



# CHECK LIST FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

## FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

The following checklist can help you understand the basic steps for choosing a course of study, a school and securing financial aid to further your education. You **must** have a high school diploma or GED, be a US citizen or eligible non-citizen and have a Social Security Number **before** you can apply for Federal Student Aid.

Things to consider before applying for FAFSA:

1. ***What kind of degree or training are you seeking? What field are you going to study?***
  - a. Vocational Certification in a particular field. There are numerous areas of study: auto mechanics, medical assistant, AutoCAD, drafting, IT (computers), personal trainer, etc.
  - b. Associated Arts Degree (AA)
  - c. Bachelor of Arts Degree (BA)
  - d. Masters Degree (MA)
2. ***Are you going to work full or part time while going to school?***
  - a. This will dictate how much/what kind, of federal aid you should be seeking on your application.
3. ***Do you want to attend school on campus or are you considering online classes?***
  - a. Going to school online can help those who wish to work fulltime while seeking their degree.
4. ***What schools are available in your area of release?***

Contact the Education Department at your home institution to get a current FAFSA application and to locate schools in your area of release. They can get you contact information for every university, community college and vocational school in the state along with their Federal ID code. You can write the schools for a course catalog and tuition costs in order to plan a course of study. You can apply within 12 months of your ERD.

**Here is the address to send your completed FAFSA application:**

**Federal Student Aid Programs – PO BOX 7001 – Mt. Vernon, IL 62864**

**!!You Cannot Receive a School Catalog or Mailed in FAFSA Packet While in the R-UNITS!!**

You must wait until you get to Population at your home institution. If you are in classification and are close to release, your R-unit counselor may be able to get you permission to receive pamphlets.

Upon release, at your chosen school a counselor will help you plan classes and schedule the required entrance exam. This exam merely measures your current educational level and needs. After the scores are in, they will inform you if any pre-requisite classes are needed before you start your chosen course of study.

- If you want to **request** a FAFSA application or need information on Federal Student Aid write:  
**Federal Student Aid Information Center – PO BOX 84 – Washington D.C. 20044**
- If you have sent in a FAFSA application and need to **change** something or **correct errors** write:  
**FAFSA Corrections – PO Box 7020 – Lawrence, KS 66044**
- If you need to defer payments or defaulted on Federal Student Aid have your counselor or family go:  
**MYEDDEBT.com**

**Additional Funding Assistance:**

**Higher Education Coordinating Board - Student Financial Aid Division**

P.O. Box 43430 Olympia, WA 98505 (360) 753-7800

**Seattle Education Access** (statewide) - 5516 Roosevelt Way NE, Seattle, WA 98105, (206) 683-5536

The **Post-Prison Education Program** helps offenders with intensive mentoring and scholarship assistance for those pursuing vocational or college degree programs. They can help you fill out the FAFSA and other student aid forms. You can contact them from prison by calling 0-877-524-3331

**Help yourself by gaining higher skills and chart a new course for your life!**

*Our goal is to help transitioning offenders obtain a place to live, reliable employment, a means of transportation, education and community support, by providing them with the resources available in their communities.*

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