Student Info Session:
The New 2024-25 FAFSA® Form

February 14, 2024
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Overview of Federal Student Aid
Federal Student Aid Overview

The U.S. Department of Education’s office of Federal Student Aid provides more than $114 billion in grants, work-study funds, and student loans each year to help students pay for college, career school, or trade school.
7 Changes to the FAFSA® Form Overview
# 7 Changes to FAFSA® Form

<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>New 2024-25 FAFSA Form</strong></th>
<th><strong>Contributor</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>The FAFSA Form is available at FAFSA.gov</td>
<td>A new term introduced to the 2024-25 FAFSA form.</td>
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The form launched on December 31, 2023

<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Consent and Approval</strong></th>
<th><strong>StudentAid.gov account</strong></th>
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<td>A requirement to be eligible for Federal Student Aid.</td>
<td>Requirement to start your online 2024-25 FAFSA form.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Financial Aid Eligibility Formula</strong></th>
<th><strong>Federal Pell Grant eligibility</strong></th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Introduction of Student Aid Index (SAI) replaces Expected Family Contribution (EFC)</td>
<td>More students will be eligible for Federal Pell Grant</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>FAFSA Submission Summary</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Replaces the Student Aid Report (SAR) for the 2024-25 award year</td>
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[https://studentaid.gov/articles/ffas-changes-coming/](https://studentaid.gov/articles/ffas-changes-coming/)
Who must have an account?

All contributors must each have their own FSA ID (username and password) to access and complete the online FAFSA® form. Contributors cannot share an account.

If a contributor already has an account, they do not need to create a new one.

How to create an account?

To create an account, visit StudentAid.gov/create-account and follow the instructions on the page.
Starting the 2024-25 FAFSA® Form
2024-25 Form is Now Available

The form launched on December 31, 2023

Please Note: Everyone, including returning students, must start a new 2024-25 FAFSA form.
Two Ways to start a FAFSA® Form

1. **Student starts the 2024-25 FAFSA form – Recommended**
   - Student will need to invite parent contributor to the form to complete their section

2. **Parent starts the 2024-25 FAFSA form**
   - Parent contributor will need to complete 5 sections of the form:
     - Student Identity Information
     - Student Personal Circumstances
     - Parent Demographics
     - Parent Financials
     - Review and Signature

All contributors must complete their sections for the FAFSA form to be submitted.
Student Sections of the FAFSA® Form

Personal Circumstances
- Martial status
- College or Career plans
- Personal & Special Circumstances
- Dependency Status
- Identify & Invite Contributor(s)

Student Demographics
- Gender
- Race & Ethnicity
- Citizenship
- Parent Education Status
- Parent killed in the line of duty
- High School Completion status

Student Financials
- 2022 Tax Return Information
- Student Assets

Colleges
- Search and Add up to 20 colleges or career/trade schools to receive your FAFSA Information

Signature
- Review all sections
- View Contributor completion status
- Sign
Consent and Approval

You and any additional contributors identified on your FAFSA® form must provide consent and approval.

Even if one of your contributors doesn’t have a Social Security number, didn’t file taxes, or filed taxes outside of the U.S., consent and approval are still required.

If any contributors do not provide consent and approval or refuse to provide them, the student won’t be eligible for federal student aid.

When contributors consent and approve, they agree to

- share their personally identifiable information provided on the FAFSA form with the IRS,
- have their federal tax information transferred directly into the FAFSA form,
- allow the U.S. Department of Education (ED) to use their federal tax information to determine your eligibility for federal student aid,
- allow ED to share their federal tax information with higher education agencies and the schools you listed on your FAFSA form, and
- allow ED to reuse their federal tax information on other FAFSA forms that you're invited to and choose to participate on.
Completing the FAFSA® Form
Student Dependency Status

Dependency status determines whose information must be reported filling out the FAFSA form.

Dependent Students

• You will report parent information when completing your FAFSA® form.

• At least one of your parents will be identified as a contributor.

• If your parent is married and did not file taxes jointly with their spouse, your parent’s spouse will also be identified as a contributor.

• If your parents are not married and do not live together, the parent who provides the most financial support will be identified as a contributor.

• If your parents are not married and live together, both parents will be identified as a contributor.

Independent Students

• If you are currently married (and not separated), you will report your spouse’s information when completing the FAFSA form.

• If you did not file taxes jointly with your spouse, they will be identified as a contributor.
Independent Student Criteria

Student is determined to be independent if answers “Yes” to at least one of the following:

- 24 years old or older by Jan. 1 of the school year
- Married and not separated.
- A graduate or professional student (working toward a master’s or doctorate degree).
- Have children or other legal dependents (other than your spouse) who live with you and receive more than half of their support from you.
- A veteran of or currently serving on active duty
- At any time since you turned 13, both of your parents were deceased, you were in foster care, or you were a ward or dependent of the court.
- An emancipated minor or in a legal guardianship as determined by a court.
- An unaccompanied youth who is homeless or self-supporting and at risk of being homeless.

Important Note: A student will be determined a dependent student if answered “No” to all the above. Dependent students must have at least one contributor.
Contributor

- Contributor is a new term being introduced on the 2024–25 FAFSA® form.
- Information provided by contributors will be used to determine your eligibility for federal student aid.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contributors Must Provide</th>
<th>Who is a Contributor</th>
<th>Who is NOT a Contributor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Information,</td>
<td>- You (the student),</td>
<td>- Nonadoptive grandparents,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Consent and Approval</td>
<td>- Your biological or adoptive parent(s),</td>
<td>- Foster parents,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of Federal Tax Information transfer,</td>
<td>- Your spouse, and/or</td>
<td>- Your fiancé, or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and</td>
<td>- You parent’s spouse.</td>
<td>- The other biological parent when they are not married to or don’t live with the parent contributor on the FAFSA form.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Important Note: Contributors who are identified on your FAFSA form are not financially responsible for your education expenses.
Which parent will be a contributor?

Being identified as a contributor on the FAFSA Form won’t make your family member responsible for paying for your education costs.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Family Structure</th>
<th>Information Included</th>
<th>Tax Filing</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parents’ marital status is married (not separated)</td>
<td>Both of your parent’s information must be included on the FAFSA form.</td>
<td>Jointly – only one parent is required to be contributor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Separately – both parents are required to be contributors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parents’ status is unmarried (including never married, divorced or separated)</td>
<td>Both of your parent’s information may be included on the FAFSA form.</td>
<td>The one parent who provided more financial support in the last 12 months will be the contributor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent married/remarried</td>
<td>Parent and stepparent information may be included on the FAFSA form.</td>
<td>Jointly – only parent is required to be contributor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Separately – parent and stepparent required to be contributors</td>
</tr>
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Contacting parent could put you at risk?

**Unusual Circumstances**

- Human trafficking
- Legally granted refugee or asylum status
- Parental abandonment or estrangement
- Student or parental incarceration

You could be granted provisional independent status. This will allow you to complete and submit your form without parent information.

Please note: You will be required to provide documentation to your school for financial need eligibility.

**Unusual circumstances do not include:**

- Parents refuse to contribute to your education expenses,
- Parents will not provide information for your FAFSA form, and
- Parents do not claim you as a dependent for income tax purposes
No Consent and Approval Option

If a student’s parent is unwilling to provide their information, and don’t have an unusual circumstance, the student can apply for Direct Unsubsidized Loans Only.

An unusual circumstance is not being able to obtain parent information because it could put the student at risk of harm. Examples include human trafficking, legally granted refugee or asylum status, parental abandonment or estrangement and student or parental incarceration.

Does not include:
- parents who refuse to contribute to student’s education expenses
- parent will not provide information for FAFSA form, or
- parent do not claim student for income tax purposes
The student will need the following information to invite their parent to their FAFSA Form:

- first and last name,
- Social Security number (if they have one),
- date of birth, and
- email address.
Inviting Contributor Tips

1. Must provide:
   • First and Last Name
   • Date of Birth
   • Social Security Number (SSN)
   • Email Address

2. If a contributor does not have a SSN, the checkbox can be checked, where a mailing address is requested.

Note: The address must exactly match the address submitted in the creation of their StudentAid.gov account. Ex. 123 Main Street does not match with 123 Main St.
How do I receive the invitation?

The email will be sent to your email address from Federal Student Aid.

What should I do when I receive the email?

The contributor should click on “Log In” to access the form and complete their sections. If a contributor does not have a StudentAid.gov account, the contributor can then create one. The contributor will have 45 days to access the student’s form from the invitation. If 45 days passes, the student will need to re-invite the contributor. The student does not need to restart the FAFSA form.

What if I didn’t receive an email?

The contributor should check their spam or junk folder. If not, ensure the student has the correct email address and ask to submit another invitation.
StudentAid.gov Account Dashboard

FAFSA Form Progress

My Activity

FAFSA® Form 2024–25

⚠️ Action Required  Last Updated: 2/13/2024

Track Progress:

1. View all active FAFSA forms
2. View status of FAFSA forms or if action is required
1. Student will receive an overview of their application and alert about what still needs to be completed – including contributor status (if applicable). Student will also receive a confirmation email.

2. Only the student will receive notification of when their FAFSA form has been processed in the first half of March 2024.

3. Only the student will be able to see their FAFSA Submission Summary and receive school communication about their financial aid.
After Submitting the FAFSA® Submission Summary
What is the FAFSA Submission Summary?

The FAFSA Submission Summary has been specifically designed to highlight your eligibility for federal student aid.

What does it include?

The FAFSA Submission Summary will include the:

• answers that you submitted on your FAFSA form (except for any federal tax information that was transferred directly from the IRS),
• your Student Aid Index (SAI),
• and an estimation of the amount of federal student aid that you may be eligible for.

Your FAFSA Submission Summary is not an aid offer.
Estimated Federal Student Aid

Federal Pell Grant
A Federal Pell Grant is awarded to undergraduate students who have financial need and who have not earned a degree or are in a teacher certification program. Federal Pell Grants don’t need to be repaid.

Federal Direct Loans
A federal direct loan is money lent by the government to you that you must repay with interest.

Federal Work-Study
Federal Work-Study is a way for students to earn money to pay for school through part-time jobs on or off campus.

Amounts shown here are only estimates of federal student aid based on full-time enrollment and the average cost of attendance. Your school will determine how much student aid to offer you, which may include additional aid from your school or state.

Learn more about financial aid
Federal Aid Eligibility Formula
What is SAI?
The Student Aid Index (SAI) is an eligibility index number that your college’s or career school’s financial aid office uses to determine how much federal student aid you would receive if you attended the school. This number results from the information that you provide on your FAFSA® form.

What is the index range?
Your SAI can range anywhere from –1500 to 999999. **Note this is not a dollar amount.**
A negative SAI indicates the student has a higher financial need.

What is the financial need formula?
Cost of Attendance (COA) – Student Aid Index (SAI) = Financial Need
Federal Grant Eligibility
Federal Grant Eligibility

Federal Pell Grant eligibility has expanded to more students.

Federal Pell Grant
Starting in 2024-25 award year, an estimated over 610,000 new students will be eligible for Federal Pell Grant.

Additional factors like family size and federal poverty guidelines, will also be used to determine whether you qualify for a Pell Grant.

Maximum Pell Grant
An additional 1.5 million students will also be eligible to receive a maximum Pell Grant award.

The maximum Pell Grant award amount for the 2024–25 award year will be announced in 2024. For the 2023–24 award year, the maximum Pell Grant award is $7,395.
Financial Aid Process
Start FAFSA Form
- Identify if you must have contributor(s) complete your FAFSA form
- If you need a contributor, get information for invitation
- Create StudentAid.gov account (if don’t already have one)
- 2022 Tax Information

Complete FAFSA Form
- Accept consent and approval
- Complete all sections
- Review and Sign

After FAFSA Submitted
- Receive a FAFSA Submission Summary processed alert in first half of March 2024.
- Corrections can be made after FAFSA processed (if needed)
- Processed FAFSA form sent to schools
- Unusual or Special Circumstances documentation shared with schools (if applicable)

Financial Aid Packages
- School provides Financial Aid packages for review
- School selection
- Accepted federal financial aid disbursed to selected school
Better FAFSA® Better Future Webinar Series

Federal Student Aid (FSA) will be hosting a free federal financial aid webinar series February 20-22, 2024 geared toward students, parents, and college access professionals.

Register Today:
https://forms.office.com/g/b5UL643gFx
Helpful Links

- 7 Changes Coming to the 2024-25 FAFSA Experience
- Filling Out the FAFSA Form
- FAFSA Deadlines

Follow on Social Media

- Instagram: instagram.com/federalstudentaid
- X (formerly Twitter): twitter.com/FAFSA
- Facebook: facebook.com/FederalStudentAid
- Linkedin: linkedin.com/company/federalstudentaid
- YouTube: youtube.com/@FederalStudentAid
- FSA Outreach YouTube: youtube.com/@FSAOutreach
Thank You