENTS**

REGISTER FOR A CHANCE TO WIN AT



# college Financial Aid **PROCESS**

— 2025 - 2026 —

- **COMPLETE ADMISSIONS APPLICATIONS** and meet all requirements for your colleges of interest.
- **CREATE FSA IDs** for student and parent at [studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account](http://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account).
- **COMPLETE THE 2026-27 FAFSA** when it becomes available, using your 2024 IRS Tax Return.
- **REVIEW YOUR FAFSA SUBMISSION SUMMARY** for accuracy, which will be sent to the student's email from Federal Student Aid.
- **CREATE YOUR STUDENT ACCOUNT** at the college by following instructions from the admissions office.
- **RESPOND TO VERIFICATION REQUESTS** from the college financial aid office in a timely manner so your aid can be processed quickly.
- **REVIEW YOUR FINANCIAL AID OFFER** and accept only what you will need to complete the 2026-27 academic year.
- **COMPLETE ENTRANCE COUNSELING** if you accept student loans, to understand your rights and responsibilities as a Borrower.
- **SIGN YOUR MASTER PROMISSORY NOTE** if you accept student loans, **PROMISING TO REPAY** any money that you borrow.
- **FINANCIAL AID WILL BE** sent directly to your college and **DEPOSITED INTO YOUR STUDENT ACCOUNT**.



## **NEED ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO COVER YOUR COLLEGE EXPENSES?**

STUDENTS OR PARENTS WHO NEED TO “FILL A  
FUNDING GAP” AFTER FACTORING IN ALL SCHOLARSHIPS,  
GRANTS, FEDERAL AND STATE DOLLARS, CONSIDER-

**LelaCHOICE**

LOUISIANA'S NONPROFIT EDUCATION LOANS

Choose Quality. Choose Community. Choose Lela.

FOR MORE DETAILS  
AND TO APPLY, VISIT  
[LELACHOICE.ORG](http://LELACHOICE.ORG)



*Pre-Qualify  
Now!*

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT LELA'S PROGRAMS, CONTACT US:

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*Committed to Louisiana students since 1984*

FOLLOW US AND STAY CONNECTED!  Ask Lela  @askLela  askLelaCollegeResources