

# FINANCIAL AID & SCHOLARSHIP SERVICES

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University Financial Aid and Scholarship Services administers a broad spectrum of grants, scholarships, work-study funds, and loans in an attempt to meet the financial need of NMSU students.

Students applying for financial aid must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Students must submit the FAFSA every year. The information reported on the FAFSA calculates the Student Aid Index (SAI). The SAI is an eligibility index number used to determine your eligibility for federal financial aid. The formula that establishes the SAI is instituted by law and is a result of the information provided on the FAFSA.

NMSU uses the SAI to determine your financial aid award. Some college scholarships also require an SAI. All information provided to the University Financial Aid and Scholarship Services is confidential.

Students can begin applying for financial aid by submitting a FAFSA through [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov) ([https://studentaid.gov/](https://studentaid.gov)). Please refer to the NMSU-Las Cruces, Financial Aid and Scholarship Services web site for more information on awards and policies at [fa.nmsu.edu](http://fa.nmsu.edu).

## General Eligibility Requirements

To receive financial aid you must be admitted to NMSU as a degree-seeking student in an eligible degree or certificate program and demonstrate that you are qualified to obtain an education by:

- Having a high school diploma or recognized equivalent such as a General Education Development (GED) certificate or
- Completing a high school education in a home-school setting approved under state law or
- Achieving a passing score on an independently administered ATB test approved by the Education Department as a student who first enrolled in an eligible program of study *prior* to July 1, 2012 without a high school diploma, recognized equivalent, or did not complete home schooling, and could continue to qualify based on completing 6 credit hours from that eligible program.
- Being a U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen (state funded scholarships are available to undocumented students).
- Having a valid Social Security number. If you do not have a Social Security number, you can find out more about applying for one at [ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov) (<http://www.ssa.gov/>).
- Meeting satisfactory academic progress (SAP).
- Signing a statement on the FAFSA certifying that you will use Federal student aid only for educational purposes.
- Certifying that you are not in default on a loan under any title IV or HEA loan program, and have not exceeded annual or aggregate loan limits, and you are not liable for grant overpayment.