

2025-2026

FAFSA Checklist



Complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) at studentaid.gov to apply for federal, state, and college-based financial aid.

Dependent students must include both student and parent data on the FAFSA. Determine your dependency status by answering the questions on the back.

REQUIRED INFORMATION

WHERE TO FIND IT

Student and parent 2023 Federal Income Tax Forms and all schedules

Personal records or visit irs.gov/transcript

Student and parent FSA ID usernames and passwords

Create student and parent FSA IDs at studentaid.gov - allow five days for the Social Security Administration to verify the FSA IDs

Student and parent email addresses

Student: _____
Parent: _____

Student and parent Social Security numbers

Personal records or call the Social Security Administration at 800-772-1213

Student and parent dates of birth

Student: ____/____/____
 Month Day Year
Parent 1: ____/____/____ Parent 2: ____/____/____
 Month Day Year Month Day Year

Student and parent savings/checking account balances

Student: \$_____ Parent: \$_____

Student and parent investments (ie. stocks, bonds, mutual funds, 529 plans, rental properties) excluding home and retirement

Student: \$_____ Parent: \$_____

Current net worth of all businesses

\$_____ or contact your accountant

Child support received from the LAST complete calendar year

Student Alien Registration Number/USCIS Number for eligible non-citizens

Contact U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services at uscis.gov

DEPENDENCY STATUS QUESTIONS

Answer the following questions to determine if parental data is needed on your FAFSA.

If you answer "no" to every question, you are dependent and must provide parental information on the FAFSA.

If you answer "yes" to any question, you are independent and should not include parental information on the FAFSA.

Yes No Were you born before January 1, 2002?

Yes No Are you married?

Yes No Will you be working on a master's or doctorate program at the beginning of the 2025-26 school year?

Yes No Are you a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces or currently serving on active duty?

Yes No Do you have children who live with you and will receive more than half of their support from you from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026?

Yes No Do you have dependents (other than your children or spouse) who live with you and receive more than half of their support from you, now and through June 30, 2026?

Yes No At any time since you turned age 13, were both your parents deceased, were you in foster care, or were you a dependent or ward of the court?

Yes No As determined by a court in your state of legal residence, are you or were you an emancipated minor?

Yes No Does someone other than your parent or stepparent have legal guardianship of you, as determined by a court in your state of legal residence?

Yes No At any time on or after July 1, 2024, did your high school or school district homeless liaison determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless?

Yes No At any time on or after July 1, 2024, did the director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless?

Yes No At any time on or after July 1, 2024, did the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?



College Now
Greater Cleveland

collegenowgc.org