

# More students need FAFSA

Early filing could increase federal aid

BY JESSICA SEAMAN  
STAFF WRITER

As university budgets nationwide are cut and tuition increased, it is more important than ever to fill out the FAFSA form early, administrators say.

The FAFSA, or the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, is used to qualify students for grants, loans and other forms of college aid.

"We have seen a record number of students applying for student aid and it being distributed," said Haley Chitty, spokesperson for the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators.

He said there has also been an increase in the number of students and families that appeal their FAFSA packages to try to get more aid.

He said this happens when

families fill out the form and their financial need changes.

"You never know what you will get until you apply," Chitty said. "Everyone is eligible for some sort of aid, even if it is a low-interest loan."

"But you can't get aid unless you fill out the form," he said.

Shirley Ort, the associate provost and director of scholarships and student aid at UNC, said she expects the number of students applying for financial aid to increase for the academic year 2011-12, but not as much as it did in 2009.

In 2008-09, 5,817 undergraduates received aid. The number increased by about 800 for 2009-10.

The number of students that received aid for 2010-11 is not known yet.

"When the economy hit everybody really hard it encompassed a

lot of students," Ort said. "And now even though there are some families that are losing jobs, the job loss isn't as much as years ago."

For the 2009-10 school year, 62 percent of UNC students received financial aid.

About 6,600 of the 11,298 students that received aid in 2009-10 were considered need-based.

Completing the FAFSA form by March 1 can help maximize the amount of aid a student gets, Ort said.

She said both the FAFSA form and the Financial Aid Profile, a form that helps award non-federal student aid, has to be completed by the deadline to be considered on-time.

Completing the FAFSA form more thoroughly can also help a student get more aid, said Mark Kantrowitz, the publisher of FinAid, a website that provides student financial aid information.

He said students are also able to

get more aid if a parent has lost his or her job.

"The gap between need-based grants and college is going to be bigger, meaning students are going to have to borrow more and pay out of pocket more," Kantrowitz said.

The online FAFSA form has been changed to make it easier and quicker to fill out.

One of the changes to the form is that if you have already filled out your taxes, you can now import the information directly on to the FAFSA form, Chitty said.

The online form also sends an error message if something is filled out incorrectly, Ort said.

Chitty said the FAFSA form should be filled out online instead of on paper.

"This means the form is processed quicker and more accurate," Chitty said.

Contact the State & National Editor at [state@dailytarheel.com](mailto:state@dailytarheel.com).

## SOUL ART



DTH/KATIE BARNES

An exhibit, 'The Magical Real-ism of Amy Sherald,' opened Thursday at the Sonja Haynes Stone Center, with paintings showing life as a southern black woman. The work removes the idea of skin color, showing race through other physical characteristics. Visit [dailytarheel.com](http://dailytarheel.com) for more.

# Proposed NC budget in danger of being vetoed

Perdue worried about social programs

BY KRISTEN MCAVOY  
STAFF WRITER

When it comes to budget cuts, signs of disagreement between the Republican-led N.C. General Assembly and the Democratic governor are becoming apparent.

And some legislators believe that to make up for the \$3.7 billion shortfall, state legislators might approve a budget with cuts so deep that Gov. Bev Perdue will veto the bill.

"If the cuts made by the Republican-controlled N.C. House and Senate are too deep, too damaging to our pre-K through university education, too limiting to economic growth and job creation, too hurtful to our at-risk populations, the governor might well veto the budget," said Rep. Verla Insko, D-Orange, in an e-mail.

Perdue's decision depends on a number of factors.

"Whether Gov. Perdue will veto the Republican budget will depend on where she wants to pick a fight with the new Republican-led

General Assembly this year," said Mitch Kokai, spokesman for the John Locke Foundation, a right-leaning, nonprofit think tank.

However, Tom Carsey, a political science professor at UNC, said in an e-mail that legislators and governors will try to avoid a veto.

"Vetoes and veto overrides generally suggest either a breakdown in bargaining, an error in one side or the other understanding what the other side really wants, or that one or both sides are looking to score political points by drawing a sharp distinction," Carsey said.

But even the governor's veto is not final.

"If the governor vetoes the budget — or any bill for that matter — Republicans in the Senate have enough votes to override the veto. But in the House, Democrats have enough votes to sustain a veto — if House Democrats can keep all their members on together," Insko said.

If the governor vetoes the bill, it will be sent back to the House. The members of the House then

vote whether or not to override the veto. Three-fifths of the members must vote in favor of overriding the veto for it to pass.

If the House votes to override the veto, the bill is then sent to the Senate, where the same rules apply.

Perdue has only vetoed one bill in her three years as governor.

Kokai said he thinks it is too early to say whether Perdue will veto the budget.

"My suspicion is that she will probably try to avoid that if she can," he said. "She knows that the budget is going to be smaller than what she has been accustomed to, and she has already made cuts of her own in the current budget through the end of June."

He said the cuts Republicans are proposing are crucial for controlling the state's growing shortfall.

"For too many years we have spent beyond what the taxpayers have been able to support," Kokai said. "The reason we have a budget shortfall for more than \$3 billion is we have over-promised."

Contact the State & National Editor at [state@dailytarheel.com](mailto:state@dailytarheel.com).

# Students frequent Sporcle

Trivia website an educational tool

BY LILLY KNOEPP  
STAFF WRITER

As UNC awaits Wednesday's matchup against Duke University, students can already take pride in one victory: its ranking.

On Sporcle, that is.

A few months ago, Sporcle began compiling data on colleges' use of the site, creating a top 25 ranking of worldwide schools. UNC is currently ranked seventh, while Duke does not make the top 25.

As of Jan. 29, the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor ranked first.

Sporcle.com is a trivia website with games and categories ranging from the most popular boy names in the last 100 years to naming the running backs taken in the NFL draft's first round from 2000 to 2010.

But it isn't the just fun that is driving students to the site, Sporcle officials said.

Instead, it's the site's educational value.

"I used it in Swahili 101 to study the capitals in Africa. I got a bunch of extra credit because of Sporcle,

"Sporcle encourages learning in a fun and competitive way."

ANNA GRACE FITZGERALD, FRESHMAN

so I think it's great," said senior Tim Smith.

Derek Pharr, vice president of products at Sporcle, said the website had actually contacted some teachers to discuss how Sporcle could be better used in an educational context.

"Sporcle has talked to many educators who have agreed that the site can be a useful tool for students," Pharr said. "The educators also recommended that Sporcle make a specific section for study guides and for each college, so that the study guides would be more relevant to each particular school."

For most students, however, Sporcle is just a fun site to test their skills, and not a way to defeat other colleges or bone up for their next geography test.

"Sporcle encourages learning in a fun and competitive way," said freshman Anna Grace Fitzgerald.

"It's a great way to build commu-

### Sporcle rankings

1. Michigan
2. Ohio State
3. Maryland
4. Notre Dame
5. Penn State
6. Boston College
7. UNC
8. Pittsburgh
9. Northwestern
10. Michigan State

nal knowledge among whomever is playing the game."

"Sporcle is an excellent distraction from boring lectures," junior Kegan Daly said.

Contact the University Editor at [university@dailytarheel.com](mailto:university@dailytarheel.com).

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**FRIDAY, FEB. 11**  
GYMNASTICS v. Penn State; 7pm

**SATURDAY, FEB. 12**  
WOMEN'S TENNIS v. Florida; 11am  
WOMEN'S LACROSSE v. Florida; 12pm  
WRESTLING v. Nebraska; 1pm  
MEN'S LACROSSE v. Robert Morris; 2:30pm

**SUNDAY, FEB. 6**  
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Don't forget to grab dinner at Top of Lenoir or Rams Head Dining Hall on Thursday, February 10th for a Green Themed Meal! Visit [dining.unc.edu](http://dining.unc.edu) for more information.