

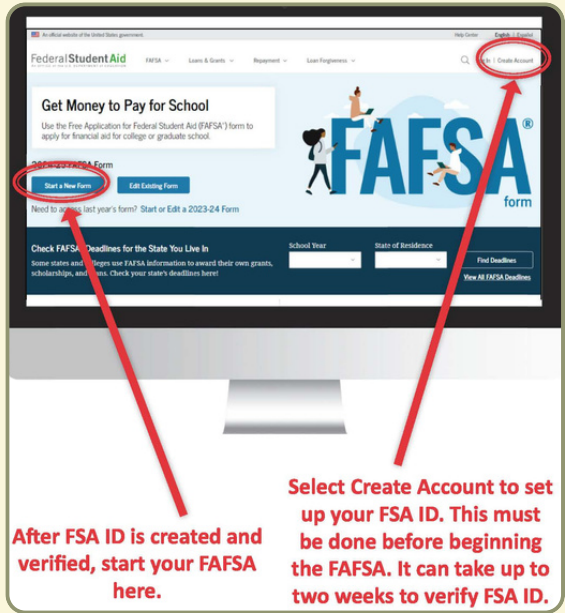
Studentaid.gov financial aid application process

1

Gather your information using the checklist below.

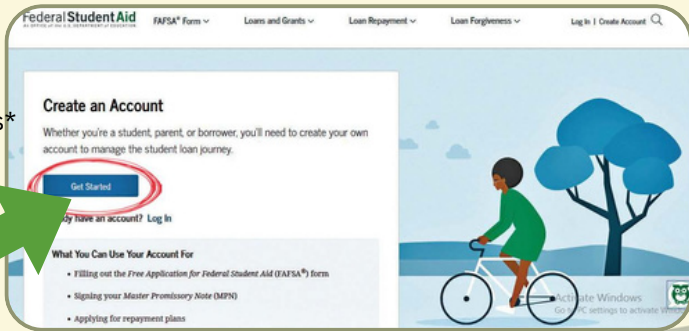
What you may need to file the FAFSA:

- mailing address
- mobile phone number
- FSA ID for BOTH the student and dependent student's contributing parent/stepparents (or spouse, if independent)
- Your Social Security or ITIN number
- Your alien registration number (if you are not a U.S. citizen)
- Your 2023 federal income tax returns, W-2s
- (only if required to enter manually), Bank statements and records of investments (if applicable)
- Parent(s) date of birth, social security number
- or ITIN, marital status, and date parent was married, divorced, or widowed



2

Create an FSA ID (username and password) for all FAFSA contributors* at least a week before filing your FAFSA. See p. 2 for instructions.



3

After your FSA ID is verified, visit studentaid.gov, then you and your parent can complete the FAFSA for the year you will be entering college.

4

Review your FAFSA Submission Summary and make corrections if necessary.

*A contributor is anyone required to provide information, a signature, and consent and approval to have their federal tax information transferred directly into the FAFSA form. This may include the student, the student's spouse, a biological or adoptive parent, or a stepparent. Contributors are not financially responsible for the student's education.

Federal Student Aid ID

Use your FSA ID to confirm your identity when you access your financial aid information and electronically sign your federal student aid documents, including the FAFSA.

1

Visit studentaid.gov and click on Create Account. You'll need to create a FSA ID prior to accessing the FAFSA. Once your FSA ID is verified, you'll be able to use it to access your FAFSA.

2

Create a memorable username and password.

Keep track of your FSA ID since you'll use it frequently throughout the federal student aid application process each year.

3

Enter your name, date of birth, Social Security (or parents' ITIN number), contact information, and challenge questions and answers.

4

Confirm your cell phone number using the secure code, which will be texted to the number you provided.

and

5

Confirm your email address using the secure code, which will be sent to the email address you entered when you created your FSA ID.

Forgot your FSA ID?

Scan this code for instructions on how to retrieve a forgotten FSA ID.



Tip:

It can take up to two weeks for your FSA ID to be verified. Each contributor on the FAFSA (student and parents, if applicable) will need a verified FSA ID in order to access the FAFSA.

What is my dependency status?

"Am I a Dependent Student or an Independent Student?"



You're an independent student if you are:

- + At least 24 years old
- + Married
- + A graduate student
- + A professional student
- + A veteran
- + A serving member of the armed forces
- + An orphan
- + A ward of the court
- + An emancipated minor
- + An individual with legal dependents other than their spouse
- + An individual who's homeless or at risk of becoming homeless

You're a dependent student if:

- + None of the independent student eligibility criteria applies to you

Whose information do I use?

The intent of the FAFSA is to get an idea of your household income. Use the guide on page 2 to determine if you are a dependent student. If you are a dependent student, use this guide to decide which parent's information to include:

- Are your biological parents married to each other? If yes, then report information for both parents on the FAFSA.
- Do your biological parents live together? If yes, then report information for both parents on the FAFSA, even if they were never married, are divorced, or are separated.
- Do your biological parents live separately?
 - If yes, then report information on the FAFSA for the parent who provides the most financial support to you. **Also, if this parent remarried**, you will need to report information for your stepparent on the FAFSA even though he or she may not be responsible for your college costs.

The following people are **NOT** your parents for FAFSA purposes **UNLESS** they have legally adopted you:

- Widowed stepparents
- Grandparents
- Foster parents
- Legal guardians
- Older brothers or sisters
- Aunts or uncles

SIMPLE STEPS TO TRANSFER TAX INFORMATION INTO YOUR FAFSA®

For Students and Contributors



1 Log in to your current FAFSA, or start a new FAFSA at studentaid.gov. Grant consent to use the Direct Data Exchange.



2 Your answers on the FAFSA will determine which, if any, contributors need to be identified. They will complete their own sections of the form and have their own FSA ID.



3 Contributors must consent and provide the required information, then electronically sign their respective section for your FAFSA to be complete, but they will not become financially responsible for your education.



4 The IRS will share federal tax information with the FAFSA. The last contributor to complete their portion of the FAFSA will be able to submit the application.



5 Check with your contributors to make sure they have finished their portion, then complete all remaining FAFSA sections and submit!



6 Review your FAFSA Submission Summary for ongoing updates, and make corrections if necessary.

TIP:
If consent to access tax information is not granted, you can still continue the FAFSA, but NO financial aid will be disbursed until consent is granted.

For more information, visit studentaid.gov

Graphic adapted from U.S. Department of Education



Helpful Hints

U.S. Department of Education:

The 2025-26 FAFSA
will launch on
December 1, 2024,
with full functionality

Next Steps

Verification

Colleges are required to verify the information provided on some FAFSAs. Most people selected for verification are picked at random.

If you're selected for verification, you'll be contacted by the college. The college or, in some cases, an agency with which the college has contracted will let you know what forms and information you need to supply.

If you are chosen for verification,

DON'T PANIC. YOU HAVE DONE NOTHING WRONG!

Don't delay. It's important to complete verification as soon as you're notified so there are no delays with your financial aid.

Special circumstances

If you believe you have special circumstances that were not accurately reflected on your FAFSA, contact the financial aid office at the college you plan to attend.

Aid notifications

Your aid notifications will come from the college(s) you listed on your FAFSA, once you've been accepted. Some colleges will begin sending aid notifications in the spring.

Need help? Contact the SUNY Adirondack Financial Aid Office

Phone: 518.743.2223

Email: finaidoffice@sunyacc.edu