Hints for Completing Your FAFSA

- **Write your pin number down**, you will need it throughout your college career.
- **Complete your taxes**, wait until they have been processed, and then complete your FAFSA using the IRS tax retrieval tool. You will be less likely to be chosen for verification, and if you are we are unlikely to need a copy of your IRS tax return transcript.
- **Carefully fill** in any benefits your family receives, when asked on the FAFSA.
- **Pay attention to the wording**, while the FAFSA uses your prior tax year information, most other questions are about your situation on the day you completed your FAFSA!
- **Who is in your “Household”?** The household for your FAFSA is not who lives in the same dwelling.
  - **Dependent students** - If you are a dependent student it is who is in your parent(s) household. This includes:
    - your parent(s) and their dependent children under age 24 (anyone who would have to put your parents information on their own FAFSA), or any children under 24 who your parents provide more than 50% of the support for, whether or not they actually live with your parents. And,
    - anyone else who lives in the same dwelling (shares a kitchen) with your parent and your parents currently provide more than 50% of their support and expect to continue to do so throughout this aid year.
  - **Independent Student** – If you are a independent student it is who is in your household. This includes:
    - your children, under age 24, if you would be required to put your information on their FAFSA as well as any other children who you provide more than 50% of the support for, whether they live with you or not.
    - anyone else who lives in the same dwelling (shares a kitchen) and you currently provide more than 50% of their support and expect to continue to do so throughout this aid year.

If you are not required to file an income tax return answer each question on the FAFSA thoroughly and accurately. Take special care to answer the questions about benefits your family may receive. If you are chosen for verification and we ask about income, let us know what your situation is.