The CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE (PROFILE) helps financial aid administrators efficiently and cost-effectively manage the financial aid process. The PROFILE uses the College Board’s Institutional Methodology (IM) to determine financial aid eligibility for institutional funds. Listed below are highlights of the PROFILE:

- More family information is collected on the PROFILE and this information supports the work of the aid office in fairly evaluating the need of the applicant. For example, the aid administrator knows the ages of the children, where they are enrolled in school, and how much tuition the family pays for each. The FAFSA collects only the total number in the family.

- Requests three years of income information to help identify year-to-year changes in a family’s ability to pay.

- On the PROFILE, the family’s medical and dental expenses and education loan repayments are collected, and the family can explain unusual circumstances. Because none of these data are collected on the FAFSA, the family must take additional steps to share this valuable information with the aid administrator. Often this means that the financial aid professional must review the student’s file a second time after receiving an appeal. If the appeal is received late in the awarding cycle, it is possible that funds won’t be available to meet additional student need.

- Provides a more equitable review and consistency in financial aid awards for families in similar circumstances.

- Online application that is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

- Cost includes $25 initial fee for one institution/program and $16 for each additional report; payment may be made by credit card, debit card, or online check.

- A limited number of fee waivers are granted automatically – based on the information entered on the PROFILE application – to students who are first-time college applicants and are from families with very low incomes and assets. International students are not eligible for fee waivers. This waiver covers the application fee and the reporting fees for up to six colleges or scholarship programs.

- Noncustodial PROFILE application that separately provides information about the divorced or separated parent.

- Over 300 institutions and organizations utilize the PROFILE to award financial aid from sources outside of the federal government.

Questions? Contact customer support at 305-829-9793 (Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time, with extended hours from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., January through April) or email help@cssprofile.org.