

FAFSA® Tip Sheet

Complete the FAFSA to get Money for School



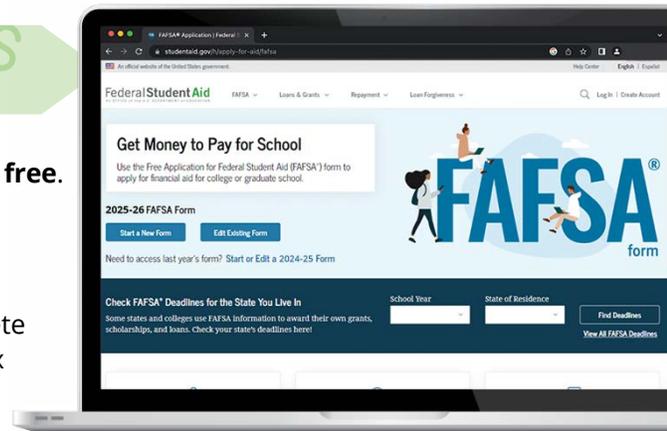
The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) is the most important application you must complete to qualify for almost all types of financial aid (money for school). Colleges and career schools use the FAFSA form to decide how much financial aid you qualify to receive. In Pennsylvania, we also use it to award the PA State Grant. Any student, regardless of family income, should complete a FAFSA to be considered for federal, state, and school financial aid programs.

→ How to Apply

Visit [StudentAid.gov/fafsa](https://studentaid.gov/fafsa) to complete and submit your application for **free**.

You will need your federal tax information, documents, returns, or W-2 forms from the prior-prior year.

The 2025-26 FAFSA will use your 2023 tax information. If you complete your FAFSA online, you will automatically retrieve your income and tax data from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and have it transferred into your FAFSA. The Federal Aid Direct Data Exchange is the preferred method to complete the FAFSA.



Also Prepare...

- Your [Federal StudentAid.gov Account](https://studentaid.gov)
- Your Social Security number or alien registration number
- Records of child support payments, including the total amount received for the last complete calendar year
- Current bank statements, records of stocks, bonds, 529 savings plans, and other investments
- List of colleges or career schools you want to include on your FAFSA
- A personal email address (not your school email!)

Dependent students will also need their contributor's:

- Name
- Email address
- Social Security number
- Income and financial records (listed above)
- Date of birth

NOTE: A contributor can be a student, student's spouse, biological or adoptive parent, or stepparent.

Log In

Email, Phone, or FSA ID Username

Password

Show Password

Log In

What is a Federal StudentAid.gov Account?

A Federal StudentAid.gov account is your verified account username and password. You will use the account you create at [StudentAid.gov/fsa-id](https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id) to log in to and sign the FAFSA. If you are a dependent student, you and all contributors must have their own username and password.



Get Help with the FAFSA!

Visit pheaa.org/fafsa for resources, videos, FAQs, and other helpful information to get you started on the FAFSA. Additional resources for students and families can be found at pheaa.org/fafsaHelp.



Use the Correct Tax Information

If you plan to attend college from	You can submit the FAFSA from	Using income & tax information from
July 1, 2024–June 30, 2025	December 2023–June 30, 2025	2022
July 1, 2025–June 30, 2026	October 1, 2024–June 30, 2026	2023
July 1, 2026–June 30, 2027	October 1, 2025–June 30, 2027	2024

Once Your FAFSA is Processed

You will be notified by the U.S. Department of Education (ED) that your FAFSA has been processed, and you can view or print your FAFSA Submission Summary online. Check your FAFSA Submission Summary for any errors. If you find mistakes, you will need to make necessary corrections by logging in at StudentAid.gov.

Your FAFSA will be shared with any schools you listed on it. Schools send out financial aid notifications to students once they're accepted. Your school may also require you to fill out additional forms for their school-specific programs. Contact your postsecondary schools for more information about financial aid notifications.

Next Steps for the PA State Grant

FSA also shares your FAFSA information with PHEAA to determine your eligibility for the PA State Grant. When we receive your FAFSA information, we will email you at the address you provided on the FAFSA to **activate your GrantUs account**.

Once you create a GrantUs account, you will find the State Grant Form and High School Form in your Action Items list. First-time applicants must complete both forms as soon as possible. Typically, renewal applicants do not need to complete these forms unless we contact you for more information. Learn more at pheaa.org/GrantUs.

Did Your Circumstances Change?

Contact the financial aid department at your school for help if your family's income suddenly changed (such as high medical expenses not covered by insurance, divorce, or separation) or is less this year than what you reported on the FAFSA. **You can also contact PA State Grant staff for help reporting changes in your financial situation at 1-800-692-7392 (TTY: Dial 711, for hearing impaired).**

→ To learn more about the financial aid process, visit pheaa.org.