

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

What is FAFSA?

FAFSA is a financial need-based scholarship, and it is NOT a merit-based scholarship. However, all the universities require students to complete their FAFSA regardless of their parent's income. The 2025–26 *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) form asks for 2023 income and tax information (Income from 2 years prior since you will apply for 2025-26 academic year).

Completing the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) form allows you to be considered for federal student aid. In addition, states and colleges use FAFSA information to award their own grants, scholarships, and loans. But, since aid is limited, you must meet deadlines!

When can students start applying?

October 1, 2025, the 2026–27 FAFSA will be publicly available. For more details, you can check their website here: [\(APP-25-18\) 2026–27 FAFSA Improvements and Beta Testing Plan](#)

When is the deadline?

The FAFSA form must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. Central time (CT) on June 30, 2026. Any corrections or updates must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. CT on Sept. 14, 2026.

States and colleges may also have their own FAFSA deadlines as early as January 2026. The Federal Government wants you to apply as early as possible to be able to get the most money possible. The sooner you complete the FAFSA, the better. Grants and scholarships are limited, and some are offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

Each state has its own deadline. See the listing here: [State Deadlines for 2025-26 \(It is for students who graduated in 2025\)](#)

What information do I need for the application?

For the parents and students (if applicable), if you are not sure how to determine your status or what assets to include in your net worth, you might need to ask for help. There are "Help" buttons, or you can directly contact the [Federal Student Aid Information Center \(FSAIC\)](#). It's easier to complete the FAFSA form if you gather what you need ahead of time. Here are a few items to help you fill it out:

- [Your FSA ID](#)
- Your Social Security Number or Alien Registration Number (if applicant is a non-US Citizen)
- Parent's Social Security Number (If student is a dependent)
- Driver's License if applicable

- Federal income tax information, tax documents, or tax returns, including IRS W-2 information
- Records of nontaxable income, such as child support, interest income, and veteran benefits (if any)
- Financial statements, including bank statements and investment records

Keep these records! You may need them again. Do not mail these supporting records to FAFSA.

[2022-23 FAFSA on the Web Worksheet](#)—Provides a preview of the questions students and parents may be asked while completing the FAFSA form.

How to apply for FAFSA?

1. Before you start the FAFSA application (1-3 days), you must create an account with a Federal Student Aid ID which requires a student's Social Security Number or Alien Registration Number, mobile phone number, and email address. Here is the link to the website. <https://fafsa.gov/>
2. Please use a non-school email address which you will use even after high school graduation.
3. Your FAFSA ID is your credentials (username & password) and you will use it as your electronic signature when you submit the FAFSA online.
4. The student and only one legal parent of the dependent student will need an FSA ID to complete the FAFSA. Although the FAFSA is considered a student's application, one of your legal parents will need to provide information on FAFSA and sign it since you are considered a [dependent student](#).
5. For parents, if you have created your FSA ID for your other child who graduated in the past, you will use the same FSA ID since your SSN is associated with your FSA ID.
6. This video will help you to set up your FSA ID if needed. [How to Create an Account Username and Password \(FSA ID\)](#)
7. You can list up to 10 colleges on your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). If you decide to change schools on your FAFSA, you can go to "Make FAFSA Corrections" and remove some of the colleges and add the additional new school codes and submit the corrections for processing.
8. Please check out this link for Common Questions about the FAFSA Process: [Find Answers to Common Questions About the FAFSA® Process](#)