



The Financial Aid Application Process

While the process of applying for financial aid varies by medical school, here are some steps to help you get started. Remember to always check with the financial aid office at your medical school for specific instructions.

Step 1: Complete the FAFSA

Completing the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)* is the first step in applying for financial aid for medical school students. In January, preferably after you have filed your federal income taxes, complete the FAFSA form, filling in both the student information **and** parent information. Parent information is typically required by medical schools for students who wish to be considered for institutional financial aid (aid given by the medical school)—even though an applicant is considered independent for purposes of federal loans. Don't forget to list your medical school's federal ID code to ensure the results of your FAFSA are sent to your medical school's financial aid office.



time now to carefully compare lenders—(if the school does not use the Direct Loan Program.) Avoid making rushed decisions when it's time to complete the loan application. Note: Applying for a student loan requires a separate and different application from the FAFSA.

Step 3: Apply Early

Paying attention to deadlines is crucial! Obtain, read, complete and turn in applications on time, preferably early. Occasionally unexpected situations might arise that could delay your application. If you wait until the last minute to apply you may not qualify for a financial aid offer simply because of a missed deadline.

Step 4: Receive & Reply to Your Award Letter

Once your FAFSA results are received and processed by your medical

school's financial aid office, you will receive an award letter indicating the types of financial aid and amounts for which you are eligible. Follow the directions for accepting or declining the aid. If you are accepting the aid, and it includes student loans, pay particular attention to the information about when your loan funds will be available for you.

Still Have Questions?

If you are still uncertain about the [financial aid application process](#) or have questions related to financial aid offered at a specific medical school, contact the financial aid office at that school. The financial aid office is always a source of information for you.

Remember:

- You must re-apply each year for financial aid. Check with your medical school financial aid office about required forms and deadlines.
- Maintain eligibility for your financial aid. Satisfactory Academic Progress is required to remain eligible for federal financial aid.