CollegeBoard

Financial Aid Programs & Services

College Board is a financial aid pioneer that continues to pave the way for increased access and equity in financial aid and higher education.

Deep Financial Aid Roots

College Board has a long history of partnering with high schools, colleges, and universities to lower financial barriers to college access and completion. In the early 1950s, College Board formed the College Scholarship Service (CSS) to bring equity to the process of paying for college and to develop need-based financial aid solutions. The first national financial aid application was created by College Board, and financial aid services continue to evolve with expanded fee waivers, new functionality for institutions, and modernized cloud technology.

By Financial Aid for Financial Aid

The financial aid team at College Board develops and maintains solutions to support the lifecycle of financial aid processes. With over 400 years of combined experience in financial aid and higher education, the team maintains important connections with financial aid and enrollment leaders to innovate our services.

Our History

1950s	**Birth of the College Scholarship Service (CSS)**
	1st national financial aid application launches
1960s	**Higher Ed Act creates federal aid programs**
1970s	**1st federal financial aid application created**
	First Financial Aid packaging software released
	Institutional Need Analysis System (INAS) created
1980s	**First comprehensive Financial Aid Management System launches**
1990s	**CSS Profile® & PowerFAIDS® created**
2000s	**Introduction of Institutional Documentation Service, Net Price Calculator, CSS Profile for international students**

*College Board Milestones
*Federal Milestones

INCREASING ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION

The **work of financial aid professionals has never been more important,** particularly through the evolution of federal aid changes and heightened public scrutiny.

Real and perceived barriers — college costs and finite financial aid and family resources — block the way for many students. **Financial awareness and affordability programs led by capable and thoughtful financial aid professionals are critical to overcoming these barriers.**

Research suggests that need-based aid increases enrollment, retention, and success for low-income students. College Board's financial aid team delivers **tools that help to strengthen the delivery of institutional need-based financial aid and programs that advance the critical work of financial aid professionals**. Elevating the importance of financial aid is the foundation of our ethos.

Our Programs & Services

CSS Profile

CSS Profile is an online, common application for nonfederal student financial aid that is used by hundreds of universities, professional schools, and scholarship programs to award billions in institutional aid annually. Approximately 40% of applicants now complete the application for free, including over 80% of first-generation and 75% of DACA/undocumented students.

~500k students and families submitting applications each year

Single, dynamic, continuously improving application form

Hundreds of institutions use results to **equitably award non-federal funds**

Institutional Methodology (IM)

College Board's need analysis system that underpins CSS Profile. IM is developed by financial aid practitioners and economists. IM provides a comprehensive evaluation of a family's ability to pay for the costs of higher education.
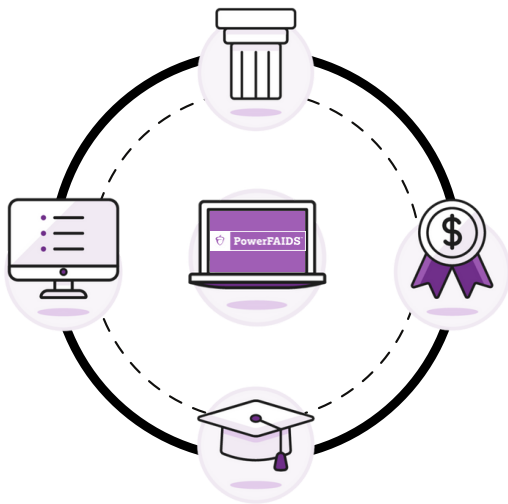
Institutional Documentation Service (IDOC)

IDOC is a service typically used in conjunction with CSS Profile that collects families' federal tax returns and other documents on behalf of participating colleges and programs.
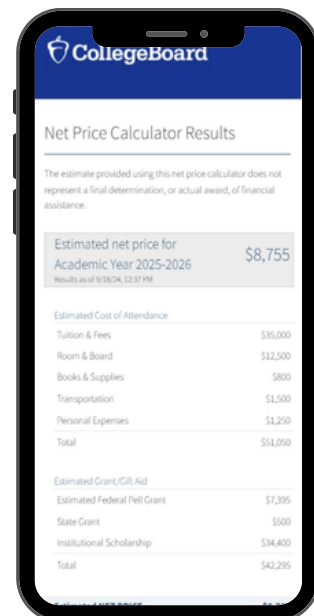
PowerFAIDS

PowerFAIDS is a comprehensive financial aid management system used by hundreds institutions of higher education to automate financial aid processes.It manages student eligibility, verification, Federal Pell Grant management, award packaging, loan origination, and reporting and research. Hundreds of institutions leverage PowerFAIDS, and almost half have been with system for twenty years or more.

✓ Leads in compliance, generating federal reports that meet the latest Department of Education requirements.

✓ Works with existing campus information systems, integrates with federal systems, and supports major industry reporting.

✓ Delivers unlimited, free support, with an annual PowerFAIDS User Conference and highly rated trainings throughout the year

Net Price Calculator

Transparent college costs help students make effective enrollment decisions. College Board's mobile-first Net Price Calculator (NPC) ensures students can easily access college cost information and offers quick, affordable, and intuitive set up for institutions. As a customizable, cloud hosted service, NPC puts the power with institutions to add customized questions and create a branded look and feel.

Institutional Partnership

To evolve our programs and our offerings, we seek regular, vital feedback from practicing financial aid professionals and enrollment leaders.

FASSAC
The Financial Aid Standards and Services Advisory Committee advises on College Board financial aid services, emphasizing solutions that are responsive to student, family, and institutional needs.

Campus Need Analysis Roundtable
Campus Need Analysis Roundtable (CNAR) is the premier event for CSS Profile and Institutional Methodology. Content is led by institutional committee in partnership with College Board staff.

PowerFAIDS Advisory Committee
PowerFAIDS advisors provide critical feedback on the innovation of PowerFAIDS functionality and on the PowerFAIDS User Conference.

Additional Engagement
College Board's financial aid team leverages institutional perspectives and voices at events, webinars, and more - ensuring financial aid audiences learn about the value of our programs from their peers.

Collaborating with College Board's financial aid team was both enjoyable and rewarding. I appreciate their genuine effort to listen to the needs of financial aid offices while crafting solutions that help us better serve our students.

Executive Director of Student Financial Services and Director of Financial Aid
CSS Profile Institution

Our program innovations are driving enhancements and refined aid processes to deliver equitable, efficient financial aid outcomes for students and families.

CSS Profile Lite Experience

Developed in collaboration with institutions, CSS Profile now offers a shorter experience built within the existing application, reducing application questions by half and increasing completion rates.

PowerFAIDS

PowerFAIDS is evolving to meet the needs of institutions, including moving decades of desktop based expertise into a cloud system.

Professional Engagement

We're evolving our professional development offerings for financial aid staff with better events, trainings, and resources, and building stronger connections with educators, policymakers, and community organizations.

More Info

Need additional information on College Board Financial Aid Programs and Services? Visit our website at **collegeboard.org/financialaid**