

What Is FAFSA?

Standard 7: Paying for College

Chelsee Wilson, Lacy Pennington, Ann Newman
Published by *K20 Center*

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons CC BY-SA 4.0 License

Grade Level	9th – 12th Grade	**Time Frame**	120 minutes
Subject	Financial Literacy, Social Studies	**Duration**	2-3 class periods
Course	Personal Financial Literacy		

Essential Question

What is FAFSA? In what ways does it benefit students?

Summary

Students will learn about the FAFSA process and complete their own demo FAFSA application.

Snapshot

Engage

Students complete a Four Corners activity on financing a college education.

Explore

Students complete a FAFSA anticipation guide.

Explain

Students work on completing a FAFSA application.

Extend

Students complete a Two-Minute Paper on their FAFSA process.

Evaluate

Students complete an exit ticket activity to show their understanding and completion of the FAFSA process.

Standards

ACT College and Career Readiness Standards - Reading (6-12)

CLR301: Locate simple details at the sentence and paragraph level in somewhat challenging passages
CLR302: Draw simple logical conclusions in somewhat challenging passages
WME402: Interpret most words and phrases as they are used in somewhat challenging passages, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings

Oklahoma Academic Standards (Personal Financial Literacy (7th through 12th grade))

PFL.7.1: Identify and analyze sources of credit (e.g. financial institutions, private lenders, and retail businesses) and credit products (e.g., FAFSA, student loans, credit cards, and car loans).

Attachments

- FAFSA-Anticipation-Guide-Key-What-is-FAFSA.docx
- FAFSA-Anticipation-Guide-Key-What-is-FAFSA.pdf
- FAFSA-Student-Anticipation-Guide-What-is-FAFSA - Spanish.docx
- FAFSA-Student-Anticipation-Guide-What-is-FAFSA - Spanish.pdf
- FAFSA-Student-Anticipation-Guide-What-is-FAFSA.docx
- FAFSA-Student-Anticipation-Guide-What-is-FAFSA.pdf
- Four-Corners-Posters-What-is-FAFSA.docx
- Four-Corners-Posters-What-is-FAFSA.pdf
- Lesson-Slides-What-Is-FAFSA.pptx

Materials

- Lesson Slides (attached)
- Four Corners Posters (attached)
- FAFSA Student Anticipation Guide (attached; one per student)
- FAFSA Anticipation Guide Teacher Key (attached)
- FAFSA How-To Guide (linked; one per student or group)
- Sheet of paper
- Pen/pencil

Engage

Use the attached **Lesson Slides** to guide the lesson. Begin by displaying the title slide on **slide 2** and introduce the topic to students.

Display **slide 3** and inform students that they will be participating in an activity called Four Corners. Ask students: *What are some resources to help you pay for college?* Around the room, using the attached **Four Corners Posters**, have *College and Local Scholarships, Jobs, Oklahoma's Promise,* and *Student Loans* placed in different locations. Ask students to go to the poster that they know the most about.

Display **slide 4** and instruct students to answer each of the following questions on a sheet of paper with their group:

- What does your category mean?
- How might that look in terms of paying for college?
- What are potential advantages of this category?
- What are potential disadvantages of this category?
- How helpful might this option be long terms?

Give each group an opportunity to share information about each topic and explain why each of these resources is helpful in paying for college.

Teacher's Note

If very few students congregate at the "Oklahoma's Promise" category, consider spending some time explaining the Oklahoma's Promise program.

Display **slide 5** and share the lesson's essential questions: *What is FAFSA? In what ways does it benefit students?*

Display **slide 6** and share the lesson's learning objective: *Students will be able to identify ways to pay for college.*

Explore

Transitions to **slide 7** and inform students that they will complete the FAFSA Anticipation Guide. Pass out the attached **FAFSA Student Anticipation Guide**. Individually, students read and respond to each statement provided. Encourage students who do not know the correct answer to make an educated guess and agree or disagree with each statement.

Display **slide 8** and inform students that they are participating in and activity called, Think-Pair-Share. With their partner, have students read through their anticipation guide and come to a decision on the best choice for each statement.

Pass out copies of the attached **How-To Guide for High School Students** and have student pairs read through to find the correct information for each statement. As they read through, they should record the answer along with the page number. Have pairs share correct answers in a whole-group discussion. To aid in discussion, see the attached **FAFSA Anticipation Guide Teacher Key**.

After the discussion, pass out a copy of the FAFSA Teacher Guide to all students so that students have a set of statements with the correct answers for home use in filling out FAFSA.

Teacher's Note: Discussion Summary

Discussion Summary (if not emphasized in student conversation): The main information that students need to understand is that all students should complete the FAFSA. Many students think they are ineligible; however, most are eligible! In order to secure the most money, the FAFSA should be completed by October 1.

Alternative Activity

Divide class into groups of four or five. Using “The How-To Guide for High School Students” online, or one copy per group, direct students to investigate and answer one or two questions after they have completed the FAFSA Anticipation Guide. If time does not allow, students may complete the FAFSA Anticipation Guide individually, followed by a teacher-led discussion by utilizing the FAFSA Teacher Guide.

Explain

Transition to **slide 9** and inform students they will use the Federal Student Aid Estimator. This website helps "forecast" their potential financial aid options for the college or university in which they are most interested.

Teacher's Note

For an easier experience, consider using or creating "demo" financials for various family situations and then have students compare their results.

Encourage students and their families to use the following websites as guides to completing the form:

- Five steps to FAFSA
- Filling out the FAFSA
- Getting started with FAFSA

Extend

Once students have completed their demo FAFSA application, display **slide 10** and instruct students to complete a Two-Minute Paper over their results. This time limit can be adjusted to best suit students' needs.

Students should address the following questions in their short paper:

- What were the results?
- Was your EFC lower or higher than expected?
- Would your EFC cover the cost of tuition and fees of your choice schools?
- What other resources could you use to help cover the cost of your attendance?
- What will your next step be in finding those resources?

Evaluate

Display **slide 11**. Inform students that, to ensure they have completed the tasks and understand how to utilize FAFSA, they will complete an Exit Ticket.

Ask students to take a moment to respond to the following question on a sheet of paper or a sticky note: *What is one way that you could potentially pay for college according to your FAFSA results?*

If students have questions, refer to the linked document titled, "FAFSA: The How-To Guide for High School Students."

Teacher's Note

Looking for a copy of the guide in Spanish or another language? Do students have other questions that weren't answered in the guide linked above? Check out understandingfafsa.org for more information, and consider sharing the link with students and their families.

Resources

- K20 Center. (n.d.). Four Corners. Strategies. https://learn.k20center.ou.edu/strategy/138
- K20 Center. (n.d.). Think-Pair-Share. Strategies. https://learn.k20center.ou.edu/strategy/139
- K20 Center. (n.d.). Two-Minute Paper. Strategies. https://learn.k20center.ou.edu/strategy/152
- K20 Center. (n.d.). Bell Ringers and Exit Tickets. Strategies. https://learn.k20center.ou.edu/strategy/d9908066f654727934df7bf4f505d6f2
- Maurya, U. (2023, January 13). Loan 123 [Image]. Wikimedia Commons. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Loan_123.jpg
- Nauer, K. (2022, October). FAFSA: The How-To Guide for High School Students [PDF]. Center for New York City Affairs. https://understandingfafsa.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/FAFSAGuide-Oct2022-Web-English-1.pdf