

## 2019-2020 Renewing/Applying for Financial Aid Frequently Asked Questions

### What are the required applications & due dates?

Please see the chart below to determine what applications you must complete and when, in order to be considered for need-based assistance for the 2019-2020 academic year (i.e. Summer 2019, Fall 2019 and Spring 2020).

<u>CLASS YEAR</u>	<u>REQUIREMENT</u>	<u>DUE DATE</u>
Class of 2020, 2021, 2022	1920 FAFSA & CSS PROFILE	April 15, 2019
Class of 2019 (Dec. Grad)	1920 FAFSA & CSS PROFILE	April 15, 2019
SCE Students	1920 FAFSA	Prior to registration
Graduate Students	1920 FAFSA	Prior to registration

*Students selected for verification must also submit verification worksheet(s), tax transcripts, non-tax filer statements and W2 statements no later than May 3, 2019. A separate communication will be sent to those selected for verification.*

### New for 2019-2020

For the 2019-2020, families will be required to fill out the FAFSA using income information from 2017, it will be required to be completed using 2017 tax information. We highly recommend that you use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool to download your 2017 tax information from the IRS directly to your FAFSA. You can also start the process earlier. The 2019-2020 FAFSA and CSS PROFILE were available as of 10/1/2018.

### What is the FAFSA used to determine?

If you have a Friar Grant or any type of federal need-based financial assistance you must complete a FAFSA. Federal need-based aid can include any of the following: Federal Direct Stafford Loans (including parent PLUS), Pell and SEOG grants and work-study. If you are only interested in merit-based assistance you do not have to complete a FAFSA.

### What are the FAFSA & CSS PROFILE used to determine?

If you have any institutional need-based assistance such as PC Grant, O'Connell Grant or Donor Scholarships you must complete **both** the FAFSA & CSS PROFILE. If you have an athletic grant that does not cover your costs in full, both applications are required to be considered for supplemental funding. If you are only interested in merit-based assistance, you do not have to complete a FAFSA or CSS PROFILE.

### Where do I go to complete my applications?

**FAFSA** – Visit [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov) and click on 'Start a New FAFSA.' You will need your (and your parent's, if applicable) FSA ID, 2017 tax information, and our School Code – 003406. If you need help, you can call the FAFSA help line at 1-800-433-3243.

**CSS PROFILE**– You'll need your College Board username/password, our School Code - 3693 and your 2017 financial information. Next, visit <https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/>. Click on the 'Apply Now' button next to Fall 2019 or Spring 2020. If you forgot or lost your College Board information, click on "Forgot Password?" If you need help, you can call the College Board at 1-844-202-0524 or email [help@cssprofile.org](mailto:help@cssprofile.org).

### When will I know what my financial aid will be?

SCE and Graduate students are notified of their assistance on a rolling basis beginning in mid-spring. Students in the Class of 2020, 2021, 2022 and Class 2019 (Dec. grads) will begin to

receive notifications on or around July 1. Students will only receive notification of their assistance if they met the applications deadlines and all requests for additional documents (i.e. verification process, etc.) from the Office of Financial Aid. As a reminder, all communication from the Office of Financial Aid is electronic. An email will be sent to a student's Providence College email address when his or her assistance is available for viewing in his or her CyberFriar account. The email will also include links to download literature meant to accompany award information. Students may also sign their parents up for proxy access to view financial aid information on CyberFriar.

### I missed the application and/or verification deadline, what happens now?

Students in the Class of '20, '21, or '20 who missed a deadline will not receive an award that includes need-based institutional grant for the 2019-2020 academic year. Late applicants will be placed on a waitlist for funding and will not hear about possible types and amount of resources until October. For more information, please review our late policy located under Program & Conditions on our website. SCE and Graduate students who miss a deadline could jeopardize their current registration and be dropped for non-payment.

### I don't think I qualify for aid, should I still do a FAFSA & CSS PROFILE?

**Yes!** Many families mistakenly think they do not qualify for aid and prevent themselves from receiving financial assistance by not applying. It is important to remember that eligibility can change from year to year based on increases in the cost of attendance, fluctuations in income, number of family members in college, or other circumstances. In addition, aid such as unsubsidized Direct Stafford and Parent PLUS loans are available regardless of need and require at least a completed current year FAFSA. You can decline your request for financial aid by sending an email to [finaid@providence.edu](mailto:finaid@providence.edu) if you change your mind at a later date.

### I completed my FAFSA and was emailed a SAR. What is that?

If you completed your FAFSA online and provided your email address, you will receive a confirmation email containing your Student Aid Report (SAR). It is very important that you review your SAR to ensure no errors were made during processing. There are comment sections that will tell you of any problems

the U.S. Department of Education had processing your application. Some comments will require you to take immediate action, and it is important that you stay on top of them! The most common problems that students need to resolve involve signatures, citizenship and selective service issues. All errors must be resolved prior to the deadline applicable to you in order to prevent any delays in receiving your aid package or having funds applied to your student account.

#### **My SAR says that I have been selected for verification. What does that mean?**

Each year the U.S. Department of Education randomly selects a certain percentage of our student population to be verified. The Office of Financial Aid will send an email to your Providence College email account asking for the documents that will satisfy this process. These requirements will also be available for viewing in your CyberFriar account. Most often, you will be required to submit verification worksheet(s), tax transcripts (available at [www.irs.gov/transcript](http://www.irs.gov/transcript)), confirmation of non-filing status, and W2 forms from 2017 for both you and your parents (if required). Tax transcripts may not be required if you and your parent (if required) successfully selected the IRS Data Retrieval option (see below) when completing your FAFSA or submitting corrections. Your aid will not be awarded or renewed until all requests for this additional documentation have been satisfied. Please note, failure to submit the required tax documents by a deadline communicated to you could jeopardize your funding.

#### **What is the IRS Data Retrieval process and should I use it when doing my FAFSA?**

**Yes!** The IRS Data Retrieval option allows students and parents (if required) to electronically retrieve their income data directly from the IRS database if they are completing their FAFSA online. We highly recommend that families utilize the Data Retrieval Tool when completing the FAFSA. Please review the instructions provided when completing the FAFSA online for specific guidance and/or exceptions for using this option. In most cases, students and parents (if required) who

use the IRS Data Retrieval process will not have to provide tax transcripts if they were selected for verification.

#### **I completed my CSS PROFILE but I want to make changes. How do I do that?**

Unlike the FAFSA, there is no electronic way to update or modify information on the CSS PROFILE once you hit 'Submit.' If you have changes you would like submit, print out a paper copy of your application, mark the changes and send it to the Office of Financial Aid.

#### **Do I need to complete a FAFSA and/or CSS PROFILE if I am studying abroad?**

**Yes!** If you would like to use any sources of financial assistance abroad that you are eligible for, you should complete your FAFSA and CSS PROFILE adhering to renewal deadlines. If you are studying abroad, in one or both semesters, be on the lookout for a separate communication from the Office of Financial Aid. There are additional documents required for students studying abroad who are using financial assistance.

#### **My financial situation in 2018 will be different from 2017. How do I let you know that?**

Even though tax information from 2017 may not be an accurate reflection of your family's current ability to pay, it is required that we collect your original tax year information before we can make any adjustments. Make sure that you complete your FAFSA and CSS PROFILE using your financial information from 2017. There is comment section available on the CSS PROFILE where you can detail any special circumstances that are applicable to your family. Any adjustment(s) made must be a qualifying change in circumstance as defined by the Office of Financial Aid and be accompanied by our Special Conditions Form. The 2019-2020 Appeal Forms are available on our website. These forms will help guide you how to best communicate a change in your situation to us, as well as what documentation is needed. All documented and completed appeals are reviewed at the end of August, and notifications are sent shortly thereafter.