# FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA)

The **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** – used to apply for student financial aid from the federal government and the state government. It is the main gateway form for obtaining need-based student aid. (Even some merit-based scholarship programs require applicants to complete the FAFSA, usually to ensure that students receive all the need-based aid to which they are entitled.) The FAFSA is also a prerequisite for obtaining low-cost federal education loans

### OCC'S Federal School Code is:    002624

**If you are completing your FAFSA to obtain financial aid at Ocean County College, you will need to provide OCC's federal school code on the FAFSA so we may receive your results and determine your eligibility.**

✓ The student and at least one parent *(if student is unmarried and under 24 years of age)* must apply for a **FSA ID** in order to electronically sign the FAFSA. Electronically signing the FAFSA reduces the amount of time it will take for the FAFSA results to reach the school.  See the opposite side of this handout for directions on how to obtain a FAFSA ID.

✓ Once you have received your FSA ID you can then file your **FAFSA** online by visiting **www.studentaid.gov.** *(For questions about federal student aid and help completing the FAFSA, call the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243). This is a toll-free hotline sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education. They are available Monday – Friday, 8:00am – 10:00pm Eastern Standard Time)*

✓ **IRS Data Retrieval** – When you are filing your FAFSA, you will be given the option to retrieve your IRS data to automatically populate the FAFSA. This option simplifies the application process; helps reduce errors, and may lower your chances of being selected to verify the information on your FAFSA.

✓ If you or your parent are having trouble using your FSA ID to sign your FAFSA do not worry we can help!  Just print out the signature page, sign it and bring it to our office. We will submit the signatures for you.

✓ It takes approximately 3 – 5 business days for our office to receive your FAFSA results.

## Quick Tips

- When the FAFSA refers to "I," "You," "Your," it is referring to the student (not the parent, family, or FAFSA preparer).
- Always double-check even basic demographic items, such as student name, Social Security number and date of birth, address, and zip code.
- Nothing will delay a FAFSA faster than errors or omissions. Check all responses carefully.
- The FAFSA is a free form, as the name suggests. Students do not need to pay to submit or have the form processed.
- Students must reapply for financial aid every year.

# HOW TO CREATE A FSA ID

The FSA ID is a username and password you use to log in to U.S. Department of Education (ED) online systems, including the myStudentAid mobile app, fafsa.gov, StudentAid.gov, and StudentLoans.gov. The FSA ID is your legal signature and shouldn't be created or used by anyone other than you - not even your parent, your child, a school official, or a loan company representative. You'll use your FSA ID every year you fill out a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) form and for the lifetime of your federal student loans.

**1**

**How to get Started**
Go to https://fsaid.ed.gov.
Click the "Create Your FSA ID Now" button.

**2**

**Create Your FSA ID (Username and Password)**
**Email:** Optional but strongly recommended. An email address can be associated with only one FSA ID (you and your parent cannot use the same email address). You must have access to this email account.
**Username:** Don't include personal info such as date of birth or name. If you see a message "The username you entered is already in use," then someone has already used that username.

**3**

**Provide Personal Identification Information**
Enter your name, date of birth, Social Security number, contact information, and challenge questions and answers. Make sure your Social Security number (SSN), date of birth, and name match what's on your Social Security card.You must have an SSN to create an FSA ID.

**4**

**Provide Profile Information**
Confirm information you entered previously and provide additional information. Make sure your information is correct; any errors could result in a delay or problem in your receiving financial aid (or in the repayment of your federal student loans).

**5**

**Verify**
If you provided a mobile phone number, you'll be taken to the "Mobile Phone Number Verification" page.
If you provided an email address, you'll be taken to the "Email Verification" page.

**6**

**Your FSA ID is created!**
Your FSA ID was created. If you provided an email address, you'll receive a confirmation email. You may immediately use your FSA ID to sign an original (first-time) FAFSA form. Your information will be sent to the Social Security Administration (SSA) for confirmation. SSA review will take 1-3 days. Until your info is verified, you won't be able to take certain actions, such as correcting your FAFSA form, submitting a renewal FAFSA form, or signing a Master Promissory Note.