

FAFSA CHECKLIST

2025-26

ALABAMA
Goes to
College



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Follow these steps to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to apply for most types of financial aid.

1

Confirm if you are an independent or dependent student.

This will determine whose information you need to report on your FAFSA.

- Independent: only report information about yourself and not your parent(s)
- Dependent: report information about yourself and your parent(s) — most common

You are an **independent** student if at least one of the following is true about you:

- You were born before January 1, 2002
- As of today, you are married
- You'll be working on a master's/doctorate program at the beginning of the 2025-26 school year
- You are currently on active duty or are a veteran of the U.S. armed forces
- You have a child or other dependent who lives with you and for whom you provide the majority of financial support
- At any time since you turned age 13,
 - you were an orphan (no living biological or adoptive parent) OR
 - you were a ward of the court OR
 - you were in foster care
- You are or were a legally emancipated minor
- You are or were in a legal guardianship with someone other than your parent or stepparent
- At any time on or after July 1, 2024, you are unaccompanied and homeless or self-supporting and at risk of being homeless

If none of the above apply, you're a **dependent** student. Dependent students should proceed to page 2 for instructions on including information about your parent(s) on your FAFSA. If special circumstances prevent you from providing parental information, contact the financial aid office of your college(s).

2

Students need to collect the following information.

Gather as many items on the list as you can, even if you're unable to collect them all.

Some items will not be relevant for all students.

- Student FSA ID username and password
- Picture or copy of your social security card (if applicable)
- Picture or copy of your green card (if applicable)
- Your 2023 federal tax forms (if applicable)
- Total current amount of cash, checking, and savings accounts: \$
- Net worth of your investments: \$
- List of colleges you will apply to or current college you will continue attending



Alabama Goes to College is a program of Alabama Possible. We connect families with tools and relationships so that all students can pursue and complete postsecondary credentials.



3



Dependent students need to include parent information.

If you're a dependent student, collect this info for your parent(s). If your parents are married and filed taxes jointly, only one parent needs to create an FSA ID to contribute to your form. If your parents are married and filed taxes separately or unmarried and living together, both parents need to create an FSA ID to contribute. If your parents are divorced or separated, include info about the parent who provides the majority of your financial support (if equal, include info about the parent with greater income and assets). If that parent is remarried, include your stepparent. [Click here for more information.](#)

General Information

Parent's current marital status Single Married/Remarried Divorced/Separated
 Unmarried & living together Widowed

FSA ID for one or both parents

| | PARENT 1 | PARENT 2 |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| Full name: (as shown on SS card or government ID) | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| Date of Birth: | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| Social Security number or ITIN: | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| Email address: | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| Parent's move date to current state: | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |

Tax Information [Click here for more information.](#)

- 2023 federal tax forms (1040 and all schedules; supporting documents such as W-2, 1099 forms, etc.)
- If 2023 taxes were not filed, what was the reason?

Financial Information [Click here for more information.](#)

- Total current amount of cash, checking, and savings account(s): \$
- Net worth (value minus debt) of current stocks, bonds, mutual funds, 529 plans, etc.: \$
- Net worth of investment/rental property/rented portion of your home: \$
- Net worth of parent-owned business(es) and/or family farm(s): \$
- Amount of child support received in last complete calendar year for all children: \$
- Federal benefits (SNAP, WIC, TANF, etc.) received in 2023/2024:

Certain situations may impact how you report information on the FAFSA. Contact your college(s) if:

- Your family's income has significantly changed since 2023 or after submitting your FAFSA
- You and your family are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless
- Your parent's marital status has changed since 2023
- You have concerns about your or your parents' citizenship status
- Other major life/financial changes have occurred recently

