


Shifting to PPY: Implications for Admission & Counseling


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Key Terms

- ▶ FAFSA = Free Application for Federal Student Aid
 - ▶ EFC = Expected Family Contribution
 - ▶ CSS PROFILE = Supplemental application for institutional aid used by some colleges & universities
 - ▶ NPC = Net Price Calculator
 - ▶ SAR = Student Aid Report
 - ▶ Professional Judgment = Any adjustment made at the discretion of an aid professional on a case by case basis
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What is Prior–Prior Year (PPY)?

- ▶ Beginning in 2016 for the 2017–18 academic year, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) will:
 - Be available earlier – October rather than January
 - Use income information from TWO years prior – instead of the previous year – to calculate the Expected Family Contribution (EFC)
 - ▶ This shift is commonly referred to as “prior–prior year” or PPY
 - ▶ The CSS PROFILE will also use PPY income information
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Why the change?

“Learning about aid eligibility options much earlier in the college application and decision process will allow students and families to determine the true cost of attending college – taking available financial aid into account – and make more informed decisions.”

-- White House Fact Sheet




What does PPY mean for FAFSA?


- ▶ It is simply providing one year prior income information from what families provided before
- ▶ The family can complete the form, use the data retrieval tool and be done

	Aid for Academic Year	FAFSA Available	Applicant Income Tax Year
Today	2016-2017	January 1, 2016	2015
Next Year	2017-2018	October 1, 2016	2015


What does PPY mean for PROFILE?

- ▶ For participating colleges, the CSS PROFILE will be completed at the same time is always has
 - ▶ The only difference is it will be using prior-prior year also
 - ▶ All other data will remain the same for reporting purposes
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Potential Benefits & Outcomes

- ▶ Students will be able to apply for financial aid earlier
 - ▶ The opportunity for families to know what their EFC will be earlier in the admission process
 - ▶ More students and parents will be able to import data from the IRS to the FAFSA using the Data Retrieval Tool
 - Fewer errors! Less verification.
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Potential Benefits & Outcomes

- ▶ Opportunity for earlier conversations about net price and affordability
 - ▶ Closer alignment of financial aid application timeline with traditional admissions cycle may encourage more students to apply for aid
 - ▶ Opportunity for partnership/cross-training between campus aid and admission staffs
 - ▶ Could there be more pressure placed on students to apply early, and make a decision about enrollment earlier?
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Considerations for Counselors

- ▶ The move to PPY has broad implications for counseling professionals, who support students as they plan and prepare for college
 - ▶ The use of prior–prior year income information in the aid application process should allow counselors/access organizations more time to advise students about college affordability
 - ▶ The counseling community may need to share information about college costs earlier in the college selection process
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Considerations for Colleges

- ▶ How might PPY impact policies, operations and systems?
 - ▶ Could an earlier financial aid application timeline affect admission/aid deadlines or notifications? Outreach & recruitment activities?
 - ▶ Will a longer financial aid processing window, and reduced verification give financial aid administrators more time for counseling?
 - ▶ Admission offices may need to review recruitment strategies and yield models, monitoring any changes in applicant behavior
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Discussion

- ▶ What do you (counselors/admissions staff) see as the biggest change resulting from PPY?
 - ▶ What changes in student behavior do you anticipate?
 - ▶ College admission staff: What are the current conversations happening on your campus?
 - ▶ Counseling professionals: What information do you need to be successful during this transition?
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Prior–Prior Year Resources

Prior-Prior Year



Beginning in 2016 for the 2017-18 academic year, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) will be available earlier — in October rather than January — and will use income information from two years prior to the academic year instead of the previous year.

This shift is commonly referred to as “prior-prior year” (PPY). The College Board’s CSS Financial Aid PROFILE will also use PPY income information for the 2017-18 academic year. Get the information you need to be ready for PPY.

We will be updating this page often, adding guides and webinars to help you successfully prepare for the transition. You can also check out the [All Access](#) blog for news and updates from the College Board or email any questions or comments to preppingforppy@collegeboard.org.

Prior-Prior Year Action Plan

Phase 1:
Higher Education
Professionals
Nov 2015–Mar 2017

Support colleges as they prepare for implementation.

Phase 2:
Counselors
Apr 2016–Mar 2017

Develop planning tools and supports.

Phase 3:
Students
May 2016–Mar 2017

Make sure students are ready for PPY.

PPY Guide

Prepping for PPY: A Guide to Campus Conversations & Decisions (.pdf/16180)
Developed to help identify opportunities, challenges, and factors to consider to assure a successful transition. Real-life examples from colleagues across the country are also shared.

PPY Webinars

Prepping for Prior-Prior Year: Key Questions for Admission Offices
In this on-demand webinar, hosted by the College Board, panelists discuss the issues that will impact admission and enrollment officers as they plan for the shift to PPY.

Essential Information for “Road Warriors”: Helping Admission Staff Talk with Students and Families about Early FAFSA and PPY
This webinar will be hosted by the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) on June 9. Visit [NACAC](#) for more information.

Practical Implications for Early FAFSA and PPY on Admission and Enrollment Management Offices

Information for Colleges

Because these aid application changes go into effect this fall, they require early attention and planning to make sure students receive all the intended benefits. For colleges and universities, the implementation of prior-prior year will affect many things — including policies, operations, and systems.

- The earlier financial aid application timeline has the potential to affect admission and financial aid deadlines and notifications, as well as student outreach and recruitment activities.
- A longer financial aid processing window, reduced verification, and application simplification should give financial aid administrators more time for counseling and preparation.
- Admission offices will likely review their recruitment strategies, yield models, and net tuition revenue planning processes with a careful eye to potential changes in student application behavior.

Information for Counselors

The move to prior-prior year also has broad implications for K–12 professionals, who support students as they plan and prepare for college.

- The use of prior-prior year income information in the aid application process should allow counselors and access organizations more time to advise students about college affordability.
- The counseling community may need to share new information and approaches about college costs earlier in the college selection process.

Tools and supports for counselors will be shared as changes to institutional practices and policies develop. Find resources, webinars, workshops and more on our [counselor workshops page](#).

Information for Students and Families

The College Board offers a wide array of college planning resources for students and families. Learn more about [the financial aid application process](#), how to apply for scholarships, and more by visiting BigFuture.org.

www.collegeboard.org/ppyresources