



## What Is Your ROLE?

The FAFSA is the single most important application for federal, state, and institutional financial aid. As a parent, you are a required participant in the process.

- **Who is a Parent?** For FAFSA purposes, a parent is generally the biological or adoptive parent, or a person the Department of Education determines to be a parent. If your parents are divorced or separated, the parent the student lived with the most in the last 12 months is the one who completes the form.
- **The Contributor:** The FAFSA now uses the term "contributor" to include any parent (or spouse, if married) who is asked to provide their information, give consent for FAFSA processing, and sign the application.



## The FSA ID: Your Digital Signature

Both the student and at least one parent contributor must create a Federal Student Aid ID (FSA ID). This ID serves as your legal, digital signature and is required to access the FAFSA form.

- You need your own FSA ID. Do not share the student's ID or vice-versa.
- Create it early—it can take a few days to become fully active.



## Key Deadlines

- **Federal Deadline:** Check the official [studentaid.gov](http://studentaid.gov) website.
- **College Deadline:** Each college the student applies to has its own priority deadline, often the earliest of the three. Miss these, and you could miss out on aid!





## Financial Information You'll Need

The FAFSA collects financial data from the "Prior-Prior Year" (PPY)—meaning you will use tax information from two years before the academic year your student is enrolling.

Information Needed	Detail
<b>Tax Records</b>	Prior-Prior Year tax returns (e.g., for the 2026–2027 FAFSA, use 2024 tax information).
<b>Assets</b>	Current balances of cash, savings, checking accounts, and investments (including stocks, bonds, and mutual funds).
<b>Business/Farm Value</b>	If applicable, the net worth of any businesses or investment farms you own.
<b>Untaxed Income</b>	Records of any untaxed income received, such as child support, veterans' benefits, or workers' compensation.

## After Submission: What to Expect

- 1. Confirmation:** Once the student and all contributors have signed, you will receive confirmation that the FAFSA has been processed.
- 2. FAFSA Submission Summary (FSS):** This summary replaces the old Student Aid Report (SAR). It will show your student's Student Aid Index (SAI)—the number colleges use to determine your financial need.
- 3. Financial Aid Offers:** The colleges your student listed on the FAFSA will use the SAI to calculate and send a Financial Aid Offer Letter detailing the mix of grants, scholarships, loans, and work-study they are offering. Your student can't receive an official Financial Aid Offer Letter until the FAFSA is complete!