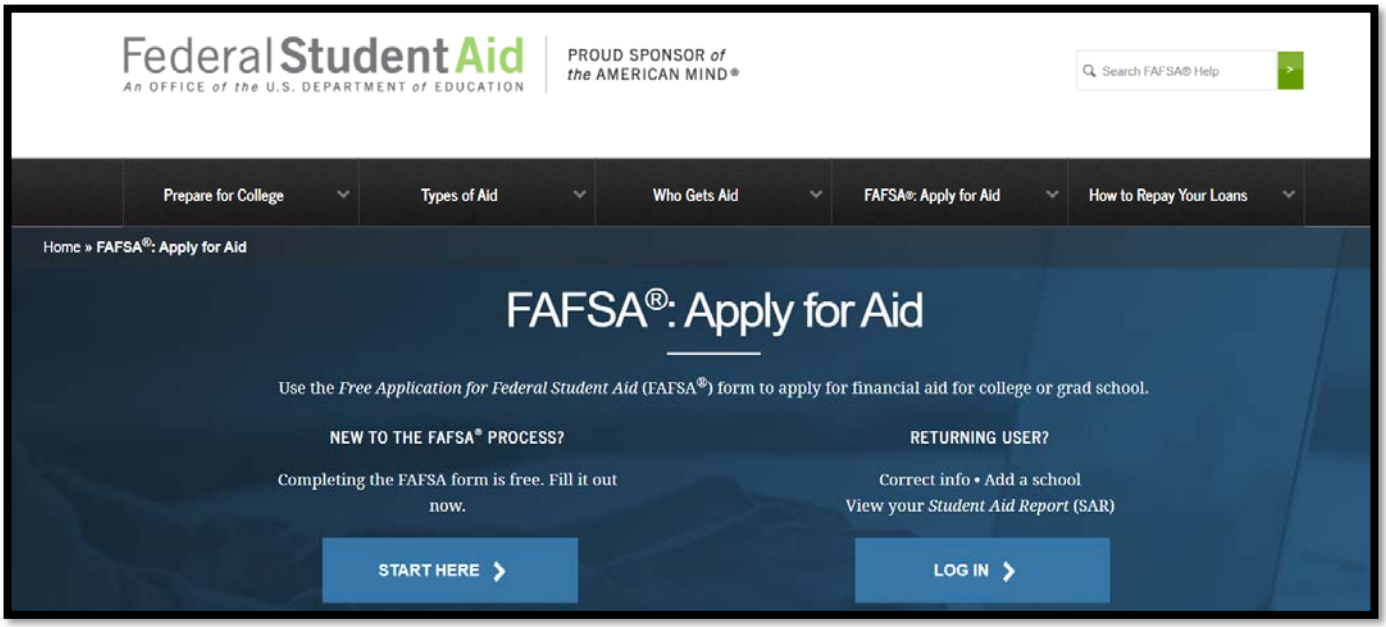
FAFSA, Scholarships and Grants

Fill out a FASFA! All opportunities with Georgia ETV (and many other resources) require filling out a FASFA on a yearly basis

FAFSA—Free Application for Federal Student Aid

https://fafsa.ed.gov/

Select "Start Here" and complete the application to gain access to financial aid. Make sure to save along the way and remember login credentials.



Students will need help completing!! Be prepared to call and email counselors, support staff, administrators and others. This will take some time. Start early!!

There are several questions on the FAFSA that students with experience in foster care will need to be considered "independent". When a student is considered "independent" they may qualify for specific financial resources

Question #53 (in section 2) on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid asks: "At any time since you turned age 13, were both of your parents deceased, were you in foster care or were you a dependent or ward of the court? "If the answer is yes, the student will be considered "independent" and will then qualify for a number of financial resources

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Type of Aid	Examples
Grants Financial aid, often based on financial need that does not need to be repaid (unless, for example, you withdraw from school and owe a refund)	Pell Grant, Hope Grant, Zell Miller Grant, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG), Academic Competitiveness Grant, SMART Grant

https://www.gafutures.org/hope-state-aid-programs/hope-zell-miller-grants/

http://www.collegescholarships.org/grants/federal.htm

Scholarships Money awarded to students based on academic achievements and personal attributes to help pay for education expenses Scholarships generally do not have to be repaid	HOPE, Zell Miller, NSORO, Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta, Scholarship America's Dream Award, Gates Millennium Scholars, The National Foster Parent Association

https://embarkgeorgia.org/students/scholarships

https://www.gafutures.org/scholarship-search

Loans- Money borrowed from a bank or institution that MUST be paid back with interest AVOID Loans if at all possible!!!!	Federal student loans will likely have a better interest rate than loans from credit lenders, but beware: In 2017, students averaged over $37,000 in debt. ETV and other resources hope to keep students from major financial struggle

https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/loans

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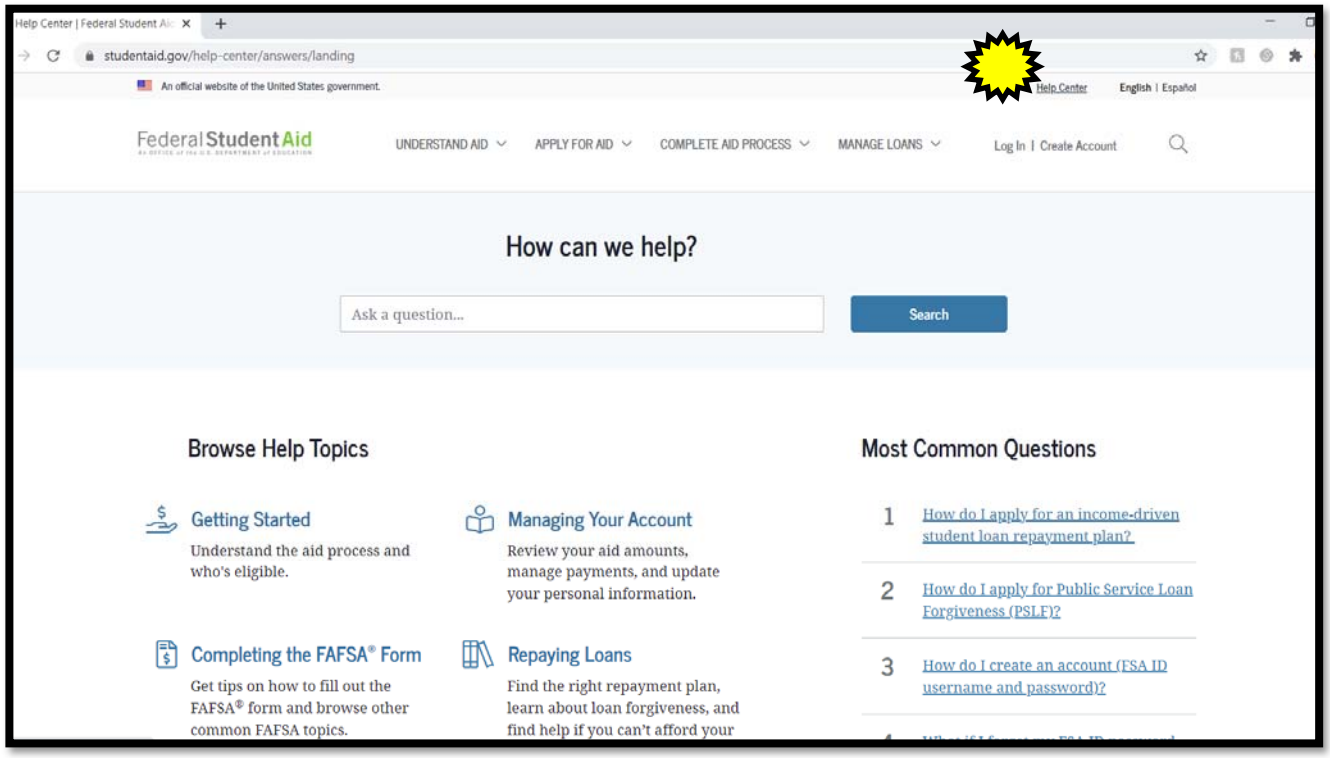
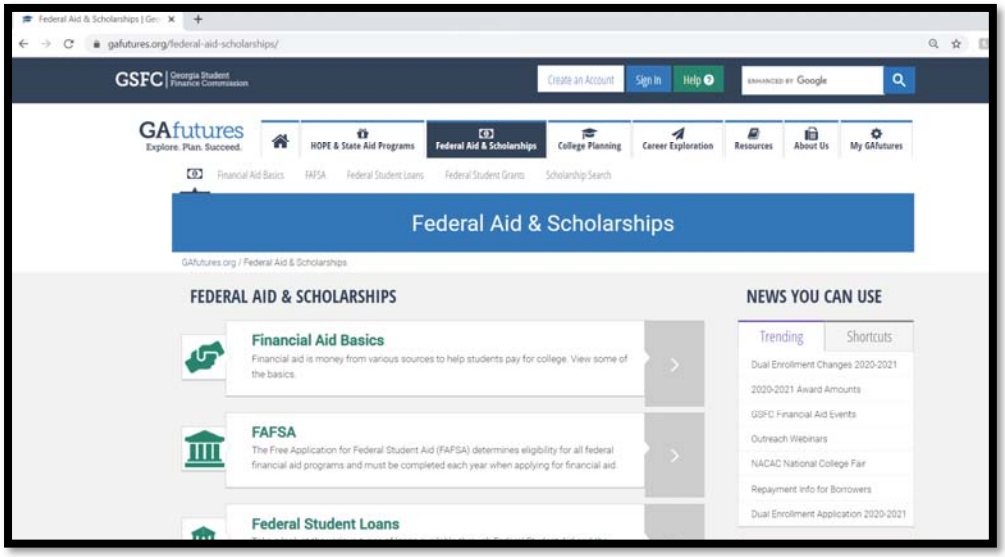
Navigate to the FAFSA Help Center for further support!



The GAFutures site can also help!