FAFSA CHECKLIST FOR STUDENTS

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

1 Determine if you are an independent or dependent student

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 will be 24 years of age or older as of Jan 2026
- You have a child or other dependent for whom you provide the majority of financial support
- You have a court-ordered legal guardian who is not your biological or adoptive parent
- You were in foster care at any point after age 13
- You were a ward of the court at any point after age 13
- You are married (but not separated or divorced)
- You are homeless or at risk of being homeless
- Your parents are incarcerated or deceased
- You are currently on active duty or are a veteran of the U.S. armed forces

If none of the above apply, you're a **dependent** student. If special circumstances prevent you from providing parental information, contact your college financial aid office.

2 All students need to collect the following information about themselves

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

- [ ] 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 2024 federal tax forms (if applicable)
- [ ] Total current amount in your checking and savings accounts: $ _____
- [ ] Net worth of your investments: $ _____
- [ ] List of colleges you will apply to or current college you will continue attending

3

If you're a dependent student, collect this info for your parent(s). If your parents are divorced/separated, include info about the parent who provides the majority of your financial support. If that parent is remarried, include your stepparent.

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 (same as FSA ID):		
Date of birth:		
Social Security number or ITIN:		
Email address:		
Parent's move date to current state:		

Tax Information

☐ 2024 federal tax forms (1040 and all schedules)

☐ If 2024 taxes were not filed, what was the reason? _____

Financial Information

☐ Total current amount in 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 the past year for all children: $ _____

☐ Federal benefits (SNAP, WIC, TANF, etc.) received in 2024/2025: _____

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

- Your family's income has significantly changed since 2024 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 2024
- You have concerns about your or your parents' citizenship status
- Other major life/financial changes have occurred recently

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