

## 5 Things You Need to Complete the CSS Profile

### 1 Know this URL: [cssprofile.collegeboard.org](https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org)

Like the FAFSA, the 2021–22 CSS Profile application is available starting October 1. Colleges have deadlines to complete the form for grant and scholarship awards. Complete the form sooner than later to maximize gift aid. Allocate about 1-2 hours to complete the form.

### 2 Gather the essential documents

Get ready to input a lot of information about both the student and the custodial parent and potentially the noncustodial parent. Make it easy by collecting the following before you begin:

- **Your Social Security Number**
- **Your Most Recent Tax Records**
- **Your Untaxed Income Records** like child support, interest income, and veterans' non-education benefits
- **Your Asset Records** with the value of investments like stocks, bonds, real estate (primary residence and other properties), retirement accounts, and value of small family businesses

### 3 List of the college(s)

Over [400 colleges, universities, and scholarship programs](#) use this form. Some also require a Noncustodial Parent Form (listed on the above link). The CSS Profile costs \$25 for the first college or organization. Each additional one will cost \$16.

### 4 Create account College Board account

The student needs a College Board account to complete the form. This account is also used for SAT registration, AP practice questions, and more. Set aside about 10 minutes to set up each username and password. It will gather name, email, date of birth, permanent address, and social security number (optional).

### 5 Summary of special circumstances

Have any special financial circumstances that affect your ability to pay for college like a job loss, dramatic shifts in income, unusual medical or dental expenses, or excessive debt? Describe these circumstances in 2,000 characters or less so that they can be included on the form.

#### Websites to Help

[College Board Account Help](#)

[CSS Profile Help](#)

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