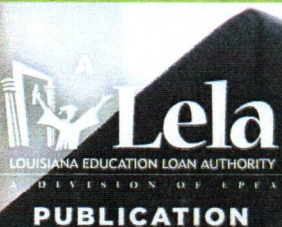


FAFSA *Completion*

GUIDE & WORKBOOK



Class of
2027

THREE EASY STEPS:

1

CREATE YOUR
FSA ID

Pg. 3

2

SUBMIT
YOUR FAFSA

Pg. 3

3

APPLY FOR
SCHOLARSHIPS

Pg. 4

REGISTER TO WIN
A **\$1,000** SCHOLARSHIP

see Pg. 4

FAFSA
ASSISTANCE

see Pg. 2

LOUISIANA'S NONPROFIT RESOURCE FOR FAFSA COMPLETION & COLLEGE ACCESS

2026-27 *Edition*

LELA *Impact*



40,000
Families

Lela assisted over 40,000 Louisiana families in 2025.



\$14,000
in Scholarships

Lela awarded \$14,000 in scholarships to Louisiana students in 2025.



1,886
FAFSA
Assistance

Lela assisted 1,886 students with the FAFSA in 2025.

INTRODUCTION TO LELA *Who is Lela?*



The Louisiana Education Loan Authority (Lela) is Louisiana's nonprofit resource for free FAFSA completion assistance, college access and affordable financing, and is a division of the Louisiana Public Facilities Authority (LPFA)—a nonprofit public trust established to bring financing assistance and advantages to the people of Louisiana. Lela's mission is to develop projects and programs which provide resources for college access and statewide outreach initiatives to help ensure students' success on their path to and through college. The Lela team assists families remotely with FAFSA completion through its free virtual completion sessions, its FAFSA HELpline, and now in-person sessions at Lela's Student Success Center in Baton Rouge. Lela also offers free resources to Louisiana high school counselors and provides low cost supplemental loans for college expenses. (see back cover)

➔ Follow Lela on:   

➔ Website: **Lela.org**

This public document was designed at a cost of \$747.50. This document was published for Lela, a division of the Louisiana Public Facilities Authority (LPFA), 2237 S Acadian Thruway, Suite 650, Baton Rouge, LA 70803 to promote public awareness of the programs and services provided by Lela under authority of Title 9, chapter 2-A of the Louisiana Revised Statutes.

For the twelfth consecutive year Lela provided its "how-to" FAFSA Completion Guide & Parent Guide to every Louisiana high school senior.



What is the **FAFSA?**

The FAFSA is the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid**. Completing this free form is the first step toward getting federal financial aid to help pay for college. It can be filed at studentaid.gov.



FAFSA HELPLINE
CALL (844) 463-2372
(844) GO FAFSA

NEED HELP *Completing the FAFSA?*

STUDENTS & PARENTS

➔ Scan here to request a
FREE virtual FAFSA session!



SCAN HERE!

STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER

➔ Call Lela's FAFSA Helpline to schedule your in-person FAFSA session at Lela's newly opened center in Baton Rouge. (By appointment only)

For more information email info@lela.org

ALL SERVICES ARE FREE!

STEP 1

FSA ID

CREATE YOUR FSA ID AT [STUDENTAID.GOV/FSA-ID/CREATE-ACCOUNT](https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account)

FSA ID ITEMS NEEDED

- ➔ Social Security or Alien Registration card
- ➔ Personal Email Address
- ➔ Cell Phone Number
- ➔ Download an Authenticator App

Create your FSA ID account at studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account

Student Username: _____

Student Password: _____

Personal Email Address: _____

Cell Phone Number: _____

Contributor Invitation Code: _____

Backup Code: _____

CREATE
YOUR STUDENT
FSA ID

IDENTIFY YOUR PARENT CONTRIBUTOR(S)

Never married, divorced or separated	➔ Report parent who provided more financial support during the last 12 months
Unmarried and both legal parents living together	➔ Report both legal parents
Married	➔ Report both of your parents
Remarried (after being widowed or divorced)	➔ Parent and stepparent
Widowed	➔ Report the surviving parent AND step-parent (if remarried)

Parent Username: _____

Parent Password: _____

Personal Email Address: _____

(Do not use the same email address as your child/student.)

Cell Phone Number: _____

Contributor Invitation Code: _____

Backup Code: _____

CREATE
YOUR PARENT
FSA ID

FAFSA

SUBMIT YOUR FAFSA AT [STUDENTAID.GOV](https://studentaid.gov) | Scheduled to launch on October 1, 2026

FAFSA ITEMS NEEDED

- ➔ FSA ID for Student & Parents(s)
- ➔ Parent(s) Social Security number(s)
- ➔ Parent(s) legal name(s)
- ➔ Parent(s) date(s) of birth
- ➔ IRS Income Tax Return & W-2s for Year 2025 for student & parent(s)

- ➔ Records of Untaxed Income for student & parent(s)
- ➔ Records of Assets for student & parent(s)
- ➔ List of Schools you're interested in attending

QUESTIONS? CONTACT A LELA SPECIALIST FOR ASSISTANCE!

info@lela.org

STEP 2

3 STEPS TO WIN SCHOLARSHIPS



2 WAYS TO WIN Lela Scholarships!



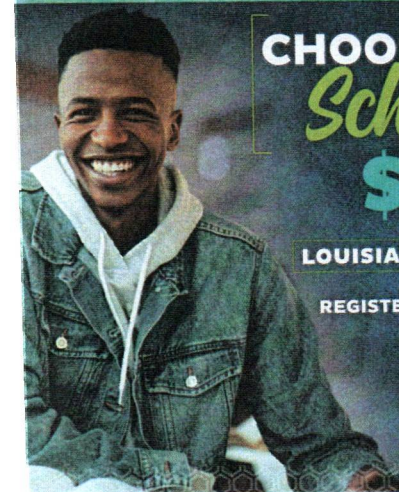
FAFSA COMPLETION Scholarship \$1,000

LOUISIANA
HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

REGISTER FOR A CHANCE TO WIN AT



Lela
LOUISIANA EDUCATION LOAN AUTHORITY
WWW.LELA.ORG



CHOOSE LOUISIANA Scholarship \$1,000

LOUISIANA COLLEGE STUDENTS

REGISTER FOR A CHANCE TO WIN AT

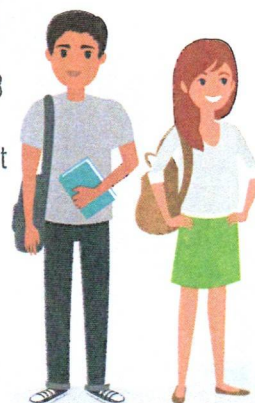


Lela
LOUISIANA EDUCATION LOAN AUTHORITY
WWW.LELA.ORG

college Financial Aid PROCESS

2026 - 2027

- **COMPLETE COLLEGE ADMISSIONS** applications and meet all requirements.
- **CREATE AN FSA ID** for the student and parent at studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account.
- **COMPLETE THE 2027-28 FAFSA** on or after October 1, 2026 using 2025 IRS tax return.
- **REVIEW YOUR FAFSA SUBMISSION SUMMARY** for accuracy, which will be sent to the student's email from Federal Student Aid.
- After college acceptance, **CREATE A STUDENT ACCOUNT** as instructed by the admissions office.
- **RESPOND TO VERIFICATION REQUESTS** from your college financial aid office so your aid can be processed quickly.
- **DOWNLOAD THE "AWARD ADVISOR" APP** to compare your financial aid offers.
- **REVIEW YOUR FINANCIAL AID OFFER** and accept only what you will need to complete the 2027-28 academic year.
- **COMPLETE ENTRANCE COUNSELING** if you accept student loans to understand your rights & responsibilities as a borrower and sign your master promissory note, **PROMISING TO REPAY** what you've borrowed.
- **FINANCIAL AID** will be sent directly to your college for deposit into your student account. Any excess funds will be available for withdrawal after all college expenses have been covered.



NEED ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO COVER YOUR COLLEGE EXPENSES?

STUDENTS OR PARENTS WHO NEED TO "FILL A FUNDING GAP" AFTER FACTORING IN ALL SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS, FEDERAL AND STATE DOLLARS, CONSIDER-

LelaCHOICE

LOUISIANA'S NONPROFIT EDUCATION LOANS

Choose Quality. Choose Community. Choose Lela.

FOR MORE DETAILS
AND TO APPLY, VISIT
LELACHOICE.ORG



*Pre-Qualify
Now!*

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT LELA'S PROGRAMS, CONTACT US:

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Committed to Louisiana students since 1984

FOLLOW US AND STAY CONNECTED! Ask Lela @askLela askLelaCollegeResources