

Tips for the FAFSA

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Submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)



New to the FAFSA?

**Start A New
FAFSA**

Returning User?

- Make a correction
- Add a school
- View your Student Aid Report (SAR), and more...

Login

College Scorecard

Information on college costs, graduation, and post-college earnings.

Announcements

- [The IRS Data Retrieval Tool will remain unavailable for the 2017-2018 FAFSA form.](#)

Website Tips

- Click on “Start A New FAFSA”
- Click on “Enter Students FSA ID” or “student’s information”
- Choose what year you are filing for (seniors will chose the 2018–2019 year)
- Chose Renewal or New FAFSA
- Create a save key (only you will know this)
- Now you will begin entering demographic information. (Don’t forget your middle initial)

Tips Continued...

- Enter email if you have one that you check often. If you don't check your email, don't list one.
- Once you enter email on website every communication from FAFSA will come to that email on record.
- Make sure you answer every question, especially Federal Work Study question and high school diploma/GED question. (It asks you to list what high school you graduated from)

Tips Continued...

- Must answer drug conviction question.
- Answer Dependency Questions
 - Were you born before Jan 1, 1995? (date rolls every year)
 - Are you working on a master's or doctorate?
 - As of today, are you married?
 - Do you have children that receive more than 50% support from you?
 - Dependents other than child/spouse that receive more than 50% support from you?
 - Are both parents deceased, or were you ward of court at any time since the age of 13?
 - Are you currently serving Active Duty or are you veteran?

Tips Continued...

- More Dependency Questions:
 - Are/were you or were you an emancipated minor?
 - Are/were you in a legal guardianship situation?
 - At any time were you considered homeless by either a school district homeless liaison, director of an emergency shelter, or director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center?
 - **If all of these answers are no, you are DEPENDENT.**
 - If you are unable to provide parental information for some other reason contact FA Office.

Parent's Information

- Move on to Parent's Information (Use IRS Data Match)
- Parents are either mom/dad, mom/stepdad, dad/stepmom, or adopted parents.
 - Mom & dad info used if live together but not married.
- Grandparents, foster parents, and legal guardians are not “parents” on FAFSA *unless* they have legally adopted you.
- If parents are divorced use the information of the parent that supports you most, must use step parent info if mom or dad are remarried.

Household Information

- Number in parents household includes, student, parent and any other people in house that parents support more than 50%.
- Include other siblings that are in college if parent had to put their info on that student's FAFSA as well, even if they don't live in house while at college.
- Number in college includes students, not parents.

Asset Information

- Cash, Savings, and Checking Balances
- Investments/real estate include any investments that are NOT reserved for retirement, CD's, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, 529 college savings plans, refund value of 529 prepaid tuition plans, real estate that you do not live on or in.
- Do NOT include your home or family farm if you live in the home, on the land, or on the farm.

Assets Continued...

- Only include farm value that is a large investment farm.
- Only include family owned business value if the business employs more than 100 employees.

Student/School Info

- Continue to enter student's tax information, assets, etc. (Use IRS Data Match)
- The questions will mostly be the same that were asked on the parent section.
- Enter School Codes, if you don't know the codes, you are able to search for them online.
- Enter housing plan for each school you enter.

Finishing Up....

- You will need to enter your FSA ID now, and also click on “I agree” where it has the terms and conditions of the FAFSA.
- If you don’t have an FSA ID there is a link to apply for one, or to click if you forget it.
- One parent also needs a FSA ID, so either have it before, or apply while completing the FAFSA.
 - You **MUST** have a FSA ID to do the IRS Data Retrieval Tool.

Almost Done!

- Once you have entered FSA ID's...
- Then you may submit!
- Once you have submitted, you are done!
- You may print your confirmation page.
- You will receive results to your email if you provided one, or by mail if you didn't.
- After FAFSA sends results, you will then receive something from your school.

www.fafsa.gov click on



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Create a New FSA ID

An FSA ID gives you access to Federal Student Aid's online systems and can serve as your legal signature.

Only create an FSA ID using your own personal information and for your own exclusive use. You are not authorized to create an FSA ID on behalf of someone else, including a family member. Misrepresentation of your identity to the federal government could result in criminal or civil penalties.

To create your own personal FSA ID, enter answers for the questions below and select CONTINUE.

Important: When you are done click the CANCEL button to clear your data, even if you did not finish creating your FSA ID. Just closing your browser window or going to another website may not be enough to prevent other people using this computer from seeing your information until the session expires.

Common Errors

- Wrong Website...don't mistype.
 - It is www.fafsa.gov
- Social Security Numbers
- Birthdates
- Name: must be as it appears on social security card
- Who is parent?
- Which one to use if divorced?
- AGI, taxes paid, and income from work.

DEADLINES

- Be aware of your school's Priority Deadline.
- Every school has one, and they are normally different.
- You can start filing the FAFSA each year on Oct 1st for the next year!
- State Deadline for aid is Oct 1st the following year.
- Make sure if your school requires another form along with FAFSA and what deadline is for that.
- Don't be afraid to ask questions of your school.
- Visit their website, most schools have their info on their websites.

QUESTIONS???