

Parent U: Paying for College Q&A

Use the table of contents below to find the question(s) and answers you are looking for

[Links](#)

[Q: Can I change the information that I used to create the FSA ID?](#)

[Q: Can I manage the FAFSA application from outside the country?](#)

[Q: Do you do the FAFSA and the TASFA? Or is the TASFA only if you don't qualify for FAFSA?](#)

[Q: Can you provide estimates of financial aid based on a parent's income? Is it worth it for high-income families to complete the FAFSA?](#)

[Q: My daughter and I have lived in Texas since July of 2021. Am I eligible for TASFA?](#)

[Q: Are there fee waivers for applying to college if students have free or reduced lunch?](#)

[Q: How do we decline the loan offer from financial aid?](#)

[Q: Can a student fill out the CSS form without completing the FAFSA?](#)

[Q: Can a student fill out the CSS form without completing the FAFSA?](#)

[Q: Is FAFSA also required to be considered for MERIT based scholarships?](#)

[Q: What is the difference between FAFSA & TASFA?](#)

[Q: Are both parents required to consent to the direct data exchange?](#)

[Q: If I am divorced, the other parent does not have to fill out any information, correct?](#)

[Q: What if my student is a senior and accidentally filled out the fafsa 2024-2025 form?](#)

[Q: Can you still fill out the CSS if you fill out the FAFSA Waiver?](#)

[Q: Do we have to wait to fill out applications until we apply for FAFSA?](#)

[Q: Do you have to fill the FAFSA out annually if your student does not receive financial aid?](#)

[Q: My son filled out 4 college applications, do we have to pay for those applications?](#)

[Q: If I already have a FAFSA ID, should I initiate the FAFSA process and invite my student?](#)

[Q: We have been notified by my students' school that it is a graduation requirement that students complete FAFSA or TASFA applications. He will not be attending college in the USA.](#)

[Q: So students who are not eligible for FAFSA could not attend Houston Christian University \(HCU\)?](#)

[Q: Once we submit the form in December, when will we be able to know how much aid we get?](#)

[Q: If I am not legally married, and am not using my partner's income as part of the HH income, can I still count him as part of the HH?](#)

[Q: What does AGI stand for?](#)

[Q: When should we apply for the CSS profile ?](#)

[Q: If a student has a job themselves, are they better off to apply for TASFA under their own income? Or are they even allowed to?](#)

[Q: I have a student whose parents have not filed taxes since COVID. How would they go about filling out the FAFSA?](#)

[Q: If parents have FAFSA and are paying for their school can I add our kids FAFSA to our account?](#)

Links

- Scholarship Guide/List: <https://tinyurl.com/SBISDScholarships>
- Financial Aid Parent Toolkit: <https://tinyurl.com/SBISDFAToolkit>
- FSA ID - Create an Account: <https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch>
- FAFSA or TASFA Infographic:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1b_w3_ZHdiD7f1oWKdDNxvUZp77vfQKD/view?usp=drive_link
- Tax Transcript: irs.gov/individuals/get-transcript
- CSS Profile List: <https://profile.collegeboard.org/profile/ppi/participatingInstitutions.aspx>

Q: Can I change the information that I used to create the FSA ID?

A: Yes, Log into your Federal Student Aid Account. Click your name in the top right corner. Click Settings. In Settings, you will be able to change your information as necessary. Please note that you can not change your FSA ID information directly in the FAFSA form.

Q: Can I manage the FAFSA application from outside the country?

A: Yes. If the country you are in allows access to the FAFSA website, you can manage it from there.

Q: Do you do the FAFSA and the TASFA? Or is the TASFA only if you don't qualify for FAFSA?

A: Students should complete FAFSA **OR** TASFA, not both. TASFA is only for Texas residents who do not qualify for FAFSA.

Q: Can you provide estimates of financial aid based on a parent's income? Is it worth it for high-income families to complete the FAFSA?

A: No, every school awards differently based on the funding available. The FAFSA is simply an application that starts the process for financial aid. Only individual colleges/universities will be able to tell you how much they will award and this will vary by school regardless of income. Many schools will not start the awarding process until the FAFSA is complete.

Q: My daughter and I have lived in Texas since July of 2021. Am I eligible for TASFA?

A: The residency requirement for TASFA is 36 months leading up to graduation. Any student graduating in May of 2025 will be eligible if they have lived in Texas since June 2022 or earlier.

Q: Are there fee waivers for applying to college if students have free or reduced lunch?

A: Yes, Majority of colleges and universities take the College Board or NACAC fee waivers or they have a school specific fee waiver they use. Students on free or reduced lunch qualify for these fee waivers.

Q: How do we decline the loan offer from financial aid?

A: When students receive their award letters, there will be an option in their portal to "accept" or "decline" each award. Select decline for all or a portion of the loans offered depending on your individual circumstances.

Q: Can a student fill out the CSS form without completing the FAFSA?

A: The CSS profile is completed **in addition** to the FAFSA. Students will need to complete both.

Q: Can a student fill out the CSS form without completing the FAFSA?

A: The CSS profile is completed **in addition** to the FAFSA. Students will need to complete both.

Q: Is FAFSA also required to be considered for MERIT based scholarships?

A: While the FAFSA is not required to be considered for Merit based scholarships, many colleges and universities will not begin the awarding process without the FAFSA on file.

Q: What is the difference between FAFSA & TASFA?

A: FAFSA is for citizens and eligible non-citizens to receive financial aid from the federal and state governments. TASFA is for Texas residents who are ineligible for FAFSA to receive financial aid from the Texas government.

Q: Are both parents required to consent to the direct data exchange?

A: Whoever is adding information to the FAFSA form will have to consent to the direct data exchange. If both parents are adding their information, both will have to consent.

Q: If I am divorced, the other parent does not have to fill out any information, correct?

A: For FAFSA and TASFA, only the parent that provides the greatest amount of support has to fill out the application. The CSS profile may ask for non-custodial parent information depending on the school. However if the parent refuses, reach out to the financial aid office of the college/university to ask for next steps. This may vary by school.

Q: What if my student is a senior and accidentally filled out the fafsa 2024-2025 form?

A: It's ok if you accidentally completed the wrong form. Complete the correct 2025-2026 form when it opens in December.

Q: Can you still fill out the CSS if you fill out the FAFSA Waiver?

A: Only certain schools will require the CSS profile and you can still complete the FAFSA even if you completed the 'opt out' form for graduation purposes.

Q: Do we have to wait to fill out applications until we apply for FAFSA?

A: No, you can begin applying to schools now and then apply for FAFSA when it opens in December. Many of the college application deadlines occur prior to the opening of the FAFSA so students should apply to college before the admissions application deadline.

Q: Do you have to fill the FAFSA out annually if your student does not receive financial aid?

Yes, you should apply for the FAFSA each year even if your child did not receive aid the first year or consecutive years

Q: My son filled out 4 college applications, do we have to pay for those applications?

A: College applications are dependent upon the school and the students' status. If there is a fee required, it will be listed in the application.

Q: If I already have a FAFSA ID, should I initiate the FAFSA process and invite my student?

A: The preferred method is that the student starts the process. However, the student would need to create an FSA ID before initiating the process.

Q: Last year there was a problem with non-citizen parents being able to submit their part of the FAFSA. Do you know if that has been fixed?

A: Yes, the department of education implemented changes to address these concerns. Hopefully, this year there will not be any issues with this area.

Q: We have been notified by my students' school that it is a graduation requirement that students complete FAFSA or TASFA applications. He will not be attending college in the USA.

A: Your student may submit an opt -out form to meet the graduation requirement. This will be given to students by their counselor starting in the spring semester.

Q: So students who are not eligible for FAFSA could not attend Houston Christian University (HCU)?

A: Students can attend, but will not receive financial aid.

Q: Once we submit the form in December, when will we be able to know how much aid we get?

A: The individual colleges/universities will send an award Letter sharing the exact aid. The FAFSA will share an estimated amount of aid, but the exact amount of aid will be shared by the college/university in the spring semester.

Q: If I am not legally married, and am not using my partner's income as part of the HH income, can I still count him as part of the HH?

A: The household number is based on who currently lives in your household and is considered your dependent and your spouse if applicable.

Q: What does AGI stand for?

A: Adjusted Gross Income

Q: When should we apply for the CSS profile ?

A: The CSS Profile opens October 1st

Q: If a student has a job themselves, are they better off to apply for TAFSA under their own income? Or are they even allowed to?

A: Only students considered "independent" by financial aid can apply without their own income.

Q: I have a student whose parents have not filed taxes since COVID. How would they go about filling out the FAFSA?

A: The parent should start by filing their 2023 taxes unless they do not meet the income threshold required for filing.

Q: If parents have FAFSA and are paying for their school can I add our kids FAFSA to our account?

A: The child must have his/her own account.