



MESA Application Guide

The MESA College Initiative estimates that it will take less than an hour to complete the Application. It contains four pages, all of which have a detailed explanation below. If you need more help or have any questions, ask your MESA School Contact.

Time-Saving Tips:

- **Plan ahead** - Gather required information like the student applicant's Social Security Number, household income tax returns and investment records (savings account statements, checking account statements, 401(k) statements, etc.) before you begin.
- **Sneak a peek** –Review the MESA College Initiative Application to see what information is requested; ask your household members to provide you with the information requested of them.
- **Take it one step at a time** - Once you begin filling out the MESA Application, you may realize that you need more information from other household members. That's okay—take your time and be thorough.

Page 1: Student Applicant's Information

This page requests information about the student applicant, including date of birth, mailing address and other contact information. If the student applicant is under eighteen, s/he must provide a parent or guardian's contact information, too.

Questions about the household and applicant:

- For Housing Type, this question refers to the entire household. *For example, if the entire household owns the home, mark "own."* A parent or guardian can help with this question.
- For Household Type, this question is asking about the entire household. *For example, if a student applicant primarily lives with his/her father, mark "single father household."*
- The other questions all refer to the student applicant only (race, ethnicity, education, gender, school status, etc.). *For example, Marital Status refers to the student applicant, not any parents or guardians in the household.*

At the bottom of the page, the student applicant will select a financial institution/bank. After the initial deposit, the student can make deposits at any branch of that financial institution/bank. *For example, the student may open the account at US Bank-McMinnville, but can make any future deposits at any US Bank branch.*

Page 2: Employment History & Household Information

Question one asks for employment history about the student, not the parent or guardian. Please include part-time jobs, such as mowing lawns, a paper route or babysitting. If the student is not working, select a choice in 1b.

The next section on this page is a table where you will enter information about all household members, including their dates of birth, employer and monthly income. Also, if the household member has worked as a farm worker, agricultural worker or processor of agricultural/aquacultural goods, please indicate the type.

The last section asks about the household's income information. This section is used for research purposes, not in determining program eligibility. Please make sure to include all the information for both the student applicant and other household members.

Page 3: Household Net Worth

This page may be the most challenging of all because it asks a lot of information. Before beginning this section, gather information about the most recent balances on savings/checking accounts, 401(k) accounts, any investments, as well as current credit card balances, past due bills and other debts owed.


One of the easiest ways to complete this section is to go line by line, marking a \$0 if it does not apply. It will help you keep track of information you completed.

Here's what Page 3 of the application looks like:

Assets are things you own.

Write the total amount you own for each item as of the day you complete the application.

For example, if you have \$400 in checking, but owe bills at the end of the month for \$350, write \$400 (balance on the day you apply).



Calculating Your Household's Net Worth

Net worth equals your household's assets minus your liabilities. Assets are things you own; liabilities are things you owe. For example, a house has a market value (asset) and a mortgage (liability). Make sure you include the entire value of the asset or liability, not your monthly payment.

Please include your vehicles in both calculations.

ASSETS +	LIABILITIES -
Cash _____	Unpaid taxes _____
CDs _____	Money owed to family/friends _____
Savings accounts _____	Past due household bills _____
Children's savings accounts _____	Past due child support _____
Checking accounts _____	Past due credit card debt _____
Home Value _____	Store credit debt (e.g. Sears card) _____
Business (book value) _____	Mortgage _____
Residential property/land _____	Business debt _____
Stocks and bonds _____	Past due medical bills _____
Retirement _____	Student loans _____
College savings accounts _____	Other (_____) _____
Other (_____) _____	Other (_____) _____
Vehicle 1: _____	Vehicle 1 loan: _____
Vehicle 2: _____	Vehicle 2 loan: _____
Vehicle 3: _____	Vehicle 3 loan: _____
<hr/>	
SUBTOTAL ASSETS _____	SUBTOTAL LIABILITIES _____
Minus one vehicle _____	Minus one vehicle _____
Minus primary home _____	Minus primary home _____
Total Assets: <input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/>	Total Liabilities: <input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/>
<hr/>	
Total Assets - Total Liabilities = NET WORTH <input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>	
<hr/>	
Please include information about all your vehicle(s).	
Vehicle 1: Make: _____ Model: _____ Mileage: _____ Year: _____	
Vehicle 2: Make: _____ Model: _____ Mileage: _____ Year: _____	
Vehicle 3: Make: _____ Model: _____ Mileage: _____ Year: _____	
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Liabilities are things you owe. These are also known as debts.

Write the total amount you owe for each item as of the day you complete the application.

This is not a budget. You do not need to include monthly expenses, like rent, unless you are *past due* on rent.

For example, if you owe \$3000 on your car, but pay \$200 a month, write \$3000—your total debt.

Remember! This section includes everyone in the household as identified in the table on page 2, not just the student.

To complete this section, have available your:

1. Most recent statements for savings, checking, retirement and any investment accounts, etc., for *all household members*.
2. Most recent statements for credit cards, mortgage, car loans, student loans, utility bills, etc., for *all household members*.
3. Information like make, model, mileage and year on any operational vehicles your household owns. *For example, a 1991 Honda Civic with 143,000 miles.*

For major assets like a house, write down the total value of the house, not your mortgage payment. For the mortgage, write what you owe on your mortgage, not the monthly payment.

Once you have filled out each column:

1. Add everything and write the amount under “Subtotal” at the bottom of each column. You will have a “Subtotal” in each column.
2. Subtract *one vehicle* and *your primary residence* on the “assets” side.
3. Fill in that amount in the box below called “Total Assets.”
4. Subtract *one vehicle loan* and *your mortgage balance for the primary residence* on the “liabilities” (debts) side.
5. Fill in that amount in the box below called “Total Liabilities.”
6. The box called NET WORTH = Total Assets-Total Liabilities.

Note: It is possible to have a negative net worth.

Congratulations on completing Page 3!

Page 4: Household Information and Certification

The last page of the Application asks a lot of yes/no questions about the household. Parents/guardians may need to help the student applicant with some of this information. This information is used for research purposes and does not impact your eligibility. Your income tax return and/or recent pay stubs may help you complete this section.

Make sure you answer about the entire household!

Finally, the student applicant and, if under eighteen, either the parent or guardian will sign the Application.