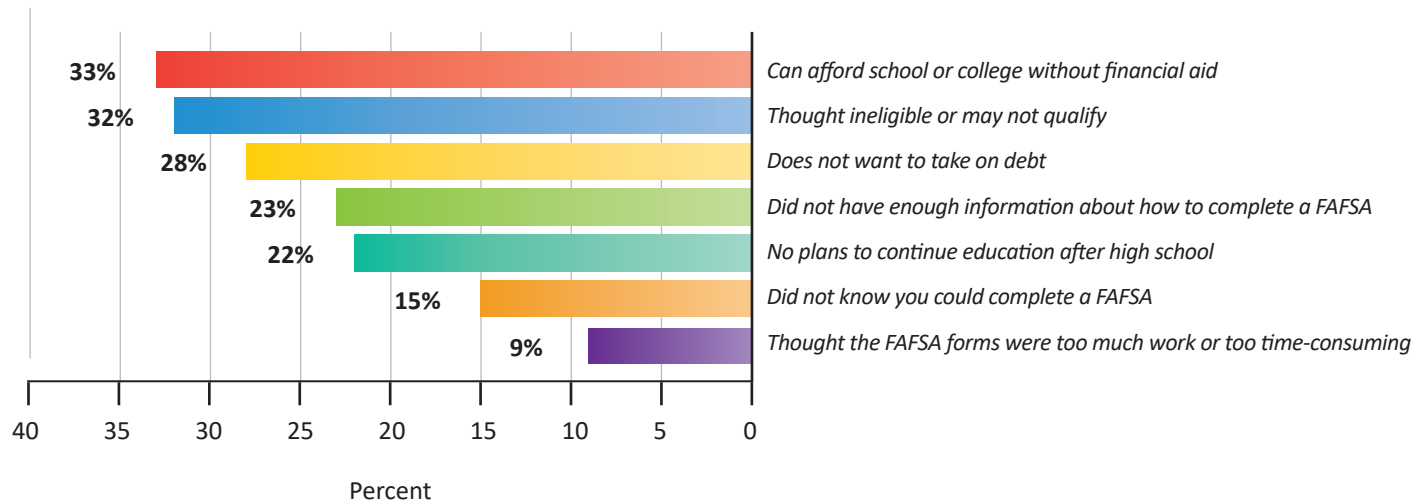


Why students don't submit a FAFSA

One-third of students who don't complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid say they didn't because they can afford college without financial aid, and nearly another one-third didn't because they didn't think they were eligible for it.

Percentage of fall 2009 ninth-graders without a completed Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), by reasons for not completing a FAFSA



Source: U.S. Education Department, "Stats in Brief: Why Didn't Students Complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)? A Detailed Look," December 2018.



Almost one-third (32 percent) of a cohort of students who didn't complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) thought they were ineligible or may not qualify, according to a federal report. Nearly one-quarter (23 percent) didn't have enough information on how to complete the FAFSA, while 15 percent didn't know they could complete one. Nine percent thought the form was too much work or too time-consuming. The report also shows a disparity among race/ethnicity. About one-third (34 percent) of Hispanic students and 27 percent of black students did not complete a FAFSA because they or their family didn't have enough information on how to complete it, compared to 18 percent of white students and 22 percent of Asian students. Completing a FAFSA is important for college-going students not only because it's an application for federal student aid, such as grants and loans, but also states, institutions and private funders often use the application when they consider awarding their own financial aid.

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