

Investments vs. Assets

Clarifying financial terms for filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

Investments must be disclosed on your FAFSA. They include:

- Real Estate (do not include the home in which your parents live)
- Trust Funds
- UGMA and UTMA Accounts*
- Money Market Funds
- Mutual Funds
- Certificates of Deposit
- Stocks and Stock Options
- Bonds and Other Securities
- Installment and land sale contracts (including mortgages held)
- Commodities
- Qualified educational benefits or educational savings accounts such as Coverdell savings accounts, 529 college savings plans and the refund value to 529 prepaid tuition plans.

**UGMA and UTMA accounts are considered assets of the student and must be reported as an asset of the student on the FAFSA, regardless of the student's dependency status.*

Investments do NOT include:

- Home in which your parents live
- Cash
- Savings and checking accounts
- Value of life insurance and retirement plans (401K plans, pension fund annuities, non-educational IRA's, Keough plans, etc.)