CSS Profile
BETTER DATA FOR BETTER
FINANCIAL AID DECISIONS
What is CSS Profile?

CSS Profile™ is a service that helps you award institutional financial aid to the students who need it most. It gives you a complete picture of families’ finances, so you can be sure you’re distributing aid equitably and strategically.

Nearly 400 colleges, universities, graduate and professional schools, and scholarship organizations rely on CSS Profile to help make college a reality for students.

Why CSS Profile?

CSS Profile was built by experienced financial aid professionals. We understand tight schedules, competing priorities, and your commitment to equity, accuracy, and excellence.

ACCURATE, COMPREHENSIVE DATA

The CSS Profile application experience is designed to promote accuracy and ease of completion. Each personalized CSS Profile application offers detailed help so that families can meet institutional deadlines with the correct and complete data the first time. If they have questions, they can get expert customer service via chat, phone, or email.

FLEXIBILITY

Your school is unique, in its applicant population and need analysis philosophy, so we made CSS Profile flexible. For example, you can choose to request the CSS Profile from noncustodial parents, parent data from independent students, or family information from international applicants.

INSTITUTIONAL METHODOLOGY

CSS Profile is your gateway to the College Board’s Institutional Methodology (IM). Based on decades of leadership and innovation, IM is highly regarded for its comprehensive, equitable, and economically sound evaluation of a family’s ability to pay higher education costs. With IM as the need analysis system for CSS Profile, you can be sure your financial aid awards are fair, valid, and defensible.
INSTITUTIONAL DOCUMENTATION SERVICE (IDOC)

IDOC collects documents from your applicants, scans them, key-enters tax data, and displays imaged documents for you on the web. IDOC works seamlessly with CSS Profile, so you can spend more time with students and less time with paper.

A Focus on the Student

BEYOND NUMBERS

CSS Profile lets families present their unique financial and family situations, providing the context that numbers alone cannot provide and helping to reduce potential aid appeals. This deep understanding of a family’s financial picture helps you work with them to determine the best options for financing their child’s college education.

ONE APPLICATION, ONE LOCATION

Students complete a single online application to send to multiple schools. The online dashboard displays information on the application process, deadlines, and any messages you select to include, in an easy-to-access location.

FREE FOR ELIGIBLE STUDENTS

CSS Profile is free to domestic low-income students, students who received an SAT fee waiver, and orphans. Students do not need to request a fee waiver; all application fees are automatically waived for qualifying students.

“Emory University is committed to enrolling a talented first-year class with representation from all corners of the globe. In accordance with this philosophy, we offer need-based financial aid awards to a select group of international students each year. CSS Profile assists us with this endeavor by taking into account the economic attributes unique to each country, ensuring equity within and between countries.”

—John Leach, Assistant Vice Provost of Enrollment, Director of University Financial Aid, Emory University

Learn more at collegeboard.org/cssprofile