

Understanding Texas' new graduation requirement

Texas Education Code states that starting with the 2021–22 school year, students must take **one** of the following actions to graduate:

- Complete and submit the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**
 - Application for federal, state, and institutional aid
 - Only available to US citizens, permanent residents, and certain **eligible noncitizens*** *Parental citizenship status does not impact a student's eligibility for financial aid.*
 - <https://studentaid.gov/>

- Complete and submit the **Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA)**
 - Application for state and institutional aid
 - Only available to **Texas residents** who are not eligible to apply for federal student aid through the FAFSA* *Parental citizenship status does not impact a student's eligibility for financial aid.*
 - <http://www.collegeforalltexans.com/index.cfm?objectid=A3119543-CBF8-C202-F1B0EEFD5F4B9805>

- Or submit a signed **opt-out form***

***Note:** Under certain conditions, students can choose to decline the graduation requirement by submitting a signed **opt-out form** to their school counselor. The form is also **available in Spanish**. Keep in mind that students who opt out of the requirement can still complete and submit a financial aid application if they change their mind. Be sure to reach out to your student's school counselor if you have further questions.

For further explanation of this new graduation requirement visit the website of Texas OnCourse: <https://texasoncourse.org/educators/popular-links/the-new-financial-aid-graduation-requirement/for-families/>