

Lesson Plan 5: FAFSA is the Key!

Core www.cfnc.org Area:

Financial Planning

Total Time:

30 minutes.

Target Grades:

Appropriate for 11-12, Recommended for grade 11

Suggested Timeline:

Grade 11: Winter Semester

ASCA Correlation

(Which of the ASCA Standards does this lesson address?)

A-A	A-B	A-C	C-A	C-B	C-C	PS-A	PS-B	PS-C
			X	X	X		X	

Lesson Objectives

(What will students know and be able to do when the lesson is complete?)

By the end of the lesson, students will understand what the FAFSA is and how to use it.

Materials Needed

(What materials are needed to deliver this lesson?)

Reserve computer lab or computer cart

FAFSA is the Key! worksheet

Advance Preparation

(What does the instructor need to do in advance in order to be prepared to deliver this lesson?)

How much time is required for advance prep?)

Print FAFSA is the Key Worksheet– 10 min

Activator (Typically 5-10 minutes)

(How will you tap into the learners' background knowledge and help them view the lesson as relevant?)

Discuss the importance of financial aid planning by discussing the following points:

- In order to receive any financial aid, you need to apply for it using the FAFSA
- Learning key facts about the FAFSA will ensure that you apply correctly and in a timely fashion

www.cfnc.org will:

- Assist students in learning about the FAFSA
- Introduce students to important facts about the FAFSA with the articles, 'FAFSA is the Key!' and Helpful Hints for Applying
- Save student work



Core Learning Strategies/Lesson Activities (Typically 30-40 minutes)

(How will you facilitate the learning of knowledge/skills using adult learning strategies? How will you provide for skill practice? How will you differentiate learning, as appropriate, for different roles, skill levels, and experience?)

Session #	Step #	Responsibility	Action Steps
1	1	School counselor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on today's work: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Distributes the FAFSA is the KEY! Worksheet Asks Students to sign into www.cfnc.org and click on the Financial Aid Planning Tab
	2	School counselor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Directs the students to the Financial Aid 101 section of www.cfnc.org and points out the Articles 'FAFSA is the Key!' and 'Helpful Hints for Applying' Asks students to read the articles and use the information to answer the questions on the worksheet.
	3	Student	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reads the articles 'FAFSA is the Key!' and 'Helpful Hints for Applying' Answers the related questions on the worksheet
	4	Counselor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assists students with the worksheet as needed
	5	Student	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completes reflection question, "How can you ensure that you have your FAFSA complete as soon as possible after January 1 of your senior year?" in <i>Your Journal</i> section of <i>Your Portfolio</i> tab of www.cfnc.org .
	6		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attach worksheet to portfolio or save in a paper portfolio.

(chart from RI School Counselor Association's Toolkits, found at www.rischoolcounselor.org)

Summarizer/Informal Assessment (Typically 5-10 minutes)

(How will you engage learners in processing and summarizing what they learned? How will you know that the objective has been achieved?)

- Complete reflection in Portfolio of www.cfnc.org .
- Attach worksheet to portfolio or save in a paper portfolio.

Follow-Up

(What additional learning could occur during the year? When?)

- Student and counselor will review information during financial aid planning
- Student and parent can refer to this worksheet when preparing their FAFSA



FAFSA is the KEY! Worksheet

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the key that opens the door to financial aid. It serves as the application for most of the financial aid from federal and state programs and from colleges and universities. Understanding what the FAFSA is and how it works is an important part of the Financial Aid Process. Use the articles in www.cfnc.org to answer the following questions and ensure that you understand the FAFSA.

Part 1:

1. Log into www.cfnc.org
2. Click on the Financial Aid Planning Tab, then click on Financial Aid 101
3. Refer to the Articles: FAFSA is the Key! and Helpful Hints for Applying, To answer the following questions

Part II: Answer the following questions:

1. What is the FAFSA?
2. What does it cost to submit the FAFSA?
3. Should you fill out a FAFSA if you aren't sure whether you are eligible for or will need Financial Aid?
4. When should you submit your FAFSA?
5. What is the quickest and most accurate way to file a FAFSA?
6. What is your Federal Student Aid PIN?
7. At what website can you apply for or request a duplicate PIN?
8. What is your Student Aid Report?
9. When will you receive your Student Aid Report?
10. Should you wait until you are admitted to a school to complete your FAFSA?
11. What information will you find in your schools award letter?



FAFSA is the KEY! Worksheet (educator's version/answer key)

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the key that opens the door to financial aid. It serves as the application for most of the financial aid from federal and state programs and from colleges and universities. Understanding what the FAFSA is and how it works is an important part of the Financial Aid Process. Use the articles in www.cfnc.org to answer the following questions and ensure that you understand the FAFSA.

Part 1:

- 1. Log into www.cfnc.org**
- 2. Click on the Financial Aid Planning Tab, then click on Financial Aid 101**
- 3. Refer to the Articles: FAFSA is the Key!, Helpful Hints for Applying to answer the following questions.**

Part II: Answer the following questions:

- 1. What is the FAFSA?** It serves as the application for most of the financial aid from federal and state programs and from colleges and universities.
- 2. What does it cost to submit the FAFSA?** It's Free
- 3. Should you fill out a FAFSA if you aren't sure whether you are eligible for or will need Financial Aid?** Yes
- 4. When should you submit your FAFSA?** As soon after January 1 as possible
- 5. What is the quickest and most accurate way to file a FAFSA?** Online
- 6. What is your Federal Student Aid PIN?** Your Electronic Signature
- 7. At what website can you apply for or request a duplicate PIN?** www.pin.ed.gov
- 8. What is your Student Aid Report?** The results of your FAFSA
- 9. When will you receive your Student Aid Report?** Within a few days if you submitted your FAFSA on-line and within three weeks if you filed a paper FAFSA
- 10. Should you wait until you are admitted to a school to complete your FAFSA?** No – you should submit your FAFSA as early as possible.
- 11. What are three helpful hints for applying (from the article Helpful Hints for Applying)**
Be sure to complete all required forms by the deadlines, Complete all questions accurately; plan to meet early deadlines, if applicable, Don't wait until you are admitted to file the FAFSA, Keep a photocopy of all documents for your records, Use your full legal name -- no nicknames -- on all applications, The name on your application must match the name on your social security card.

