COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT FINANCIAL AID

- **Does every college require the FAFSA?**

Yes! Every college to which you wish to apply for Financial Aid will require the FAFSA. You enter the 6-digit code for each college to which you apply; they will receive your information.

- **How do I know which additional forms my colleges require?**

Check the printed information about scholarships and financial aid that exists on every college application you complete. Also the individual colleges will send information directly to you. You can also check the list of colleges on the *PROFILE* registration form to see if your college is listed as one that requires you to also file the *CSS PROFILE*.

- **What will I receive after I file my FAFSA? How will I know if I made a mistake?**

Paper applications of the FAFSA will no longer be available at your school; you will need to download it from the website @ ***WWW.FAFSA.ED.GOV***. After completing the paper FAFSA (January 1st - March 2nd of your senior year), you will send it to a federal processor (in the envelope provided) where your information will be entered into a database. It will then be transmitted to the colleges you indicated should receive this information. Approximately 3 – 4 weeks later, you will receive your Student Aid Report (SAR), which will be a copy of all the information you provided on the original form, as it was keyed into the system. You must carefully check this information for accuracy, making changes, if necessary. All corrections are returned to the processor. In addition, you may add the names of additional colleges where you would like your information to be sent. **There is no charge for this service. Remember, that applying on-line is much faster than the paper application. You may apply on-line @ *WWW.FAFSA.ED.GOV*. The on-line FAFSA requires a pin#, and you apply for a pin @ *WWW.PIN.ED.GOV.***

- **What will I receive after I file my CSS *PROFILE*?**

After completing the CSS *PROFILE on-line @www.collegeboard.com,* your information will be entered into a database and sent to the colleges which you indicated should receive them – there is a designated charge per school. You will then receive a CSS Acknowledgement – confirming that your *PROFILE* form was received and processed and sent to the colleges indicated by you.

- **Does it matter when I file my forms?**

Yes! Your timing is crucial! You may not file the FAFSA until **after January1st of your senior year**. Most colleges set February 15th or March 2nd as 'priority' filing dates. If you miss the date, a college may not be able to fund you, regardless of your need! File on time to get priority!

- **What if I file on time, but do not receive a Financial Aid package that will allow me to attend my chosen college?**

If you receive your Financial Aid package and you and your parents believe it is insufficient, you may appeal the financial aid decision. After discussing your questions on the phone, you must put your request for an appeal in writing and send it to your College Financial Aid Officer. There is no guarantee that your package will change, however.

- **What if I have an unusual family circumstance, and there seems to be no way to explain it on either the FAFSA or the *PROFILE*? What should I do?**

If you have special circumstances, you or your parents should put this information in writing and direct if to the 'Director of Financial Aid' at the colleges to which you are applying. You should do this early in the process – January is preferable – so that your Financial Aid Officer has access to this information while working on your financial aid package.

- **What if my parents are divorced or separated? Must I file anything special?**

If your parents are divorced or separated, the parent you live with (custodial parent) should complete your FAFSA and, if required, *PROFILE*. If a college requires additional information from your non-custodial parent, you will

receive a "Divorced/Separated" form. Your non-custodial parent is required to complete this form and return it to the college.