Guide to Federal Financial Aid

1. Complete the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)](#) application
   - You can fill out the FAFSA application fully online or via mobile phone or a tablet using the myStudentAid app.
   - You will need your Social Security number, driver's license number or state ID, alien registration number for non-U.S. citizens, tax information, records of untaxed income, current bank statements and investments.
   - Graduate and professional students are almost always considered independent students for FAFSA purposes, so when you fill out your FAFSA form to apply for grad school aid, you won't need to provide parent information.

2. After you submit the FAFSA form, you should receive your Student Aid Report (SAR) within three days to three weeks. The SAR lists your answers to the questions on your FAFSA form and gives you some basic information about your aid eligibility, so review it carefully and make corrections to your FAFSA information if needed.

3. Your SAR may show eligibility for these types of financial aid:
   - [Direct Unsubsidized Loans](#)
   - [Direct PLUS Loans for Graduate or Professional Students](#)
   - [Federal Work-Study](#)

4. When considering different loans, make sure you understand the differences between federal and private loans. You can learn more about the pros and cons [here](#).

5. Financial aid disbursements are sent directly to the school and first applied to your outstanding balance of tuition and fees – the remainder will be refunded directly to you for living and other expenses.

6. To accept your aid, go to your [my.OleMiss.edu](#) account, access the Financial Aid menu, and select "Award Notification".

7. If you have any questions, the [Office of Financial Aid](#) is ready to assist!