

INSTRUCTIONS FOR:

2015–2016 Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA)

(for House Bill 1403/Senate Bill 1528 students only)

Which financial aid application should I use?

Residency Status	Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)	Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA)
I am a U.S. citizen.	✓	
I am a permanent resident with an Alien Registration Card (I-551).	✓	
I am a conditional permanent resident with visa type I-551C.	✓	
I am an eligible noncitizen with an Arrival/Departure Record (I-94) showing one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Refugee• Asylum granted• Parolee (for a minimum of one year)• Cuban-Haitian entrant	✓	
I do not meet one of the statuses above; however, I have been classified as a Texas resident and therefore am eligible to pay the Texas in-state tuition rate. My classification as a Texas resident is NOT due to an in-state scholarship or assistantship.		✓

The statuses described above pertain to the student who is applying for financial aid. The parent's resident status does not impact the student's eligibility to apply for financial aid.

If you meet one of the residency statuses above, complete the FAFSA at www.fafsa.gov. For more information on the eligibility requirements for federal student aid programs, go to www.studentaid.ed.gov.

Priority deadlines: *You should apply as early as possible, but no earlier than January 1, 2015. Most state aid is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. It is recommended that you apply by **February** as some grants require that your application be approved by no later than March 15th.*

Student's Checklist

- 1. Apply for admissions:** Complete your admissions application prior to completing the Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA).
- 2. Confirm your eligibility for House Bill 1403/Senate Bill 1528:** Contact the appropriate office, typically the registrar's or admissions office of your college or university, in order to find out if you meet the requirements to be classified as a Texas resident under House Bill 1403/Senate Bill 1528.
- 3. File taxes:** The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) requires you and/or your parents to file a tax return if either you or your parents **meet the income thresholds established annually by the IRS. For more information regarding income thresholds, go to www.irs.gov.**
Request an individual taxpayer identification number (ITIN): Individuals who do not have a Social Security Number can apply for an ITIN using a W-7 Tax Form. For more information, go to www.irs.gov.
- 4. Register with the Selective Service (males only):** If you are a male between the ages of 18 and 25, you must register with the Selective Service. You can obtain a registration form at your local post office.
- 5. Check Appendix A of TASFA:** Appendix A contains the list of schools that currently accept the TASFA. If the college or university that you plan to attend is not on this list, check with the college's financial aid office to determine which application the college prefers. You will most likely have to complete a paper copy of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- 6. Complete the TASFA:** Complete the TASFA. Print the completed form and **mail it** to the college or university you plan to attend. You are only required to submit the application piece (without the instructions) to your college or university. Do not leave any blanks. Enter "N/A" if a question does not apply to you.
 - a. If you are male, attach a copy of proof of registration with Selective Service:** Attach a copy of the registration acknowledgement card to the TASFA. Your college will not be able to release state funds until you provide them with your acknowledgement card.
 - b. Attach a copy of 2014 income tax return(s) and tax transcript:** If you are required to file taxes, the college will not process your TASFA until you provide a copy of your tax return(s).
 - c. Order a free copy of tax return transcript —** To order a tax transcript, go to www.irs.gov or call 1-800-908-9946.
 - d. Include cash earnings:** *If you and/or your parents did not have to file a federal income tax return, but earned wages which were paid in cash, report those cash earnings on item 33 of the TASFA.*
- 7. Follow up on your TASFA:** To check the status of your application, contact your college's or university's financial aid office. Contact information can be obtained by visiting the college's website. College/university websites are provided on Appendix A of the TASFA.

Help is available.

For assistance with the TASFA, call

1-888-311-8881

TEXAS FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION CENTER

2015–2016 Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA)

For House Bill 1403/Senate Bill 1528 students only: House Bill 1403 from the 2001 State Legislative Session/Senate Bill 1528 from the 2005 State Legislative Session allows certain categories of foreign-born and immigrant students in the State of Texas to qualify for residency under Texas Education Code Chapter 54, Section 54.052(a)(3). This state law allows such students to pay the resident tuition rate while attending public institutions of higher education in Texas, and be classified as state residents for tuition purposes. As Texas residents, such students are eligible to apply for some student financial aid programs offered by the State of Texas.

Name

Street address

City

State

ZIP code

Telephone

Email address

Date of birth (MM/DD/YYYY)

College Student ID#

High School (where you received or will receive your high school diploma):

High School City:

Date of Graduation:









Grade Level beginning in 2015-2016:

- Never attended college and 1st year undergraduate
- Attended college before and 1st year undergraduate
- 2nd year undergraduate/sophomore
- 3rd year undergraduate/junior
- 4th year undergraduate/senior
- 5th year/other undergraduate
- 1st year graduate/professional
- Continuing graduate/professional or beyond

Degree or certificate I am seeking:

- 1st bachelor's degree
- 2nd bachelor's degree
- Associate degree
- Certificate or diploma
- Teaching credential (non-degree program)
- Graduate or professional degree
- Other/Undecided

Section I: Student Information


1. Were you born before January 1, 1992?  Yes No
2. As of today, are you married?  Yes No
3. Are you in a graduate program of study? (e.g., master's or doctoral program)  Yes No
4. Do you have at least one child that you support?  Yes No
5. Do you have dependents other than your children or spouse that you support?  Yes No
6. Are you an orphan or ward of the court?  Yes No
7. Are you or were you an emancipated minor as determined by the state's court? Yes No
8. Are you or were you in legal guardianship as determined by the state's court?  Yes No
9. Did your high school or school district homeless liaison determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless?  Yes No
10. Did the director of an emergency shelter program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless? Yes No
11. Did the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless? Yes No

For purposes of this application, if you answered "No" to all of the questions above, you are considered a **dependent student** and must include parental income information on this form.

If you answered "Yes" to any of the questions above, you are considered an **independent student** and are not required to include parental income information on this form. An **independent student** who is married must include information about his or her spouse.

Print full name here:









Section II: Household Information

12. If you are a **dependent student**, please list the names of ALL family members, including your parent(s), who will be supported by your parent(s) from **July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016**. If you are an **independent student**, you should include family members who are supported by you. (See instructions for additional information.) Attach additional sheets if necessary. 





Names [Include parent(s) and sibling(s), or spouse (if applicable)]	Age	Relationship to student	Which college/university will student be attending?
		Self	
Total number in household:		Total number in college in 2015–2016:	

Section III: Additional Information

Student:

13. Independent students only:
As of today, are you or your spouse a dislocated worker? 
 Yes No Don't know
14. Did you work in 2014? Yes No
 If Yes, did you file a U.S federal (or foreign) income tax return for 2014?
 Yes (Attach tax return and tax transcript) 
 No Will file
15. What is your marital status? 
 Single Divorced/Widowed
 Married/Remarried Separated
16. Have you been convicted of a felony or a crime involving a controlled substance? 
 Yes No
17. Do you have authorization (e.g. DACA) to work in the U.S.? 
 Yes Enter SSN: _____ No
18. Housing plans for 2015–2016: Where do you plan to live? 
 On campus
 Off campus
 Commuter/With parent or relative
19. At the start of the 2015–2016 school year, you will enroll: 
 Full time Less than 1/2 time
 3/4 time Not sure
 1/2 time
20. Have you received funds from either of the following grant programs while attending a prior institution? 
 a. TEXAS Grant Program Yes No
 b. Top 10% Scholarship Program Yes No
 c. If you are transferring from a prior institution, did you earn an Associate Degree?
 Yes (Enter date earned the Associate Degree ___/___/___)
 No N/A (not applicable)

Parent:

21. Did your parents work in 2014? Yes No 
 If Yes, did they file a U.S federal (or foreign) income tax return for 2014?
 Yes (Attach tax return and tax transcript)
 No Will file
22. Is either of your parents a dislocated worker? 
 Yes No
23. What is your parent's marital status? 
 Married/Remarried Widowed
 Never married Separated/Divorced
 Unmarried and both parents living together
24. Mother/Stepmother's highest level of education completed 
 Middle school/Jr. high High school
 College or beyond Other/unknown
25. Enter your mother's/stepmother's age:
 Date of birth:
26. Father/Stepfather's highest level of education completed
 Middle school/Jr. high High school
 College or beyond Other/unknown
27. Enter your father's/stepfather's age:
 Date of birth:

Section IV: Income and Assets

Do not leave any blanks. Enter "0" where appropriate.

Dependent students: Complete both the *Student and Parent(s)* columns.

Independent students: Complete the *Student/Spouse* column only.

	Student/Spouse		Parent(s)	
Part A. Annual Untaxed Income				
28. Child support received	\$		\$	
29. Tax exempt interest income	\$		\$	
30. Housing, food, and other living allowances paid on your behalf	\$		\$	
31. Other untaxed income not reported, such as worker's compensation, disability, etc.				
32. Money you received (or bills someone else paid for you) not reported elsewhere on this form	\$			
33. Cash earnings (wages not listed on taxes or W-2 forms)	Student	Spouse	Mother	Father
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Total Untaxed Income	\$		\$	
Part B. Annual Income Exclusions				
34. Child support paid	\$		\$	
35. Taxable earnings from work-study or other need-based work programs	\$		\$	
36. Taxable scholarships and grants reported on 2014 federal income tax return	\$		\$	
Part C. Assets				
37. As of today, balance of cash, savings, and checking accounts	\$		\$	
38. As of today, investment net worth (do not include the home you live in or the balance of retirement plans)	\$		\$	
39. As of today, net worth of current business(es) or investment farm(s)	\$		\$	

Section V: Total Family Income

40. Was your TOTAL FAMILY INCOME **less than \$7,000 in 2014**?

(TOTAL FAMILY INCOME is the income reported on your parent's and your W-2 IRS tax forms **plus** the Total Untaxed Income reported on Section IV, Part A of this form for you and your parent(s))

Yes No

If YES, please include a breakdown of your living expenses (e.g., rent, food, utilities, etc.) and provide a written summary that explains how you were able to pay for your living expenses in 2014. Attach additional sheet(s) if necessary.

Print full name here:

Section VI: Statement of Selective Service Registration Status

41. Certification of registration status (Please check the appropriate box.)



- I certify that I am female and, therefore, not required to register with the Selective Service System.
- I certify that I am a male age 18 to 25 and am registered with the Selective Service System.

Please attach copy of registration acknowledgement card.

- I certify that I am not of an age required to register with Selective Service System. (That is, I am over 25.)
- I certify that I have been determined by the Selective Service System to be exempt from registration.
- I certify that I have not reached my 18th birthday and understand that I will be required by law to register at that time.
- I certify that I do not have a Social Security Number, but have submitted my Selective Service registration form to the Selective Service System and will provide proof of registration to the financial aid office as soon as I receive my registration number.

Section VII: Signatures

42. a. **Student and Parent signatures**



I understand that under Texas Education Code, Section 51.9095, I must be registered with the Selective Service System according to the requirements of federal law in order to receive student financial aid funds from the State of Texas, and hereby certify that I meet this requirement. I also certify that I will use state student financial aid to pay only the cost of attending an institution of higher education, and that the information provided on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that any false statements may void my eligibility for state financial aid. I also certify that the information provided on this form will be used only for evaluation of eligibility for state financial aid and that I may need to provide additional information for my school to determine eligibility for state financial aid.

Student signature _____

Date _____

Parent signature* _____

Date _____

(*Parent signature required only for dependent students)

b. **High School Counselor: Not required if parent signature already provided above.**

High school counselor signature _____

Date _____

Printed name _____

Title _____

Street address _____

City _____

State _____

ZIP code _____

Telephone _____

Email address _____

Print full name here: _____

Worksheet 1: Confirmation of Eligibility Texas Educational Opportunity Grant (TEOG) and Texas Grant

1. Have you ever been convicted of a felony or an offense involving a controlled substance?
(Do not count convictions that were pardoned or removed from your record.)

Yes

No

2. Have you received a certificate of discharge by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice or correctional facility or completed a period of probation ordered by a court.

Yes

No

2a. If you received a certificate of discharge, enter the date of when you received the certificate of discharge: _____

2b. If you completed your probation period, enter the date when you completed your period of probation: _____

3. Add two years to the date entered on 2a or 2b and enter here:

Eligibility Date: ___/___/___

I hereby certify that the information I have provided is true and correct. I understand that if I fail to provide accurate information, I may be required to reimburse the institution and penalties may be imposed.

X

Sign & Date