

CSS Profile

The CSS/Financial Aid Profile, short for the College Scholarship Services Profile, is an application distributed by the College Board allowing college students to apply for financial aid. It is primarily designed to give institutions a closer look into the finances of a student and family. It is much more detailed than the FAFSA. The College Board estimates it will take most students/families between 45 minutes and two hours to complete the CSS PROFILE application. The CSS PROFILE asks questions about the financial status of the student and the student's parents. The information the student gives in the CSS PROFILE is then sent to colleges or universities that the student specifies. Along with the FAFSA, the CSS PROFILE is the most common financial aid application.

What You Need to Complete the CSS Profile

Parent(s):

- Previous year tax returns and w2's
- Current year tax returns and w2's
- Latest check stub
- Estimate income for the upcoming year
- Value of checking, savings accounts and cash
- Value of 401K/403B
- Health Savings Account value
- Flex Spending value
- Medical and Dental expenses not covered by insurance (out of pocket costs)
- If own home
 - Year home was purchased
 - Purchase price
 - Current value
 - Amount owed - If parents have additional properties (summer homes, rentals, cabins; same information needs to be provided). Properties in foreign countries also need to be reported.
- Value of stocks, bonds, CD's mutual funds, trust funds, money market accounts, 529 accounts, UGMA/UTMA
- If parents have a business -
 - Year the business was acquired
 - Who's name it's under and the name and address of business .
 - If it's a partnership, what percentage is owned by the parent.
 - How much the business made the previous year (There's a schedule C or E that has this information)
 - What is the value of the business
- If parents have a farm; you'd need to provide the same information as above.

- If private school tuition is paid, how much is paid per year and how will be paid the following year
- If college tuition is paid for another student, how much is paid per year and how much will be paid the following year
- Some colleges will ask for make, model and value of vehicles owned by the family

Student:

- College Board Login
- List of colleges requesting the CSS Profile
- Last year's taxes
- Current year's taxes
- Latest check stub
- Estimate on how much will be earned in the summer (June, July, August)
- Estimate of how much will be earned during the school year (September - May)
- Balance of all accounts (checking, savings, etc)
- Amount of scholarship money received (most students don't know how much scholarship money they are getting senior year of high school)

Additional Information

The CSS Profile, like the FAFSA is based on the parent(s) the student lives with more. If parent is re-married, the step-parent's information needs to be provided. If there's a non-custodial parent, an email will be sent to that parent with additional questions they have to submit by the college's deadline.

*CSS Profile cost \$25. Every school listed on the profile cost \$16.

*This is not a complete list. Please visit www.collegeboard.org for more information or contact them at 844-202-0524.