

# FAFSA®



FREE APPLICATION  
FOR FEDERAL  
STUDENT AID

# Tipsheet

## The basics on filing the FAFSA & getting financial aid

Visit [FAFSA.gov](https://fafsa.gov) to complete & submit your application for financial aid.

### WHAT IS THE FAFSA?

The FAFSA is the most important application you must complete in order to qualify for almost all types of financial aid including federal, state, local, and private grants and scholarships.

### WHY COMPLETE A FAFSA?

The U.S. Department of Education (USDE) uses the information provided on your FAFSA to determine your eligibility for aid from federal student financial assistance programs. In Pennsylvania, the FAFSA is used to determine PA State Grant eligibility. Schools also use FAFSA data to award their own financial aid.

### WHAT ARE THE DEADLINES?

Financial aid deadlines vary by school, state, program of study, and more. To ensure that you are considered for all financial aid programs, the FAFSA should be filed by the earliest application deadline date for each school you are considering attending. Check with your school for details.

**YOU MUST COMPLETE A NEW FAFSA APPLICATION EACH YEAR.**

### FOR PA STATE GRANT APPLICANTS, THE FAFSA DEADLINES ARE:

- **MAY 1** – For students attending colleges, universities, and college-transferable programs (excluding community colleges) and for all renewal students
- **AUGUST 1** – If you plan to enroll in a community college, a Business, Trade, or Technical school, a Hospital School of Nursing, an “Open-Admission” institution (visit [PHEAA.org](https://phea.org) for a list of these schools), or a non-transferable 2-year program

### WHAT DO I NEED TO FILE MY FAFSA ON FAFSA.GOV?

- Your Social Security number
- Your driver’s license number, if you have one (optional)
- Your alien registration number, if you are not a U.S. citizen
- Your W-2 forms
- Records of other untaxed income received, including workers’ compensation, child support, payments to tax-deferred pension, and savings plans, etc.
- Your federal income tax return – (1040, 1040A, or 1040EZ) from the prior-prior year (For example, if completing the 2018-19 FAFSA, use 2016 income tax return information.)
- Your current bank statements and records of stocks, bonds and other investments

#### If you are a dependent student, you will also need:

- Your parent’s Social Security number
- Your parent’s income and financial records (as listed above)

### FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FSA) ID

The FSA ID is a username and password that you will use to log into certain USDE websites, and electronically sign the FAFSA. Students interested in receiving federal student aid should create a FSA ID at [fsaid.ed.gov](https://fsaid.ed.gov). You and any parent electronically signing the FAFSA will need your own separate FSA ID.

### INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE (IRS) DATA RETRIEVAL TOOL

If you complete your FAFSA online, you have the option of retrieving your income and tax data from the IRS and having it automatically transferred into your FAFSA.

### WHICH TAXES DO I USE ON THE FAFSA?

IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND COLLEGE FROM	YOU CAN SUBMIT THE FAFSA FROM	USING TAX INFORMATION FROM
July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019	October 1, 2017 – June 30, 2019	2016
July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020	October 1, 2018 - June 30, 2020	2017
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021	October 1, 2019 - June 30, 2021	2018

## SCHOOLS I HAVE APPLIED TO:

School Name	Code
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	

### TO CHANGE THE SCHOOLS LISTED ON THE FAFSA:

Log on to [FAFSA.gov](https://fafsa.gov) to add or delete a school code. Or call the FSA Information Center at 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243) / TTY (Hearing Impaired) 1-800-730-8913.

## ONCE YOUR FAFSA IS PROCESSED:

You will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR), which summarizes all the information you provided on your FAFSA. Check your SAR for any errors. Receiving a SAR does not mean that you are eligible for financial aid.

If you don't have any changes to the information listed on your SAR, just keep it for your records. If you review your SAR and find a mistake, you will need to make necessary corrections using one of the following methods:

- Online (fastest method) at [FAFSA.gov](https://fafsa.gov)
- U.S. Mail
- Telephone 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243) / TTY (Hearing Impaired) 1-800-730-8913

Changes to financial information are permitted only if you provided incorrect or estimated information when you submitted the FAFSA. If a Social Security number is reported incorrectly, a new FAFSA must be submitted.

Your processed FAFSA results will be shared with the schools you listed on the FAFSA, as well as with PHEAA for purposes of determining PA State Grant eligibility. Look for your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) near the top right corner of the SAR. The EFC is determined based on the information on your FAFSA. Schools use the EFC to determine your eligibility for financial aid.

To learn more about the financial aid process, visit [PHEAA.org](https://pheaa.org).