Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®)

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (**FAFSA**) is a form that allows students to apply for all types of financial aid, including but not limited to federal financial aid, state financial aid, and institutional aid. The FAFSA is one of the most important forms to fill out in regard to a college education and should be completed every academic year. The information supplied is used to assess a student's financial need and gives them access to multiple sources of financial aid to help pay to attend a college, university, or vocational school.

The following are some the most **frequently asked questions** about the FAFSA:

1. Who can apply for the FAFSA?
2. What are the deadlines for filling out the FAFSA form?
3. What will students need to fill out the FAFSA
4. Where can students determine if they are eligible to receive financial aid?
5. Who is considered a parent?
6. Can a parent and student share the same FSA ID?
7. What if the student forgets their FSA ID username and password?
8. Will a student need their parents' information?
9. How do students correct or update their FAFSA Form?
10. Why are 2021 tax and income information required on the 2023–24 FAFSA form?
11. How can students check the status of their FAFSA form?
12. When can students expect to hear from colleges about their financial aid package?

FAQ

1. Who can apply for the FAFSA?
Students are eligible to apply for the FAFSA if they meet the following criteria:
- U.S. Citizen
- Legal Permanent Resident (Green Card)
- Certain Designations including Refugees or those granted Asylum
- T-Visa Holders

2. What are the deadlines for filling out the FAFSA form?
To be considered for federal student aid for the 2023–24 award year, students can complete a FAFSA® form between Oct. 1, 2022, and 11:59 p.m. Central time (CT) on June 30, 2024. Any FAFSA corrections or updates must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. CT on Sept. 14, 2024. For state financial aid the priority deadline is March 2nd.

Students attending a CA Community College can apply by September 2nd.

3. What will students need to fill out the FAFSA
- A social security number or Alien Registration Number if they are not a U.S. citizen
- Federal income tax returns, W-2s, and other records of money earned. (May be able to transfer your federal tax return using the IRS Data Retrieval Tool)
- Bank statements and investment records (if applicable)
- Records of untaxed income (if applicable)
- An FSA ID for electronic signature

A dependent student will need most of the above information from their parents.

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4. Where can students determine if they are eligible to receive financial aid?

Students can find more information **here** on federal student aid eligibility.

5. Who is considered a parent?

A legal parent includes a biological or adoptive parent, or a person that the state has determined to be a student's parent (for example, when a state allows another person's name to be listed as a parent on a birth certificate). Grandparents, foster parents, older brothers or sisters, widowed stepparents, and aunts and uncles are not considered parents unless they have legally adopted the student.

6. Can a parent and student share the same FSA ID?

No. Parents and students can not share the same FSA ID (account username and password). Each should use their own FSA ID because it is part of identification and serves as an electronic signature.

7. What if the student forgets their FSA ID username and password?

If students have an FSA ID but do not remember their username, select **Forgot Username**. If they have an FSA ID but do not remember their password, select **Forgot Password**.

8. Will a student need their parents' information?

Most students under the age of 24 are dependent and must report parent information. If students answer "Yes" to any of the questions in the dependency status questions, they are considered an independent student on the 2023–24 FAFSA® form, and generally will not need to provide their parents' information.

9. How do students correct or update their FAFSA Form?

Most questions on the FAFSA form want to know a student's status as of the day the application is signed. However, there are some instances in which students want to (or are required to) change the information reported. Find more information **here**.

10. Why are 2021 tax and income information required on the 2023–24 FAFSA form?

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form always requires the prior two years (or prior-prior) tax information.

11. How can students check the status of their FAFSA form?

To check the status of a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form, select "Log In" on the online FAFSA home page to log in. Application status can be found on the "My FAFSA" page, which displays after the student logs in and the FAFSA has been started or completed.

12. When can students expect to hear from colleges about their financial aid package?

Students will get a student aid offer after completing the college's application requirements and after the college determines their eligibility. This offer will detail the costs of attending the college for an academic year, as well as any grants, scholarships, work-study funds, or loans they are eligible to receive.

Most colleges send out student aid offers around the same time as admission offer letters. However, the timing varies for each college. Factors (e.g., the date the FAFSA form was submitted and the number of FAFSA forms the college received) can influence when students will get an offer. The college can tell them when they will receive their student aid offer.

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