



What You Need to Know *needaccess*[®]

About Access Group

A nonprofit organization, Access Group is dedicated to providing graduate and professional students with access to affordable education financing. We are a single source for Federal Stafford and PLUS Loans, private loans, and Federal Consolidation Loans.

Find out more at AccessGroup.Org
or call **800-282-1550**.



A Guide for Students



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An *access group* Service

What is Need Access?

Need Access® is an online financial aid application used to collect information from graduate and professional students. It collects your information for your school's financial aid administrators to use in assessing your financial need and awarding you school-based financial aid.

How Need Access Works

1. You, the student, complete the Need Access Application at *NeedAccess.Org*.
2. As a part of completing the application, you select the school(s) that should review your data. The questions you answer on the application depend upon the school(s) you select.
3. If a school requires your parents' financial data, make sure this information is entered in the Parent Section and is complete before submitting your application.
4. Access Group processes the financial data you submit and transmits the information to the school(s) selected.
5. The financial aid administrators at the selected school(s) assess the data and determine your eligibility for school-based funds.

Advantages for Students

- ▶ **Free** – no application fees
- ▶ Convenient application online at *NeedAccess.Org*
- ▶ Your application will be processed within 24 hours
- ▶ You can check the status of your application anytime online
- ▶ Our Customer Contact Center professionals are available to help you and your family with the application process

Your Data Is Secure

When you complete the Need Access Application online, you can be assured that your information is protected. To further protect your application data, you can create a password for the Student and Parent Sections of the application.



Getting Started

The Need Access Application for the 2008-2009 academic year will be available beginning January 2008. Simply go to *NeedAccess.Org*, click on "Before You Apply" and read the instructions. When you are ready to begin the application, click on "Apply Now."

After Submitting Your Application

To view the status of your application or to update your application, go to *NeedAccess.Org* and click "My Applications."

Questions?

- ▶ Click "Frequently Asked Questions" at *NeedAccess.Org*
- ▶ E-mail your question to *NeedAccess@accessgroup.org*
- ▶ Call our Customer Contact Center at 800-282-1550, Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 8 p.m. ET

Important Note: If you plan to apply for federal financial aid, you must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), a service of the U.S. Department of Education. To do so, visit FAFSA on the Web at *fafsa.ed.gov*. Because some of the information you provide on the FAFSA is also required on the Need Access application, you may want to complete both applications at the same time.

Find out more at *NeedAccess.Org* or call 800-282-1550.

Press #1, then select Option 4.