



STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY

FINANCIAL AID

SEPTEMBER 2017

SCHEDULE A FAFSA NIGHT

Contact SFA's Office of Student Financial Assistance to schedule your high school FAFSA night. Our counselors travel to you and share general information about the FAFSA application and how to apply.

Contact our office to schedule your event at finaid@sfasu.edu or (936) 468-2768.

SHOWCASE SATURDAY

Experience SFA's best at our upcoming Showcase Saturday event **Nov. 11, 2017**.

There's a reason we don't call it an "open house." Showcase Saturday isn't your typical college visit. Sure, you'll get to see the SFA campus and take a tour of our residence halls, but depending on the time of year you attend Showcase Saturday, you'll get to do much more than that. Check out SFA's performing arts scene, or cheer on the Lumberjacks and Ladyjacks at one of our many sporting events from football games in the fall to basketball in the spring.

Contact the Office of Admissions at (936) 468-2504 to make arrangements to attend one of three scheduled Showcase Saturday events.



CONTACT YOUR COUNSELOR

(by first letter of student's last name)

(936) 468-2403 ★ finaid@sfasu.edu

Necole Beason, A-D

LaShanda Parkhurst, E-K

Sara Williams, L-Q

Donna Lee, R-Z

AVOIDING FINANCIAL AID SCAMS

Before you apply for financial aid, you should take note of ways to avoid becoming a victim of fraud. Each year, we hear from hundreds of students who have paid fees to apply for scholarships and have paid to complete the FAFSA. One important thing to remember is applying for financial aid is FREE.

Make sure when applying for the 2018-19 FAFSA that you go to fafsa.ed.gov. Some unscrupulous companies guarantee they can get scholarships on behalf of students or award them "scholarships" in exchange for an advance fee. Most offer a "money back guarantee" but attach conditions that make it impossible to get the refund. Legitimate scholarship opportunities will not cost money.

The Federal Trade Commission cautions students to look and listen for these telltale lines:

- "The scholarship is guaranteed or your money back."
- "You can't get this information anywhere else."
- "I just need your credit card or bank account number to hold this scholarship."
- "We'll do all the work. You just pay a processing fee."
- "The scholarship will cost some money."
- "You've been selected" by a "national foundation" to receive a scholarship, or "You're a finalist" in a contest.

2018-19 FAFSA WILL OPEN OCT. 1, 2017

Beginning Oct. 1, 2017, students will be able to fill out the FAFSA for the 2018-19 school year. Students and parents can retrieve their data directly from the IRS using the 2016 tax information from the first day the FAFSA is available. Students also will have information about their Expected Family Contributions earlier.

Parents and students can get ready for the FAFSA by creating an FSA ID, a username and password combination that you'll use to sign the FAFSA and access certain websites related to your federal student aid. Visit StudentAid.gov/fafsa to find out how to create your FSA ID and other important FAFSA information.

2018-19 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION NOW AVAILABLE

It's important for students to apply for scholarships every year. Scholarships help reduce student loan debt and make the college experience more enjoyable. The key to scholarship application is to apply early and for multiple scholarships.

SFA's scholarship application opens Friday, Sept. 1, 2017, and is available until Thursday Feb. 1, 2018. Students do not need to be fully admitted to SFA to apply; however, they will need a mySFA account. To apply for SFA scholarships, students must log in via mySFA. Then, click on the Future Lumberjacks tab, and click the Apply for Scholarship Opportunities link to access the application.

Students also are encouraged to apply for private scholarships not provided by SFA. These scholarships can be from a local high school, church, parent-teacher organization or other community groups, such as the Rotary or Lion's Clubs. Another available website for scholarship applications is fastweb.com. Avoid scholarships that charge students to apply. Legitimate scholarship applications are free to complete.