



# FINANCING YOUR COLLEGE EDUCATION

**FOR 2025 - 2026**

# WHAT IS FINANCIAL AID?

**Financial Aid** is money provided to students to help pay for post-secondary educational expenses.

## NEED-BASED FINANCIAL AID

Money given because student has need:

- Grants (free money)
- Scholarships (free money)
- Loans (borrowed money)
- Work-Study

## MERIT-BASED FINANCIAL AID

Scholarships given because of skills or achievements such as:

- Academics
- Athletics



# WHAT IS FINANCIAL NEED?



## **COST OF ATTENDANCE (COA)**

The total estimated cost to attend college for one year, including tuition, fees, supplies, etc.



## **STUDENT AID INDEX (SAI)**

A calculated number used to determine how much financial aid you may qualify for.



## **OTHER FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (OFA)**

Any scholarships, grants, or outside aid that reduce the amount you need to pay out-of-pocket.



## **FINANCIAL NEED**

The gap between what college costs and what your family is expected to contribute.



## ELIGIBILITY

- Have a high school diploma or its equivalent.
- Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a regular student working towards a degree OR certificate in an eligible program.
- Be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen for federal aid (i.e. permanent resident/political asylum).
- Transfer students must be in good financial aid standing with your loans.
- Resident of New York State for state aid.
- Students must be in good academic standing for both federal & state aid.

# WHO IS ELIGIBLE?



Understanding who qualifies for financial aid





# TYPES OF FEDERAL GRANTS



Money that doesn't need to be paid back!

## FEDERAL GRANTS (ANNUAL)

The **Federal Pell Grant** is money given to undergraduate students. It can grant up to **\$7,365** with a **6-year** limit.

## FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY GRANT (FSEOG)

The **FSEOG** is a federal grant given to undergraduate students who have shown the most financial need. It can grant from **\$100 to \$4,000**.

## FEDERAL WORK-STUDY

Provides **part-time jobs** for undergraduate and graduate students with financial need, these jobs can be **on-campus or off-campus**.





# FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA)

A standard form that collects demographic and financial information about the student and family

- Required for all types of federal aid
- Apply and reapply each year (available in English, Spanish, and other languages via interpreters)
- The application becomes available every **OCTOBER 1ST** – the earlier you apply, the better the chance you have at receiving different types of federal grants.

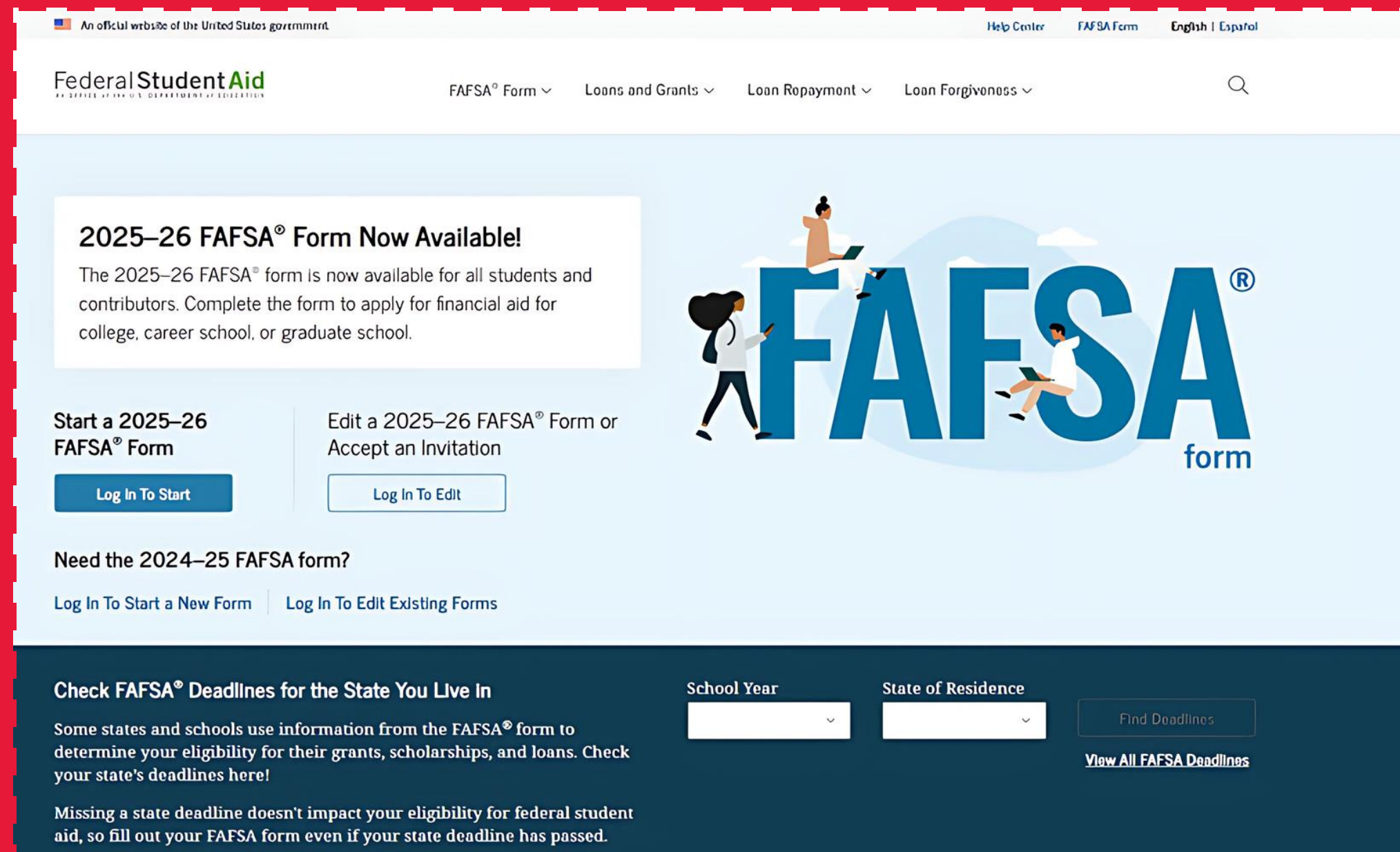
**QUEENS COLLEGE SCHOOL CODE: 002690**







# APPLY THROUGH studentaid.gov



The screenshot shows the Federal Student Aid website. At the top, it says "An official website of the United States government" and "Help Center FAFSA Form English | Español". The main header includes "FederalStudentAid" and navigation links for "FAFSA® Form", "Loans and Grants", "Loan Repayment", and "Loan Forgiveness". A search icon is also present.

The main content area features a large banner for the "2025–26 FAFSA® Form Now Available!". The text states: "The 2025–26 FAFSA® form is now available for all students and contributors. Complete the form to apply for financial aid for college, career school, or graduate school." To the right of this text is a large illustration of the word "FAFSA" in blue, with a registered trademark symbol, and the word "form" in smaller blue text below it. Three stylized figures are interacting with the letters: one is sitting on the 'F', another is standing next to the 'A', and a third is sitting on the 'S'.

Below the banner, there are two columns of buttons. The left column has a button labeled "Log In To Start" under the heading "Start a 2025–26 FAFSA® Form". The right column has a button labeled "Log In To Edit" under the heading "Edit a 2025–26 FAFSA® Form or Accept an Invitation".

Below these buttons, there is a section titled "Need the 2024–25 FAFSA form?" with two links: "Log In To Start a New Form" and "Log In To Edit Existing Forms".

At the bottom, there is a dark blue section titled "Check FAFSA® Deadlines for the State You Live In". It includes a paragraph: "Some states and schools use information from the FAFSA® form to determine your eligibility for their grants, scholarships, and loans. Check your state's deadlines here!". Below this, there are two dropdown menus for "School Year" and "State of Residence", a "Find Deadlines" button, and a link to "View All FAFSA Deadlines". A final paragraph states: "Missing a state deadline doesn't impact your eligibility for federal student aid, so fill out your FAFSA form even if your state deadline has passed."





# FAFSA FSA ID

- Students, spouses and parents must create an **FSA ID account** (this includes undocumented parents and spouses).
- Apply for FAFSA.
- Check status of application.
- View your FAFSA Submission Summary.
- Make corrections.

Log In ➡

FSA ID Username, Email, or Mobile Phone



[Forgot My Username](#)

Password

Show Password

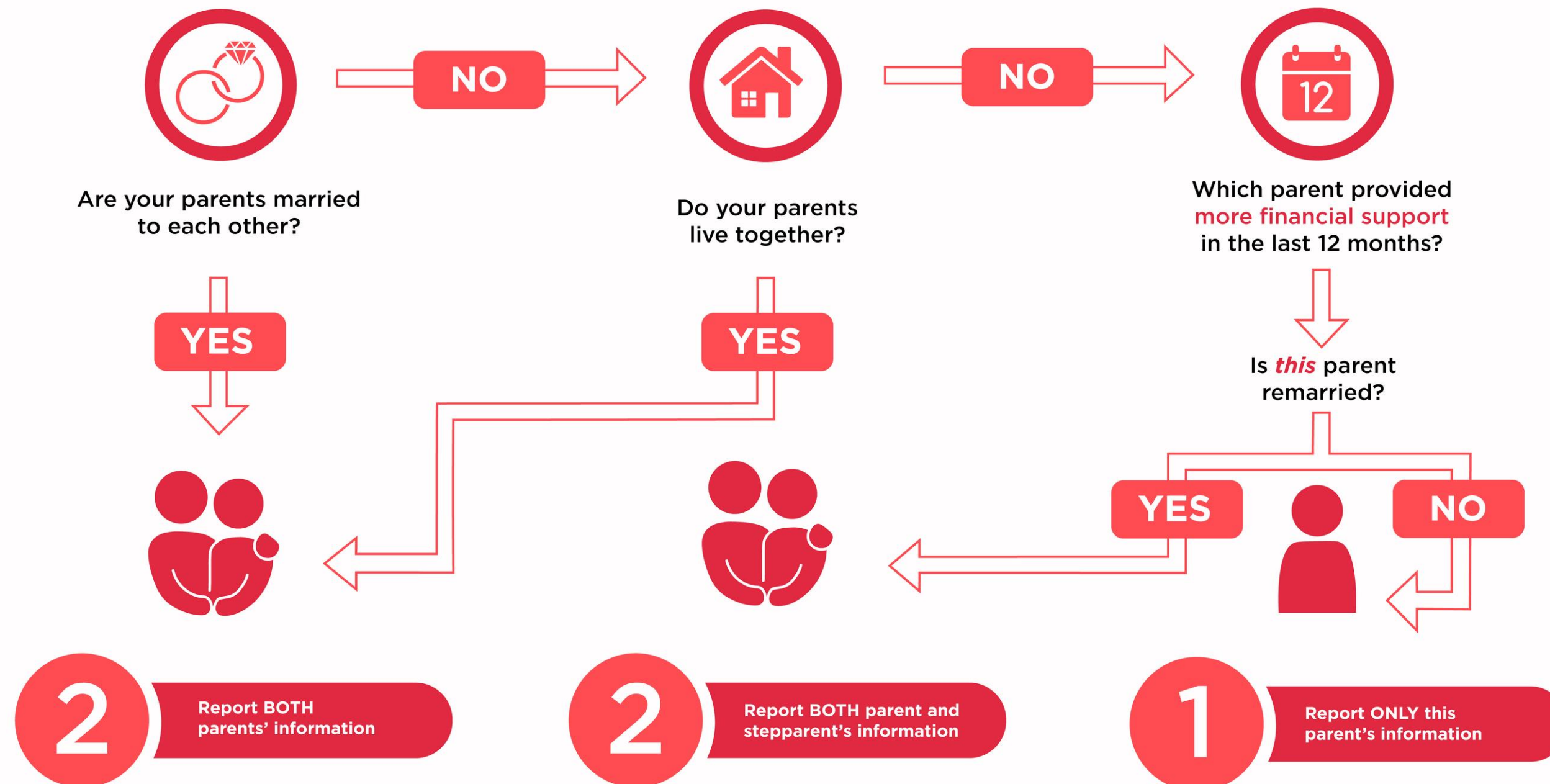


[Forgot My Password](#)



# CONTRIBUTORS

Contributors are anyone required to provide information, or consent and approval, and a signature on the **FAFSA form**.



# INDEPENDENT STUDENTS



To be considered independent you must be:



**24 YEARS OR OLDER**

**MARRIED**

**WITH  
DEPENDENTS**

Whom you provide more than  
**50% of their support** for the  
entire year.



## IMPORTANT!

If you believe that you have ***unusual circumstances*** that prevent you from providing your parent's information.

**Please speak to a financial aid representative to find out your options.**



# FUTURE ACT DIRECT DATA EXCHANGE (FA-DDX)



- Imports most U.S. income and tax information directly from the IRS into the 2025–2026 FAFSA.
- Eliminates the need for most applicants (spouse & parents) to self-report their income and tax information reported to the IRS.
- Students, spouses, and parents, will be required to consent and approve the new data transfer for federal student aid eligibility. Even if the applicant is aware they did not file a federal tax return.
- If consent is not provided > student is not eligible for Federal student aid.
- Foreign earned income will be entered manually.

# SUBMISSION CONFIRMATION



The screenshot shows the FAFSA submission confirmation page for Student Andrew Rivera. The page features a light blue background with illustrations of hot air balloons. The main heading reads "Congratulations, The FAFSA® Form Is Complete!". Below this, the student's name "Andrew Rivera" is displayed with a graduation cap icon. A table provides key information: Completion Date (02/04/2025), Data Release Number (6260), and Estimated Student Aid Index (SAI) (4958). A disclaimer states that the estimated SAI is subject to change and is not a measure of aid. A box at the bottom indicates eligibility for a Federal Pell Grant of up to \$2435.00 and other financial aid programs.

FAFSA® FORM

Student Andrew Rivera

Exit FAFSA Menu

## Congratulations, The FAFSA® Form Is Complete!

Andrew Rivera

Completion Date	Data Release Number	Estimated Student Aid Index (SAI)
02/04/2025	6260	4958

*The estimated SAI is **subject to change** based on final processing of your FAFSA form. The SAI is **not** a measure of how much student aid you'll receive or how much you'll pay for college or career school. Schools use your SAI to determine your federal student aid eligibility.*

Based on the eligibility criteria, you may be eligible for a Federal Pell Grant of up to \$2435.00. You may also be eligible for other federal, state, or institutional grants; scholarships; and/or work-study programs.

# STUDENT AID INDEX (SAI)

## WHAT IS SAI?

The **Student Aid Index (SAI)** is a calculated number used to determine how much financial aid you may qualify for.

- Your **SAI** appears on the **FAFSA Submission Summary**.
- The index reflects an evaluation of a **student's** approximate **financial resources** to contribute towards the student's **education** for the academic year.
- This number is used to **determine** your **eligibility** for **need-based federal student aid**. This number could also be a **negative** value.

PARENT  
INCOME

STUDENT  
INCOME

PARENT  
ASSETS

STUDENT  
ASSETS







# YOUR 2025-2026 FAFSA STATUS

For the **2025-26 FAFSA** form, the **status of your application** will be one of the following:



## Draft

**Draft:** Your section of the FAFSA form is incomplete.

## In Progress

**In Progress:** You provided your consent, approval, and signature to your section of the FAFSA form, but it has not been submitted yet.

## In Review

**In Review:** Your FAFSA form was submitted but hasn't been processed yet.

## Action Required

**Action Required:** You are missing your consent and approval or signature, or the FAFSA form was processed, but a correction is required.

## Processed

**Processed:** Your application was processed successfully. No further action is needed.

## Closed

**Closed:** Your FAFSA form was never submitted and can no longer be submitted because the federal FAFSA deadline passed.

# WHAT IS THE FAFSA SUBMISSION SUMMARY?



## INFORMATION

The **FAFSA Submission Summary** includes the information that the student and contributor(s) submitted on the student's FAFSA for federal student aid.



## ACCESS

The student can access the **FAFSA Submission Summary** after their **FAFSA form** is **processed**. Parent or spouse contributors will **not** receive a copy or be able to access the FAFSA Submission Summary online.



## REMINDER

The **FAFSA Submission Summary** is **not** a Financial aid offer. Aid offers will come **directly from the college the student listed** on the FAFSA form and has been accepted to.



# TYPES OF NEW YORK \* STATE GRANTS

More money that doesn't need to be paid back!



## TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TAP)

The **TAP** is money granted from New York State to undergraduate students. It can grant from **\$1,000 to \$5,556 with a 4-year limit.**

## PART-TIME TAP (PTAP)

The **part-time TAP (PTAP)** is an extension of the standard TAP award, designed to support undergraduate students enrolled part-time, **usually 6 to 11 credits.**

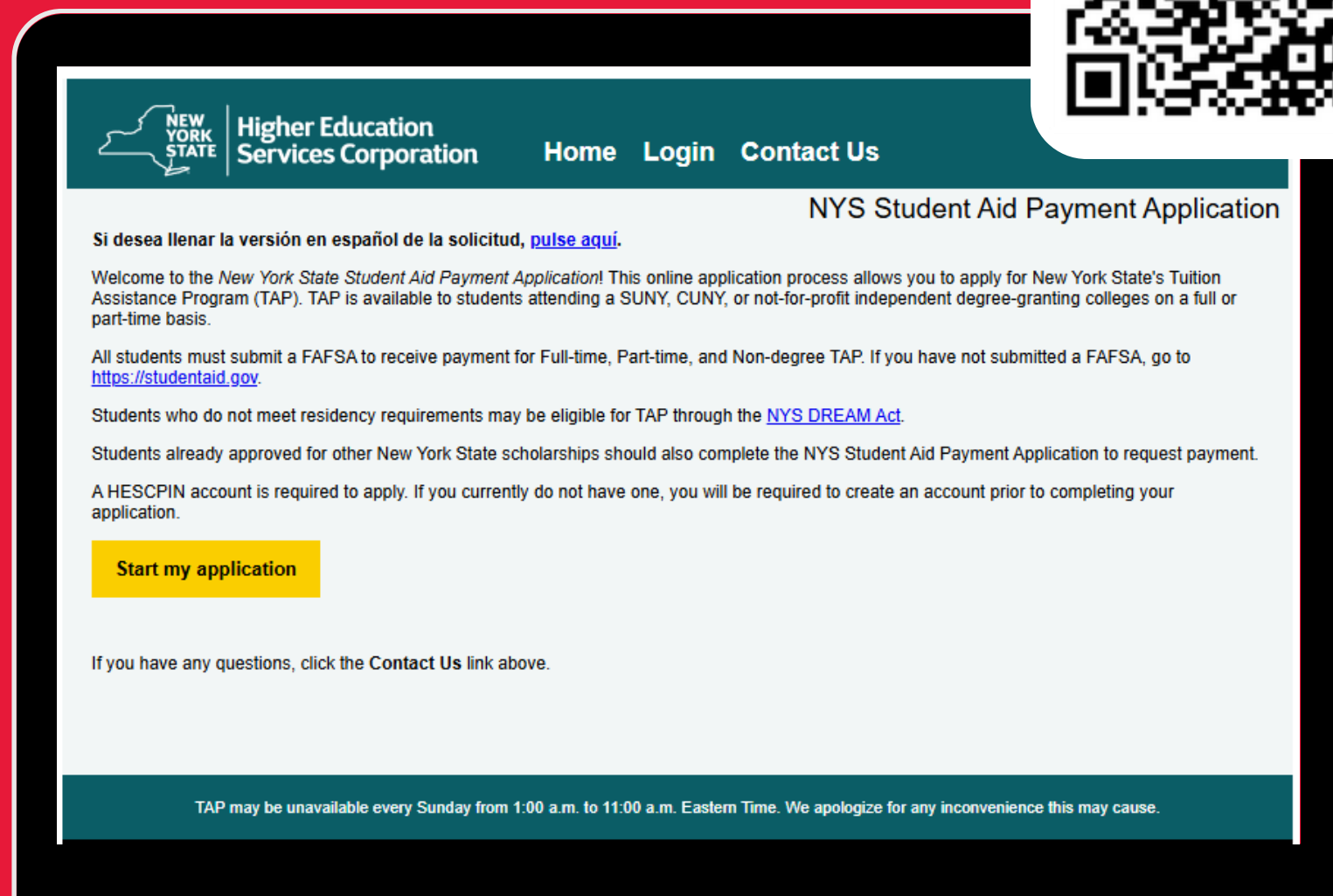
## SPECIAL PROGRAM (SEEK)

**SEEK (Search for Education, Elevation, and Knowledge)** provides incoming freshmen with a required summer college-prep program and continues with academic, financial, and personal support for their academic journey.



# APPLY FOR TAP *and* other NYS Financial Aid

NYS Grants and Scholarships @ HESC

A screenshot of the 'NYS Student Aid Payment Application' website. The header includes the New York State logo and 'Higher Education Services Corporation' with links for 'Home', 'Login', and 'Contact Us'. The main content area contains text in Spanish and English. The English text welcomes users to the application, explains that TAP is available to students at SUNY, CUNY, or non-profit colleges, and provides instructions on how to apply, including a link to the FAFSA website. It also mentions eligibility for students who do not meet residency requirements through the NYS DREAM Act. A yellow button labeled 'Start my application' is prominent. At the bottom, a note states that TAP may be unavailable every Sunday from 1:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Eastern Time.

## NEW YORK STATE FINANCIAL AID

- Available to NYS residents attending a College or University in NY State.
- There are two (2) ways to file the TAP application (FAFSA & DREAM Act).

QUEENS COLLEGE SCHOOL CODE:

**1416**

# SENATOR JOSÉ PERALTA

# DREAM ACT

The **NYS DREAM Act** allows undocumented and other eligible students to apply for one or more New York State aid, such as, **TAP** and **Excelsior Scholarship**.

Plus it does **NOT require** the **FAFSA Application** to be filed.

Get a detailed step-by-step guide to the application on [www.hesc.ny.gov/dream](http://www.hesc.ny.gov/dream)

## THE REQUIREMENTS

- ☐ High school **attendance** in **New York State**.
- ☐ High school **completion** in **New York State**.
- ☐ In-state **CUNY, SUNY**, or a New York State **eligible private college** enrollment.
- ☐ Citizenship or **immigration status**.

# THE NEW YORK STATE **EXCELSIOR** \* **SCHOLARSHIP**

**Attend college *tuition-free!***

The **Excelsior Scholarship**, in combination with other student financial aid programs, allows students to attend a SUNY or CUNY college tuition-free.

A recipient of an Excelsior Scholarship may receive up to **\$5,500** for the academic year.

The application will be **available through the **HESC website****. Please check their website periodically for availability.



## REQUIREMENTS

- Graduate from high school in the **United States** or earned a high school **equivalency diploma**.
- Earn an income of **\$125,000 or less**.
- Pursue an undergraduate degree at a **SUNY** or **CUNY college**.
- Be enrolled in at least **12 credits per term** and complete at least **30 credits each year**.
- **Graduate on time** with an Associate's Degree in 2-years or a **Bachelor's Degree** in **4-years**.



# TYPES OF FEDERAL LOANS



**Money borrowed from the Government**

## LOANS FOR STUDENTS

### Direct Subsidized Loans (Need-based)

- 1st Year = \$3,500
- 2nd Year = \$4,500
- 3rd and 4th Year = \$5,500

Interest is not required to be paid while you are enrolled for at least half-time.

### Direct Unsubsidized Loans (Not need-based)

- 1st Year = \$5,500
- 2nd Year = \$6,500
- 3rd and 4th Year = \$7,500

Interest is accrued the moment the loan has paid out.

## LOANS FOR PARENTS

### PLUS Loans (must meet credit standards)

- Amount = **COA – Student's Financial Need**
- Parents are responsible for repayment (begins 60 days after last disbursement).

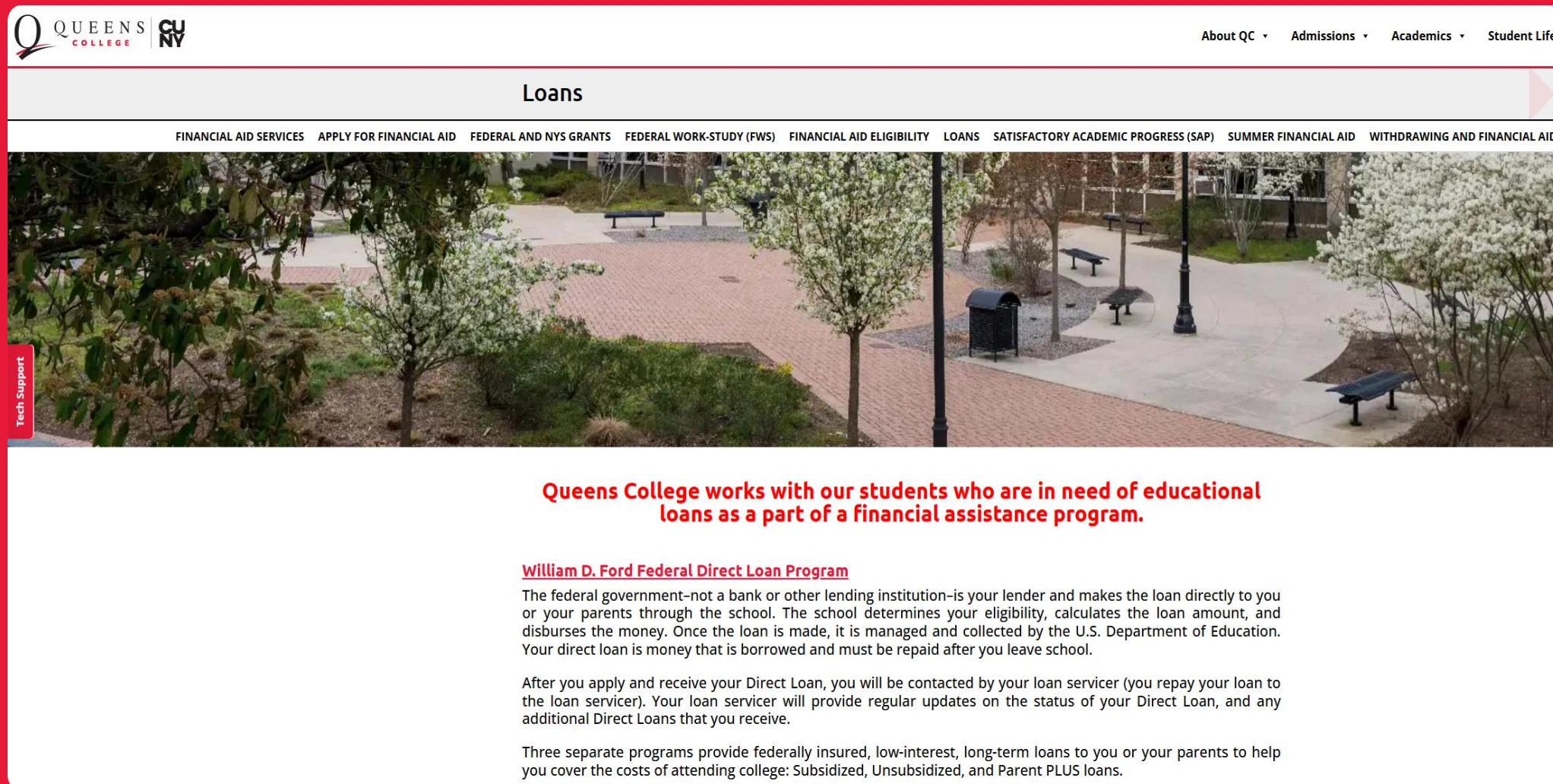




# APPLY FOR A LOAN VIA CUNYFIRST



FOR MORE INFO VISIT OUR FINANCIAL AID WEBSITE!



The screenshot shows the Queens College Financial Aid website. The header includes the Queens College logo and navigation links: About QC, Admissions, Academics, and Student Life. The main heading is "Loans". Below this is a horizontal menu with links: FINANCIAL AID SERVICES, APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID, FEDERAL AND NYS GRANTS, FEDERAL WORK-STUDY (FWS), FINANCIAL AID ELIGIBILITY, LOANS, SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS (SAP), SUMMER FINANCIAL AID, and WITHDRAWING AND FINANCIAL AID. The main content area features a photograph of a campus walkway with trees and benches. Below the photo, a red text box states: "Queens College works with our students who are in need of educational loans as a part of a financial assistance program." This is followed by a section titled "William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program" which explains that the federal government is the lender and provides details on loan eligibility, disbursement, and repayment. It also mentions that after applying, students will be contacted by a loan servicer for updates. At the bottom, it lists three separate programs: Subsidized, Unsubsidized, and Parent PLUS loans.

## BUT FIRST...

- You ***MUST*** first file a **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**.
- For **first-time loan borrowers**, you ***MUST*** complete Entrance Counseling, and a Master Promissory Note (MPN) through **[www.studentaid.gov](http://www.studentaid.gov)**
- Then complete a **Direct Loan application** by accessing your **CUNYfirst Student Center**, in the **Financial Aid** tab.

<https://www.qc.cuny.edu/faid/loans-2/>

A decorative red graphic consisting of three short, angled lines.

# SCHOLARSHIP RESOURCES

**FOR A LIST OF REPUTABLE SCHOLARSHIP SEARCHES GO TO:**

## **BIG FUTURE**

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search>

## **SCHOLARSHIPS FOR NYC AND NYS STUDENTS**

<http://www.hesc.ny.gov/>

## **FASTWEB**

<http://www.fastweb.com/>

## **DREAM US SCHOLARSHIP**

<http://www.thedream.us/>

A decorative red graphic consisting of overlapping circular and curved lines.

## **UNITED NEGRO COLLEGE FUND**

<http://www.uncf.org/>

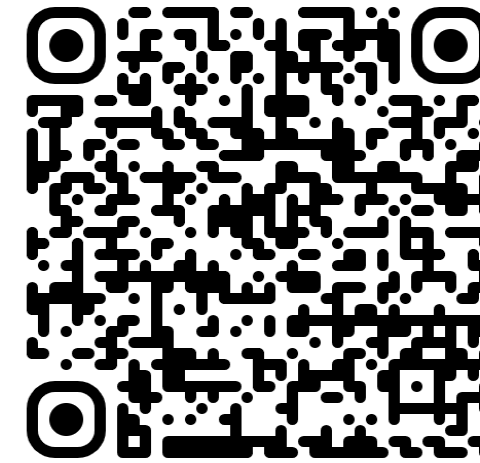
## **QUEENS COLLEGE STUDENT AFFAIRS SCHOLARSHIPS**

[qc-cuny.academicworks.com/opportunities](http://qc-cuny.academicworks.com/opportunities)



# FEDERAL AID RESOURCES

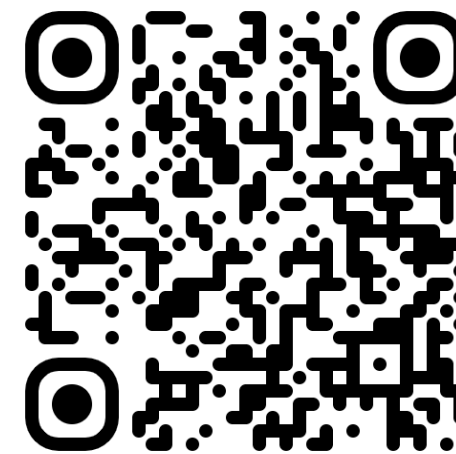
For if you need more help!



[FAFSA Application Help](#)

## GET HELP FILING FOR FAFSA!

- As well as assistance creating a [Studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov) account
- *Plus* general FAFSA questions you may have.



[FAFSA Aid Estimator](#)

## FINANCIAL AID ESTIMATOR

**Get an estimate** regarding SAI and possible federal aid **available.**

Requires demographic, income, and asset information



# CONCLUSION (EXTRA TIPS)

- Do **NOT** wait until you are admitted to file the FAFSA.
- Apply to colleges by **earliest** possible **deadline**.
- Complete **all** questions **accurately**.
- You must **re-apply** for **FAFSA/ TAP** each **year**.
- Know your school's **priority** and **deadline** **dates**.
- Keep **copies** of all **documents** for your records.
- **Beware of scams** – Filing for FAFSA is **FREE**.
- **FAFSA** will be available every year **October 1st**.
- Check your **email** used on all applications: They communicate to the students **first** **before colleges**.

# HOW TO CONTACT US!

## QC Fresh Service

Service desk that allows students to submit their financial aid inquiries and get status updates in a timely manner.



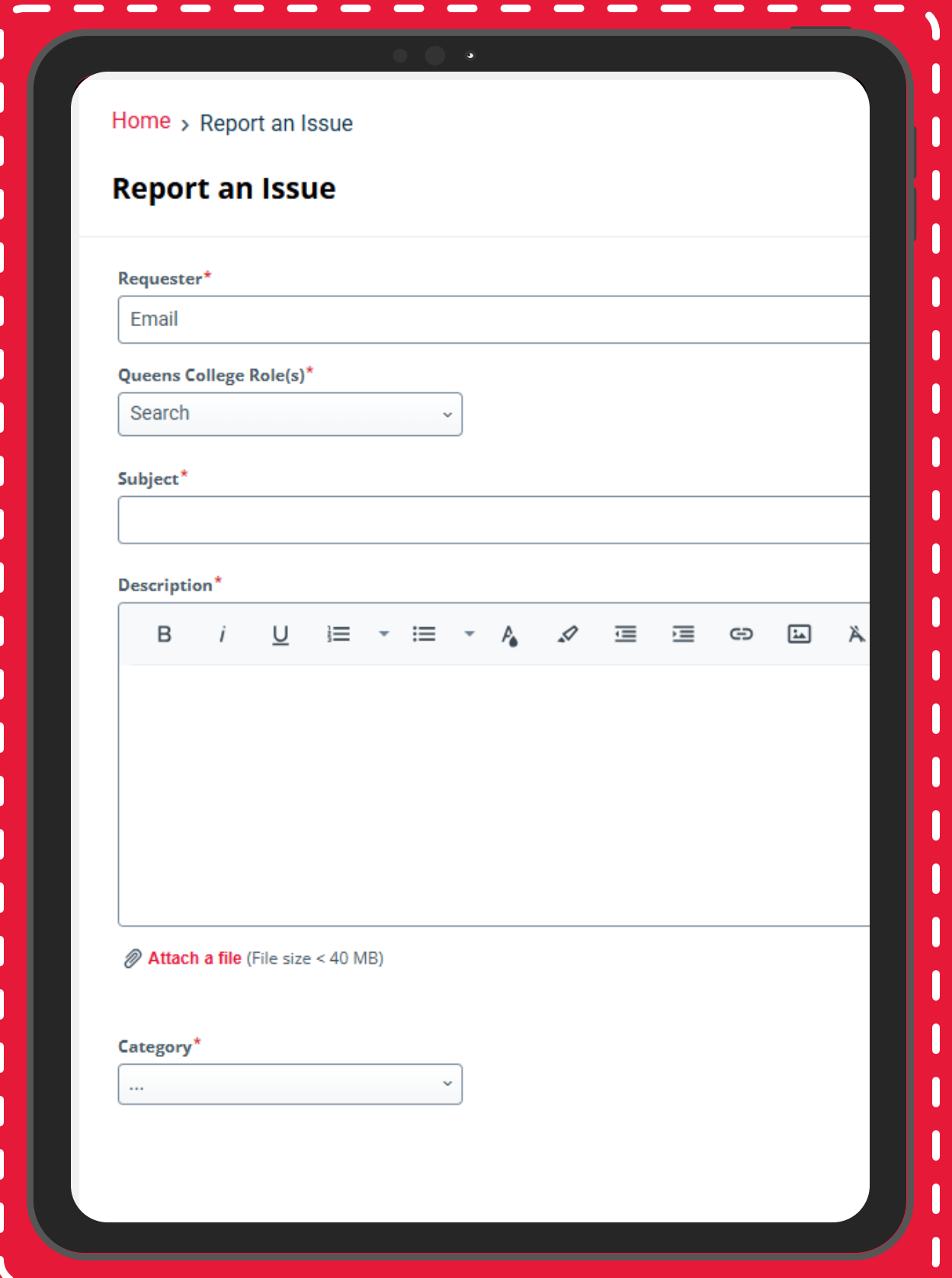
<https://support.qc.cuny.edu/>

## Navigate360

Current students can schedule an online/virtual appointment with a financial aid advisor.



<https://www.qc.cuny.edu/navigate/>



Home > Report an Issue

### Report an Issue

**Requester\***

Email

**Queens College Role(s)\***

Search

**Subject\***

**Description\***

B i U [List Icons] [Text Icons] [Link Icon] [Image Icon] [More Icons]

Attach a file (File size < 40 MB)

**Category\***

...



**THANK YOU  
FOR JOINING!**