

Financial Aid 2017-18

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FAFSA

Free Application For Federal Student Aid

- Collects family's personal and financial information used to calculate EFC
- Based on 2015 tax returns
- Is filed annually
- Available in English and Spanish
- Is FREE! DO NOT PAY!





CAUTION!



- Avoid being charged a fee to file the FAFSA
 - Be sure to go to www.fafsa.gov
 - Completion and processing of the FAFSA are **FREE**
 - Contact financial aid office if you need help.

Whose information is reported?

- The student
- The parents
 - Biological or adoptive parent(s)
 - plus
 - Step-parent (if custodial parent is remarried)

FAFSA on the Web (FOTW)

www.fafsa.gov

- Pre-Application Worksheet can be used
 - Preview of some FAFSA questions
 - Questions follow order of FOTW
- Signed electronically by
 - student
 - one parent

FSA USER ID and PASSWORD

- Will be used by students and parents during aid process for upcoming school years
 - As a log in
 - As an electronic signature

Web site: www.fsaid.ed.gov

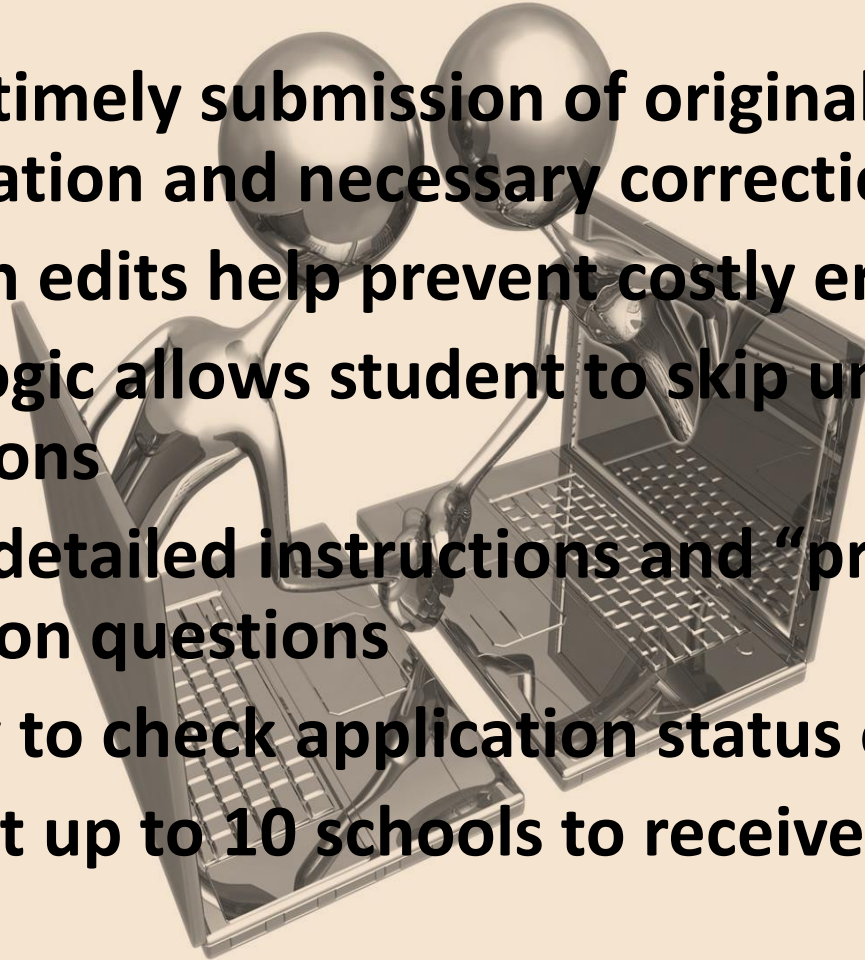


Paper FAFSA

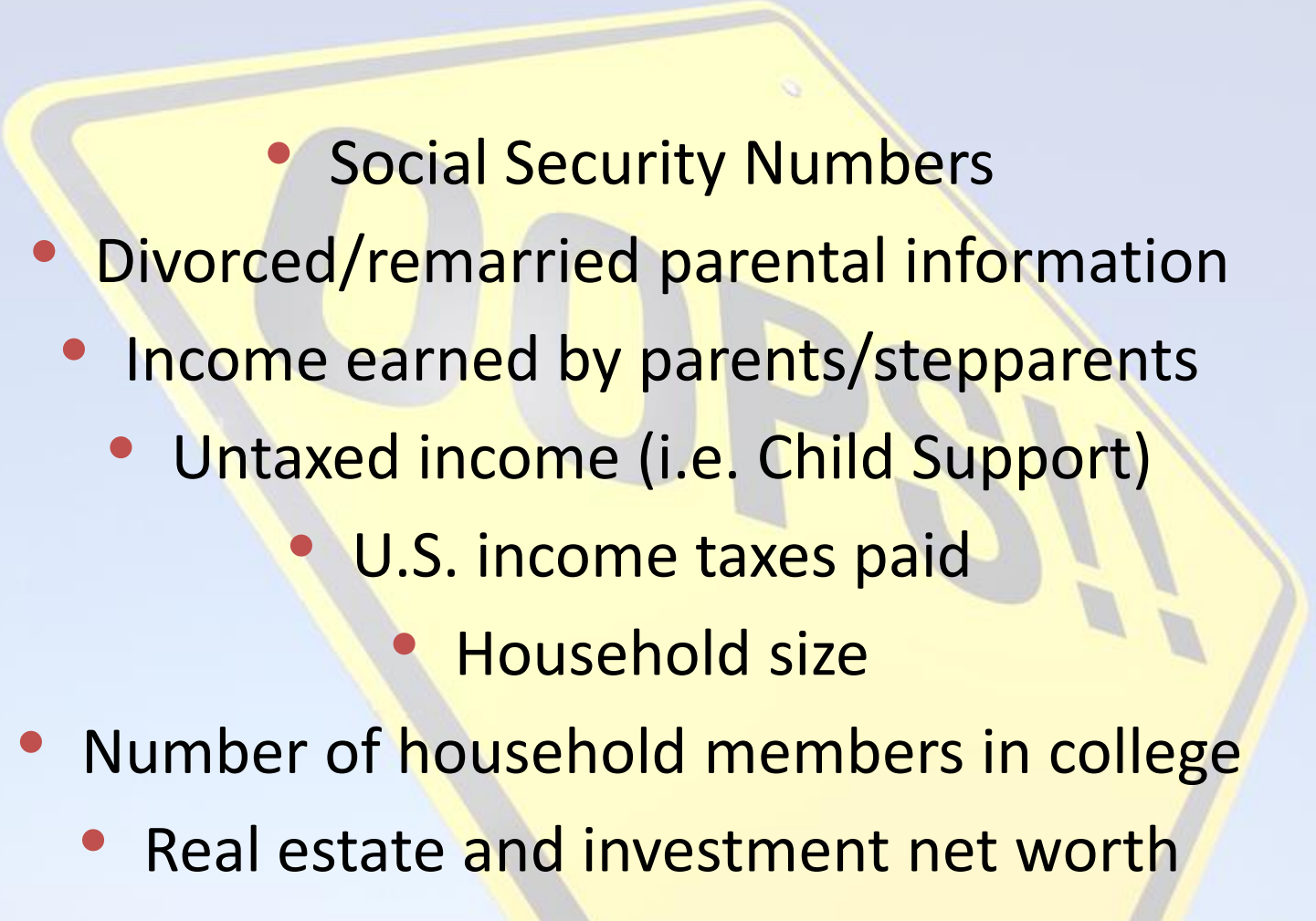
- Students can request a paper form by calling **1-800-4-FED-AID**
- or
- Print out and complete a **PDF** version at www.fafsa.gov, then mail in to the processor

Reasons to File Online

- More timely submission of original application and necessary corrections
- Built in edits help prevent costly errors
- Skip-logic allows student to skip unnecessary questions
- More detailed instructions and “prompts” for common questions
- Ability to check application status on-line
- Can list up to 10 schools to receive info



Frequent FAFSA Errors

- 
- Social Security Numbers
 - Divorced/remarried parental information
 - Income earned by parents/stepparents
 - Untaxed income (i.e. Child Support)
 - U.S. income taxes paid
 - Household size
 - Number of household members in college
 - Real estate and investment net worth

IRS DRT-Data Retrieval Tool

- Transfers tax information directly from IRS
- Optional, but recommended , to reduce errors and the chance of being selected for verification.

FAFSA Processing Results

- Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR) sent to colleges listed on FAFSA.
- Colleges review ISIR
- May request additional documentation, such as copies of federal tax return transcripts (if selected for Verification)
- Colleges send award letter to student

Student Aid Report (SAR)

- **Available** 3 days- 3 weeks after filing FAFSA.
- Can be viewed online if FOTW was used.
- Will be mailed if paper FAFSA was filed.
- **Review** data for accuracy
- **Update/Correct** information if needed.



Making Corrections

If necessary, corrections to FAFSA may be made by:

- Using FAFSA on the Web (www.fafsa.gov)
- Updating paper SAR
- Submitting documentation to college's financial aid office



Special Circumstances

- Change in parent marital status
- Change in employment status
 - Loss of income
 - Death of a parent
- Medical or dental expenses **not** covered by insurance
- Unusual dependent care expenses

Special Circumstances

- Cannot be reported on FAFSA
- Send detailed statement and required documents to financial aid office at each college
- College will review special circumstances
 - Request additional documentation
 - Decisions are **final** and cannot be appealed to U.S. Department of Education

What is Financial Aid???

- Scholarships
 - Grants
 - Loans
-
- Employment opportunities



Types of Aid:

- **Gift aid:**
 - Scholarships
 - Grants
- **Self-help aid:**
 - Loans
 - Employment





Federal Pell Grants

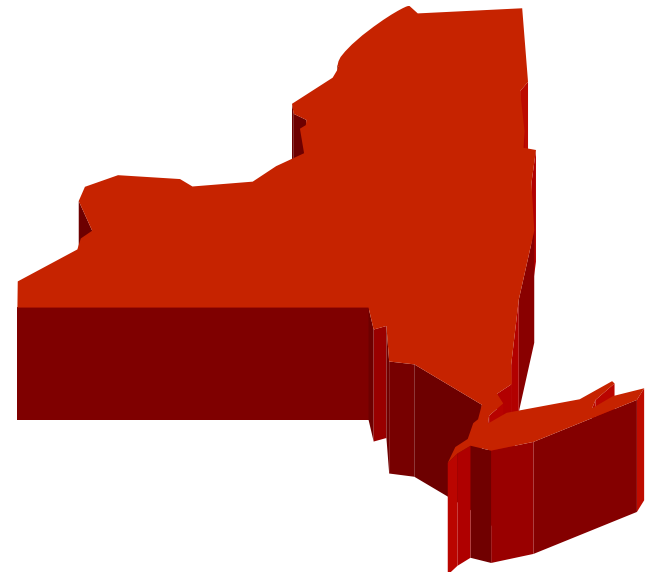
- Eligible undergraduate students
 - Portable
- Actual award amount based on EFC and enrollment status
- Maximum award for **2017-18 = \$5,920**

Other Federal grants

- FSEOG
 - Awarded to Pell grant recipients with *most financial need* as determined by participating College
- TEACH grant
 - Must teach in a high need field in a low income area.
- Iran and Afghanistan Service Grant
 - Awarded to students whose parent died in military service after 9/11.

New York State TAP

- Available to NY residents attending a New York college or university
 - Must be a full-time student
- Based on family's NY State taxable income
- Separate application must be filed at www.hesc.ny.gov
- Awards range from \$500-\$5165



Federal Direct Stafford Loans

- *Subsidized*: Must demonstrate “need”
- *Unsubsidized*: Not based on “need”
- Base annual loan limits:
 - \$5,500** for 1st year undergraduate
 - \$6,500** for 2nd year undergraduate
 - \$7,500** for each remaining undergraduate year

Stafford Loans (cont'd)

- Fixed rate of interest
- Subsidized: **3.76%** (for 2016-17)
 - Unsubsidized: **3.76 % (interest accrues)**
- 6 month grace period
- **10-30** year repayment period
- Deferred until 6 months after graduation or dropping below half-time

Parent PLUS Loan

- Fixed interest rate
 - 5.31 % for Direct PLUS loans (16-17)
- Credit check required
- Repayment begins 60 days after loan is fully disbursed
- Deferment option is available.
- Annual loan limit: COA *minus* other aid

PRIVATE LOANS

- Credit based loans
- In student's name (Will need a cosigner)
- Majority have variable interest rate





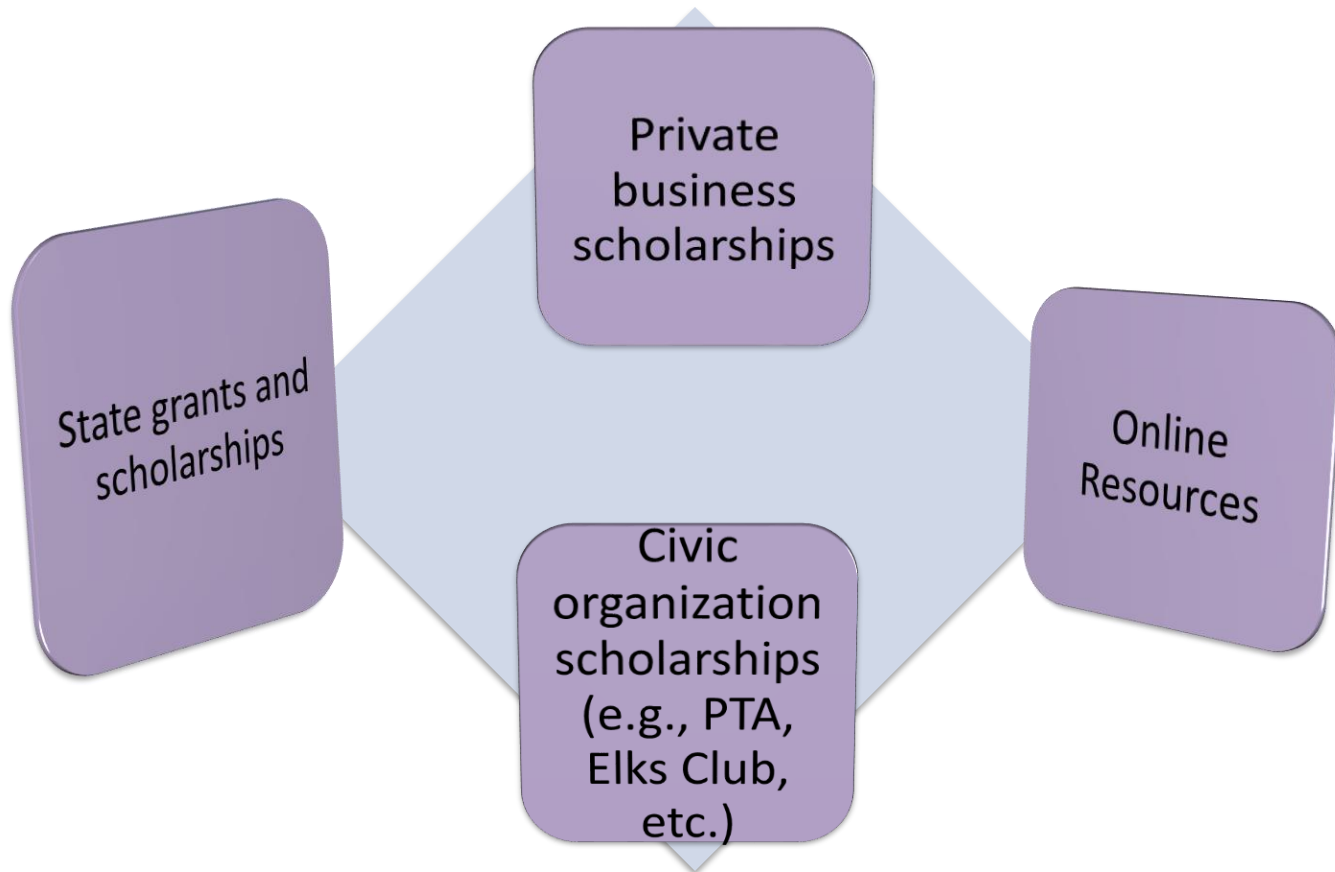
Federal Work-Study

- Undergraduate and graduate students

Employment may be on or off campus

- Students earn a paycheck

Other Sources of Funds



Private Scholarship Search

FREE Internet scholarship search engines:

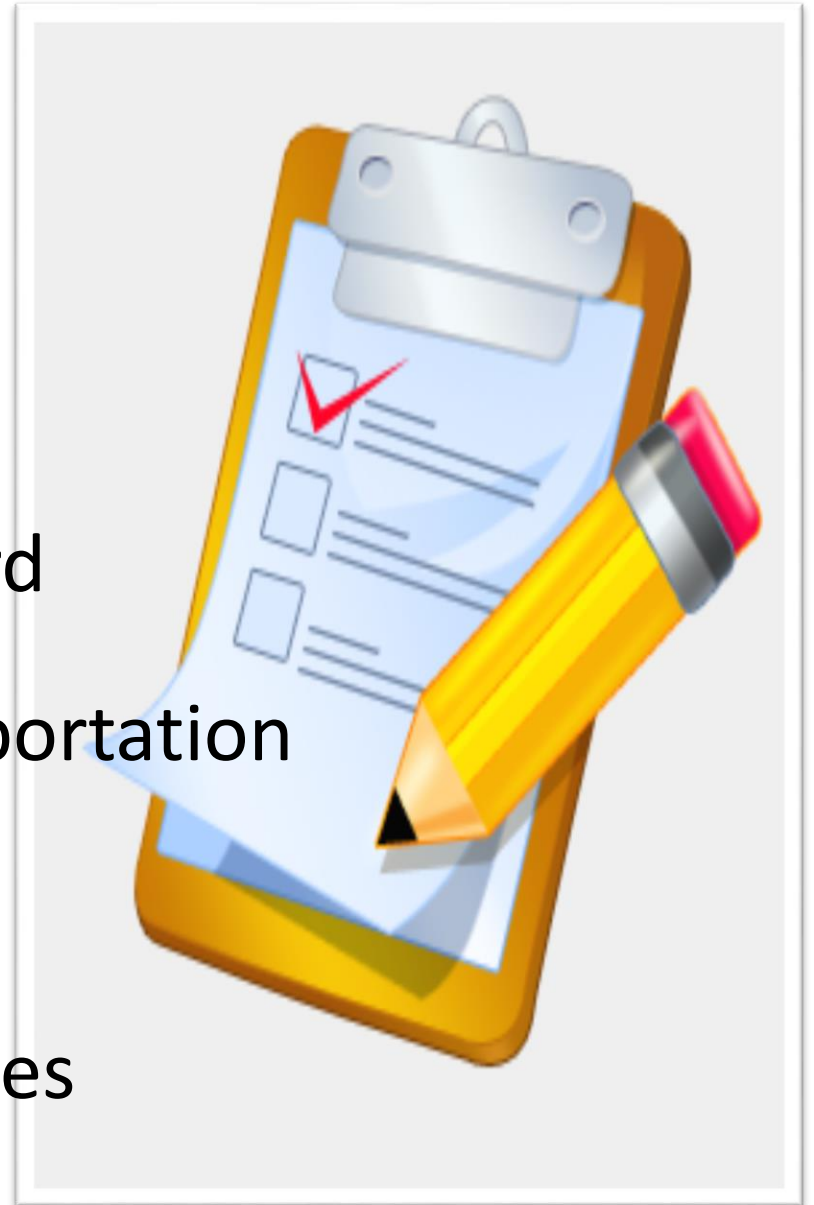
- FinAid on the web: www.finaid.org
- College Board: www.collegeboard.com
- FastWeb: www.fastweb.com
- GoCollege: The Collegiate Websource:
www.gocollege.com

TERMINOLOGY

- COA
- EFC
- Need

Cost of Attendance

- Tuition and fees
 - Room and board
- Books, supplies, transportation
 - Loan fees
- Personal expenses



Expected Family Contribution (EFC)

- Amount family can *reasonably* be expected to contribute
- Calculated using FAFSA data and a federal formula
- Stays the same **regardless** of college

Two components:

- Parent Contribution
- Student Contribution

Definition of “Need”

Cost of attendance (COA)

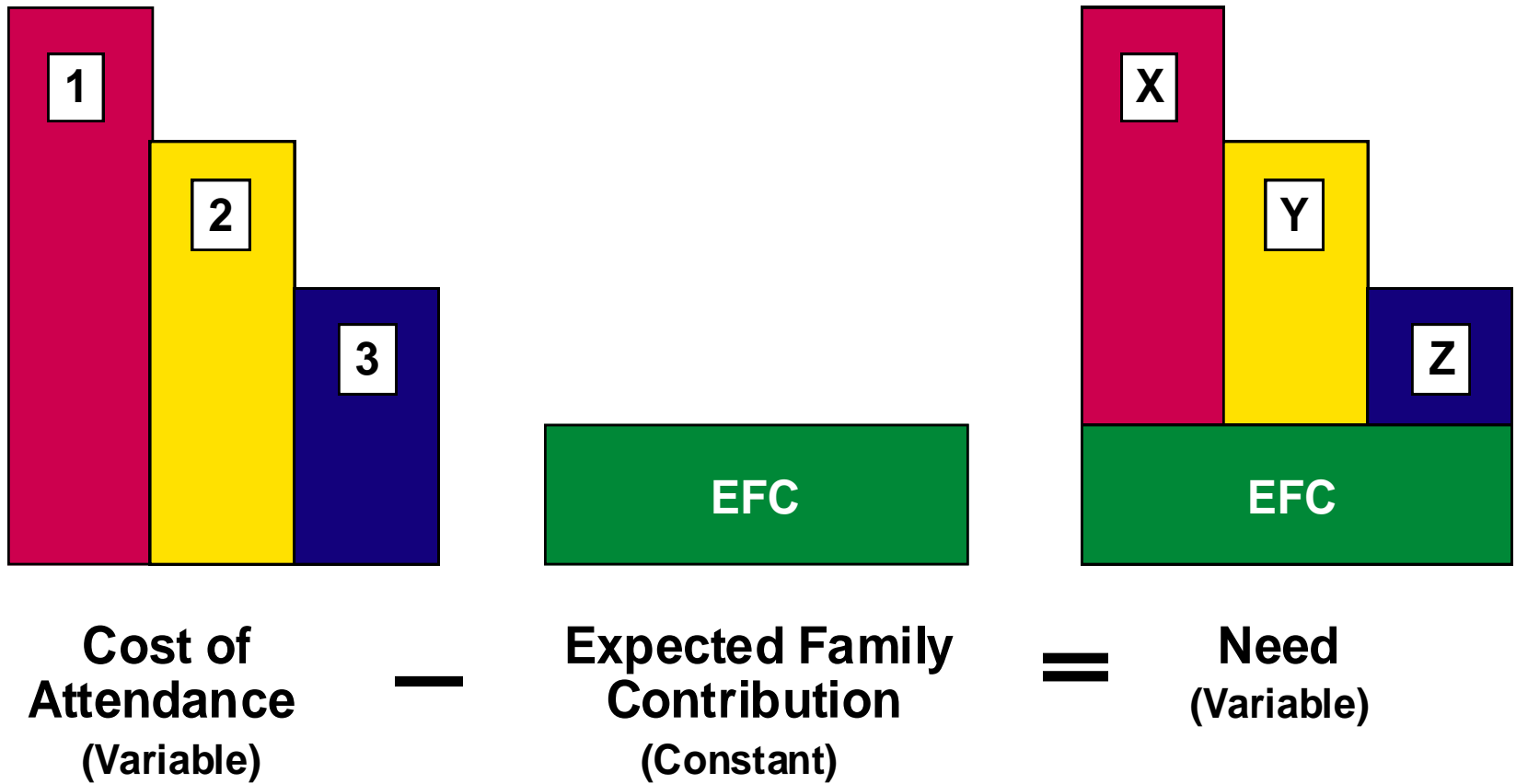
minus

Expected family contribution (EFC)

equals

“Need”

Need Varies Based on Cost



Role of the Financial Aid Office



- **Determines aid eligibility using federal formula**
- **Packages aid depending on availability of funds**
- **Sends award notification including:**
 - Award amount for **each** program for which student is eligible

\$UMMARY

- Submit FAFSA prior to school's deadline
- Some aid is awarded on “first-come, first-served” basis
- College is expensive
- Make decisions as a family
- Be realistic
- Plan for four years, not just next year.

QUESTIONS?

