

The background of the slide is a photograph of a university campus during autumn. A large tree with vibrant orange and yellow leaves is on the left. In the center, a modern building with large glass windows is visible. To the right, another tree with orange leaves stands next to a tall silver flagpole. A paved walkway leads from the bottom center towards the building. A bicycle is parked near the building, and a white storage container is on the grass. The sky is clear and blue.

# Financial Aid for College

Student Financial Aid & Scholarships  
Bowling Green State University





# Topics

- How to apply for financial aid
- Types of Financial Aid
- Financial Aid Offers

# Financial Aid Basics

- The federal government looks to **BOTH** the student and the family to cover educational costs
- Financial aid is designed to assist all families regardless of financial situation



# What to Apply for

Different schools require different applications, check with the Financial Aid Office and Admissions Office at each school.

**Some standard applications are:**

1. Admissions Application
2. Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
3. Other institutions application documents
4. Scholarship applications

# What is the FAFSA

- **FREE** Application for Federal Student Aid
- Studentaid.gov
- **It's Open!!**
- 2026-2027 FAFSA will use 2024 tax information
- Federal application used to determine eligibility for financial aid

# Creating an FSA ID (For the FAFSA)

- [Studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov)
- Studentaid.gov account is your FAFSA username and password
- Parents and students will create separate studentaid.gov accounts to log in
- One account per email, phone number and Social Security Number (SSN is required)
- Make sure to include your **legal name** and the **correct DOB**
- Students should **not** use a high school email as it is likely to be disabled after graduation



# Creating a studentaid.gov account

## Create an Account

Whether you're a student, parent, or borrower, you'll need to create your own account to manage the student loan journey.

[Get Started](#)

Already have an account? [Log In](#)

### What You Can Use Your Account For

- Filling out the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®)* form
- Signing your *Master Promissory Note (MPN)*
- Applying for repayment plans
- Completing loan counseling
- Using the *Public Service Loan Forgiveness Help Tool*

### What You'll Need

- Social Security number
- Your own mobile phone number and/or email address

Start a New  
Form is step to  
take!

The screenshot shows the FAFSA website with a navigation bar at the top containing links for FAFSA Form, Grants and Loans, Loan Repayment, and Loan Forgiveness. The main heading is "Get Money To Help Pay for School", followed by a subtext explaining the FAFSA form. Below this, there are three main action buttons: "Start a 2026-27 FAFSA Form" (circled in red), "Edit a 2026-27 FAFSA Form", and "Accept an Invitation for a 2026-27 FAFSA Form". To the right of these buttons is a large graphic of the FAFSA logo with the word "form" underneath. Below the buttons, there is a section for "Need the 2025-26 FAFSA Form?" with links for "Start New Form" and "Edit Existing Forms or Accept an Invitation". At the bottom, there is a section titled "Check FAFSA Deadlines for the State You Live in" which includes a "School Year" dropdown, a "State of Residence" dropdown, a "Find Deadlines" button, and a link to "View All FAFSA Deadlines".

FederalStudentAid  
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FAFSA® Form ▾ Grants and Loans ▾ Loan Repayment ▾ Loan Forgiveness ▾

Get Money To Help Pay for School

Use the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) form to apply for financial aid for college, career school, or graduate school.

Start a 2026-27 FAFSA® Form

Edit a 2026-27 FAFSA® Form

Accept an Invitation for a 2026-27 FAFSA® Form

Start New Form

Edit Existing Forms

Accept an Invitation

Need the 2025-26 FAFSA Form?

Start New Form | Edit Existing Forms or Accept an Invitation

Check FAFSA® Deadlines for the State You Live in

Some states and schools use information from the FAFSA® form to determine your eligibility for their grants, scholarships, and loans. Check your state's deadlines here!

Missing a state deadline doesn't impact your eligibility for federal student aid, so fill out your FAFSA form even if your state deadline has passed.

School Year

State of Residence

Find Deadlines

[View All FAFSA Deadlines](#)



The Student logs in with  
their Username and  
Password

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FAFSA® Form ▾

Grants and Loans ▾

Loan Repayment ▾

Loan Forgiveness ▾

## Log In

Email, Phone, or Username

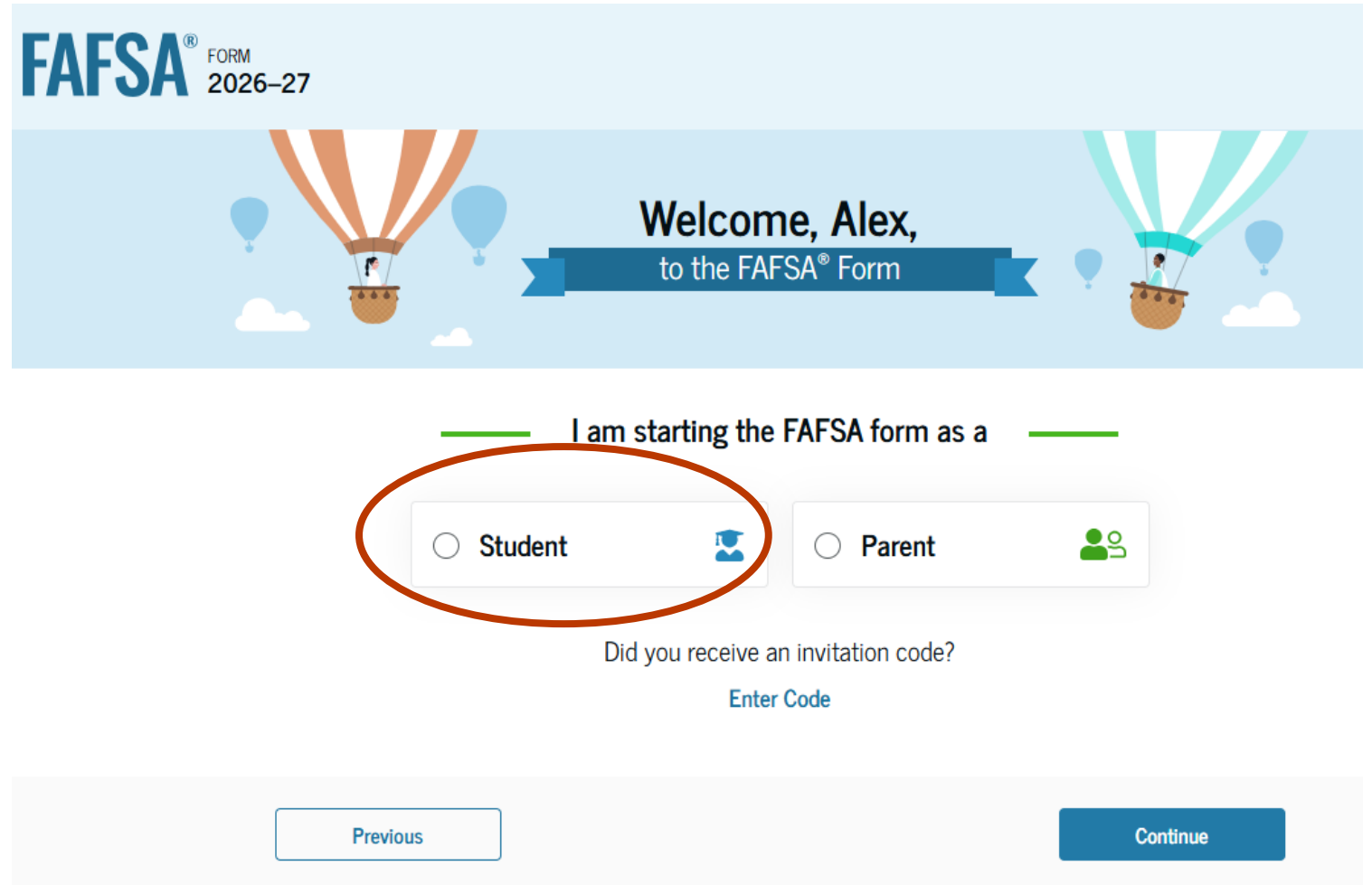
599887938test@testcod.edu

[Forgot email, phone, or username?](#)

Continue

[Create an Account](#)


After logging in,  
the student can  
select “Student” as  
their applicable  
role




FAFSA<sup>®</sup> FORM 2026-27

Welcome, Alex,  
to the FAFSA<sup>®</sup> Form

I am starting the FAFSA form as a

☒ Student 

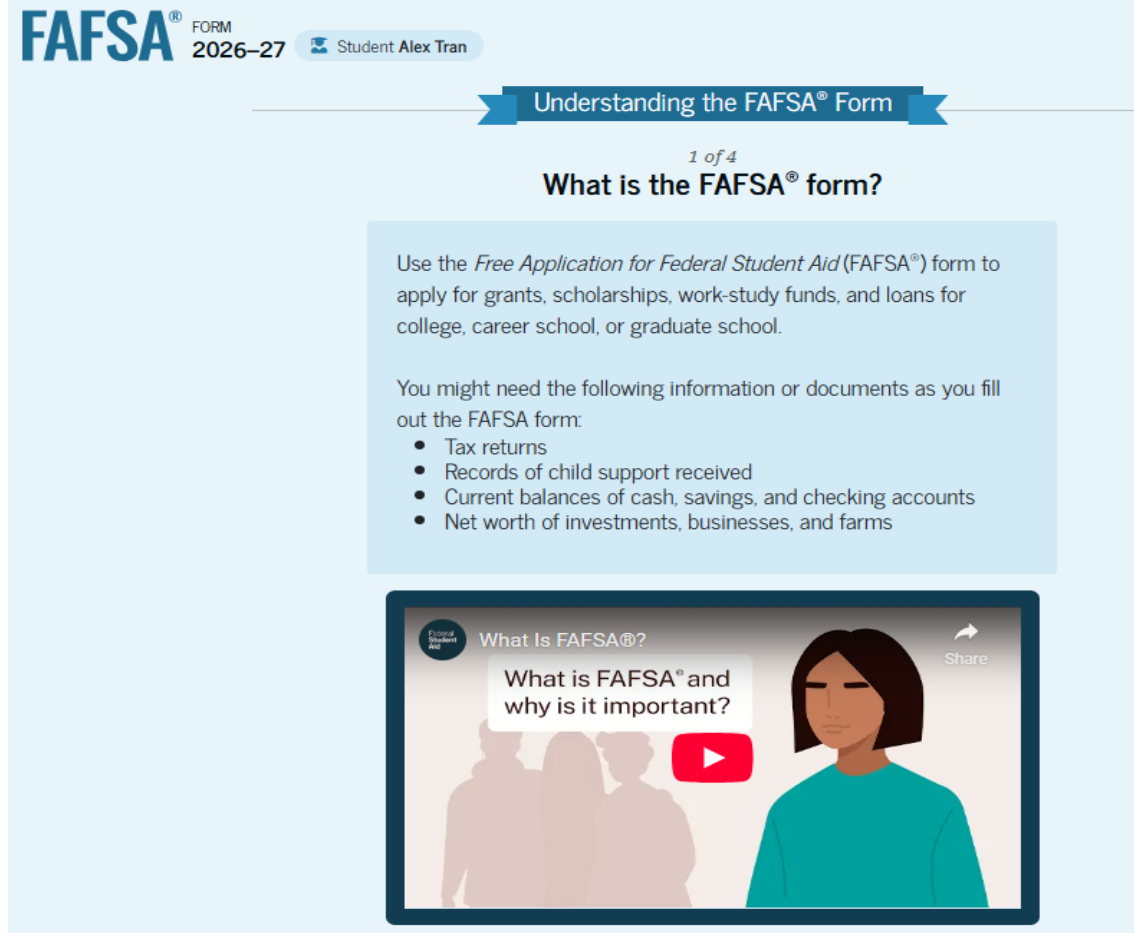
☐ Parent 

Did you receive an invitation code?  
[Enter Code](#)

[Previous](#) [Continue](#)



Onboarding  
process has 4  
pages



**FAFSA**® FORM 2026-27 Student Alex Tran

### Understanding the FAFSA® Form

1 of 4

#### What is the FAFSA® form?

Use the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) form to apply for grants, scholarships, work-study funds, and loans for college, career school, or graduate school.

You might need the following information or documents as you fill out the FAFSA form:

- Tax returns
- Records of child support received
- Current balances of cash, savings, and checking accounts
- Net worth of investments, businesses, and farms

What Is FAFSA®?

What is FAFSA® and why is it important?

Share

By providing consent, the student's federal tax information is transferred directly into the FAFSA form from the IRS.

FAFSA<sup>®</sup> FORM  
2026-27 Student Alex Tran

Save FAFSA Menu

### Provide Consent and Approval or You Won't Be Eligible for Federal Student Aid ⓘ

#### Summary

Your consent and approval are needed to retrieve and disclose federal tax information. With your consent and approval, we can obtain tax return information automatically from the IRS to help you complete the FAFSA<sup>®</sup> form. If you don't provide consent and approval, you will not be eligible for federal student aid, including grants and loans. You must provide consent and approval even if you didn't file a U.S. federal tax return or any tax return.

- Get your 2024 tax return information for the 2026-27 FAFSA form.
- Federal tax information is used to determine your eligibility for federal student aid.
- Tax return information is required to complete the FAFSA form.

By accepting below, I consent to the disclosure of information about me, and affirmatively approve of

- the receipt and use of my federal tax information, and
- the redisclosure of my federal tax information by the U.S. Department of Education (ED), as described herein.

By accepting below, I consent to and affirmatively approve of, as applicable, the following:

1. ED may disclose my Social Security number/Individual Taxpayer Identification Number, last name, date of birth, unique identifier, the tax year for which federal tax information is required, and the date and timestamp of my approval for the use of my federal tax information in determining eligibility by ED for which approval is provided to the U.S. Department of the Treasury, Internal Revenue Service (IRS). I understand that in response to such a request from ED, the IRS shall then disclose my federal tax information to "authorized persons" (i.e., specifically designated officers and employees of ED and its contractors [as defined in 26 U.S.C. § 6103(l)(13)(E)]) for the purpose of determining eligibility for and the amount of federal student aid under a program authorized under subpart 1 of part A, part C, or part D of *Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965*, as amended, for myself or an applicant for federal student aid who has requested that I share my federal tax information on their *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA<sup>®</sup>)* form.



# Circumstances that Determine Contributors

- ☐ Born before 1/1/2003
- ☐ Married
- ☐ Working on Master's or Doctorate program
- ☐ Serving active duty in US Armed Forces (not for training)
- ☐ Veteran of US Armed Forces
- ☐ Provides over 50% for other dependent that lives with student
- ☐ Provides over 50% support for child
- ☐ At age 13 or older, both parents were deceased, were in foster care, or dependent/ward of court
- ☐ Emancipated minor as determined by court (not same as emancipated minor in divorce decree)
- ☐ In legal guardianship as determined by court
- ☐ On or after 7/1/2025, determined to be an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or at risk of being homeless

If you answer **YES** to at least one of the dependency questions: **Independent**, provide information about student and spouse (if married)

If **NO** to all dependency questions: **Dependent**, must provide information about Student and Parent

# Who is considered a contributor?

- **Student's legal parents**
  - Both live in the same house = both income info
- **Separated/Divorced**
  - Parent who provided more financial support in the last 12 months
  - Include step-parent info if parent is remarried and lives in the same household



# How to invite contributors to complete the FAFSA

**FAFSA**® FORM 2026-27 Student Alex Tran Save FAFSA Menu

Personal Circumstances Demographics Financials Colleges **Contributor Invite** Signature

### Invite Your Parent to This FAFSA® Form

To determine your federal student aid eligibility, we need more information on your household financial situation. You'll need to invite a contributor to provide this information.

*As a dependent student, you need to invite a legal parent as a contributor. You only need to invite one parent.*

[Who counts as a parent on the FAFSA form?](#)

Parent

#### Invite a Parent Contributor

Email

Send Invite

Parent can access the form by accepting the invite or the student can share the invitation link and invitation code directly with the parent.

**FAFSA**® FORM 2026-27 Student Alex Tran Save FAFSA Menu

Personal Circumstances Demographics Financials Colleges Contributor Invite Signature

### Parent Contributor

Once your parent accepts the invitation, they can complete the parent section of this FAFSA form.

*They may be asked to invite their spouse as a contributor too. You can check the status of contributor invitations from the "My Activity" page.*

Parent

599887939test@testcod.edu

Invite Sent

Other Ways to Send the Invite ^

Copy and Send the Invite Link ⓘ

[www.fafsa.gov/invite/7NDNUKA](http://www.fafsa.gov/invite/7NDNUKA) Copy Link

You can also have them go to [www.fafsa.gov/invite](http://www.fafsa.gov/invite) and enter code:

**7NDNUKA**


Cancel Invite



Contributor  
(Parent) receives  
an email invitation,  
then “Logs in”

Federal Student Aid

## Complete Your Section of Alex's FAFSA® Form



Hello,

Alex T. started their 2026–27 *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) form and needs your input as a contributor. Alex won't be eligible for federal student aid without your help.

[Accept Invitation](#)

You will need to log in to StudentAid.gov to accept the invitation. If you log in without selecting the "Accept Invitation" button, you will need to go to the "FAFSA® Form" menu at the top of the page, select "Accept Contributor Invite," and provide this code:

**7X6XHXF**

If this invitation was sent to you by mistake, [decline the invitation](#).


### Why You Were Invited

We need some information from you to determine what aid Alex is eligible for. Without your input, they won't be eligible for federal student aid.

Being a contributor doesn't make you responsible for Alex's education costs.

The FAFSA® form is often used to determine a student's eligibility for state and school financial aid in addition to federal financial aid.

We recommend finishing early in case states or schools have earlier deadlines.

 [Sign up for text alerts](#) to stay updated on our grant programs, loan forgiveness programs, repayment plans, and information about your loans.

The Contributor logs  
in with their  
Username and  
Password

Federal Student Aid  
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FAFSA® Form ▾

Grants and Loans ▾

Loan Repayment ▾

Loan Forgiveness ▾



## Log In

Email, Phone, or Username

[Forgot email, phone, or username?](#)

Continue

[Create an Account](#)



After logging in, the parent is taken to the “Accept 2026-27 FAFSA Invitation” page. The invitation code from the parent’s email automatically fills in the text box if the parent used the link from the email.

[← FAFSA Home Page](#)

## Accept 2026–27 FAFSA® Invitation

Enter the code you received for the FAFSA form.

Invitation Code

Submit

**Need to accept an Invitation for a different year?**

Go to [My Activity](#) where you can find any existing invitations for an earlier year FAFSA form.

**Don't have an Invitation code?**

Speak with the person who invited you to the form and ensure they have sent it to your email. Check your inbox for your invitation code.

By providing consent, the contributor's federal tax information is transferred directly into the FAFSA form from the IRS.

FAFSA<sup>®</sup> FORM 2026-27 Parent of Alex Tran

Save FAFSA Menu

### Provide Consent and Approval or the Student Won't Be Eligible for Federal Student Aid <sup>①</sup>

#### Summary

Your consent and approval are needed to retrieve and disclose federal tax information. With your consent and approval, we can obtain tax return information automatically from the IRS to help you complete your section of the student's FAFSA<sup>®</sup> form. If you don't provide consent and approval, the student will not be eligible for federal student aid, including grants and loans. You must provide consent and approval even if you didn't file a U.S. federal tax return or any tax return.

→ Get your 2024 tax return information for the 2026-27 FAFSA form.

→ Tax return information is required to complete the FAFSA form.

→ Federal tax information is used to determine the student's eligibility for federal student aid.

By accepting below, I consent to the disclosure of information about me, and affirmatively approve of

- the receipt and use of my federal tax information, and
- the redisclosure of my federal tax information by the U.S. Department of Education (ED), as described herein.

By accepting below, I consent to and affirmatively approve of, as applicable, the following:

1. ED may disclose my Social Security number/Individual Taxpayer Identification Number, last name, date of birth, unique identifier, the tax year for which federal tax information is required, and the date and timestamp of my approval for the use of my federal tax information in determining eligibility by ED for which approval is provided to the U.S. Department of the Treasury, Internal Revenue Service (IRS). I understand that in response to such a request from ED, the IRS shall then disclose my federal tax information to "authorized persons" (i.e., specifically designated officers and employees of ED and its contractors [as defined in 26 U.S.C. § 6103(l)(13)(E)]) for the purpose of determining eligibility for and the amount of federal student aid under a program authorized under subpart 1 of part A, part C, or part D of *Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965*, as amended, for myself or an applicant for federal student



Contributors will be asked about their tax filing status.

“Did or will the parent file a 2024 joint tax return with their current spouse?”

The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2026-27 form for the Parent of Alex Tran. The progress bar indicates three steps: 1. Demographics (completed), 2. Financials (current step), and 3. Signature. The 'Parent Tax Filing Status' section contains two questions, both with 'Yes' selected.

FAFSA<sup>®</sup> FORM 2026-27 Parent of Alex Tran Save FAFSA Menu

1 Demographics 2 Financials 3 Signature

**Parent Tax Filing Status**

Did or will the parent file a 2024 IRS Form 1040 or 1040-NR? ⓘ


☒ Yes ☐ No

Did or will the parent file a 2024 joint tax return with their current spouse? ⓘ

☒ Yes ☐ No

Previous Continue


This page asks the parent if their family size has changed.

**FAFSA**<sup>®</sup> FORM 2026–27  Parent of Alex Tran Save FAFSA Menu

Demographics **2** Financials Signature

### Family Size

*Based on answers to previous questions, we've made some assumptions about the parent's family. The student and the student's parent (and parent's spouse, if married) are always included in the family size. The box below shows the parent's family size based on our assumptions and the number of children or other dependents you report.*

 The parent's family size is **5**.

Parent: 1   Parent Spouse or Partner: 1   Student: 1   Parent's Children and Other Dependents: 2

**Enter the number of children or other dependents who live with the parent and will receive more than half of their support from the parent between July 1, 2026, and June 30, 2027.**

*Include dependent children who meet these criteria, even if they live apart because of college enrollment. Do not include the student applicant.*

ⓘ

Previous Continue



# Additional FAFSA Questions

- Some Demographic questions
  - Race/Ethnicity not shared with college/universities, just data collection
- High School Information
- Up to 20 colleges/universities can be listed

# Assets/Investments – student and parent

- **Assets/Investments Included:**

- Savings/Checking
- Child Support Received
- Investments / Business / Farm Value
  - **Current/market value minus debt = Net Worth**
  - Only include businesses that have **more than 100** employees & aren't family owned.
  - Only include farms where the family does not reside.
- Real estate (not home you live in) meaning rental properties, vacation homes, cottages, etc.
- Trust funds, money market and mutual funds, CD's, stocks, bonds
- Education benefits/savings accounts (Coverdell, 529, refund value of prepaid tuition plans)
  - Asset of the parent not student



## Assets/Investments – student and parent


- Assets/Investments **NOT** included
  - Cash
  - Family owned businesses with 100 or fewer employees
  - Family farms where the family resides
  - Family owned commercial fishing businesses
  - Value of primary residence you live in
  - Traditional Retirement Plans (401k, pension funds, annuities, non-education IRAs, Keogh plans)

If parents are unwilling to provide information, then students can apply for a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan


**FAFSA**<sup>®</sup> FORM 2026–27 Student: Alex Tran Save FAFSA Menu

1 Personal Circumstances 2 Demographics 3 Financials 4 Colleges 5 Signature

### Your Dependency Status

 **Dependent Student**  
Based on your answers, you're a dependent student. This means you must provide parent information on your FAFSA<sup>®</sup> form. This information helps determine how much federal student aid you're eligible to receive.

### Direct Unsubsidized Loan Only

 Are the student's parents refusing to provide their information on this FAFSA<sup>®</sup> form? ⓘ

*This response must be "No" for the student to be considered for Federal Pell Grant eligibility and most other types of federal student aid.*

☒ Yes ☐ No

Previous Continue




# Student Aid Index (SAI)

- Creates levels of financial need
- Federal poverty level thresholds will be used for eligibility
- Allows for negative SAI as low as -\$1500
- Students will receive a FAFSA Submission Summary once the FAFSA is submitted

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[< Back](#) [Print FAFSA Submission Summary](#)

**FAFSA** FORM 2026–27 **FAFSA Submission Summary**

Student  <b>Michelle Allen</b>	Application Received June 20, 2025	Application Processed June 20, 2025	Data Release Number 8720	Viewing: <b>Submission 1</b>
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[Eligibility Overview](#) [FAFSA Form Answers](#) [School Information](#) [Next Steps](#)

# Common Errors and Tips

- Make sure SSN number and name are exactly the same as SS card for the FSA ID creation
- Make sure to complete the 2026-2027 FAFSA form – 2025-2026 will still be available
- Manually enter the Family Size – don't leave this blank
- Make sure you know whether you filed a 2024 federal tax return
- Strongly recommend student start the FAFSA



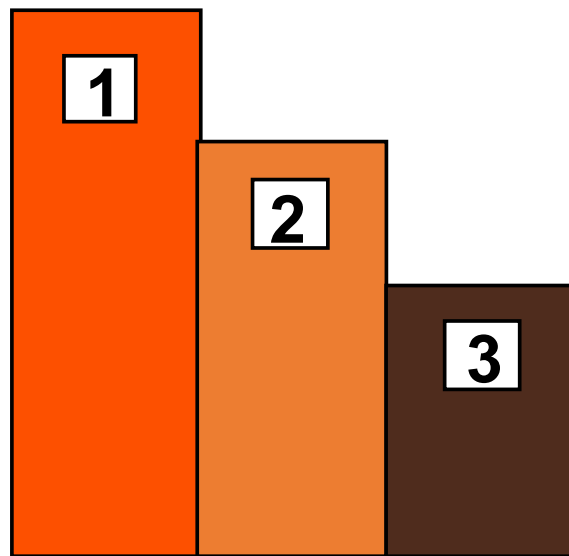


# Cost of Attendance

- Tuition and Fees
- The cost of housing and food (living expenses)
- Cost of books, supplies, transportation, etc.
- Loan fees and miscellaneous expenses



# Cost of Attendance



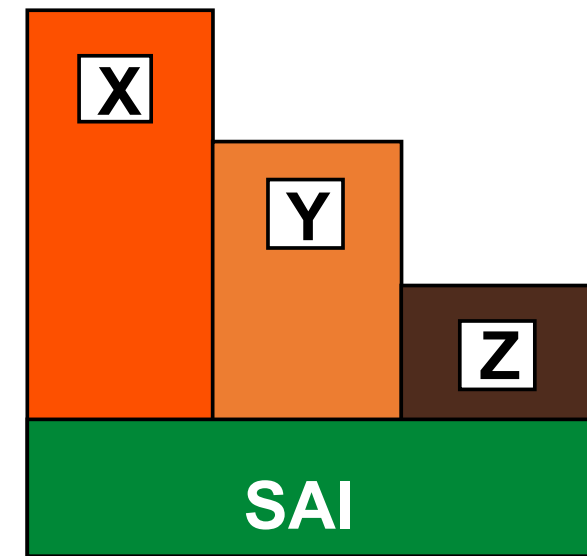
**Cost of  
Attendance**  
(Variable)

–

**Student Aid Index**  
(Constant)

=

**Need**  
(Variable)





# Types of Financial Aid

- **Scholarships** – Free money awarded based on the student's achievements
- **Grants** – Free money awarded based on need
- **Loans** – Borrowed monies repaid typically after graduation
- **Work** – Money earned through employment

# Scholarships

## Search locally:

- High School Counselors
- Chamber of Commerce
- Public Library

## At every college you want to attend:

- University Website
- Financial Aid Office
- Admissions Office



## Personal Affiliations:

- Churches
- Fraternal Organizations
- Employers (student and parent)

## Free, national searches:

- [fastweb.com](https://www.fastweb.com)
- [Scholarships.com](https://www.scholarships.com)



# Applying for Scholarships

- Start early and search year round
- Complete each application carefully
- Be aware of deadlines (submitted by, received by)
- If an essay is required or even optional, do it!
- Apply even if you think it's a long-shot
- Spend the time, not money. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!

# Grants

- **Federal Pell Grant | 2025-26 academic year**
  - Award amount up to \$7,395
  - Determined by Adjusted Gross Income and Poverty Levels or SAI
- **Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG)**
  - \$100-\$4,000 for eligible students
- **Ohio College Opportunity Grant | 2025-26 academic year**
  - \$4,000 for Ohio residents at most public university main campuses
- **TEACH Grant**
  - Up to \$3,772 per year, specific majors are eligible
- **Institution specific**



# 2026-2027 Updates

- Limitations on Pell Grant eligibility
  - Student is not eligible for the Pell Grant if:
    - SAI exceeds twice the maximum Pell Grant amount; or
    - Student's nonfederal grants and scholarships cover entire COA (even if otherwise eligible)

# Federal Work Study (FWS)

- Does **not** reduce bill owed to college
- Employment may be on or off campus
- Not counted as income on future FAFSA
- Each school has their own priority deadline
- Your student will receive a normal paycheck and earn the same amount as other students on campus



# Federal Direct Student Loans

- Direct **Subsidized** Loan – No interest accrues while in school
- Direct **Unsubsidized** Loan – Student pays interest while in school or allows it to accrue
- 6-month grace period before repayment
- Interest Rates
  - 6.39% for the 25-26 aid year
- Can reduce or decline these loans

# Federal Direct Student Loans

Class Year	Base (Subsidized) Amount	Additional Unsubsidized Amount	Total Available to Borrow
Freshman	\$3,500	\$2,000	<b>\$5,500</b>
Sophomore	\$4,500	\$2,000	<b>\$6,500</b>
Junior	\$5,500	\$2,000	<b>\$7,500</b>
Senior	\$5,500	\$2,000	<b>\$7,500</b>



Parent Plus Loan	Vs.	Private Loan
Parent is the borrower	<b>Borrower</b>	Student is the borrower
Required	<b>Credit Check</b>	Required – May need a co-signer
Fixed (8.94% for 25-26 aid year)	<b>Interest Rates</b>	Variable or fixed interest rates
60 days after loan fully disbursed	<b>Repayment</b>	Varies
Requires application by parent at <a href="https://studentaid.gov">studentaid.gov</a>	<b>How to Apply</b>	Varies by lender/school

# 2026-2027 Updates

## **Parent Plus Loans:**

- New borrowers on or after July 1, 2026:
  - Annual loan limit: \$20,000 per dependent student
  - Aggregate loan limit: \$65,000 per dependent student



## Other Funding Options

- Job while in school
- Graduation money
- 529 plan
- College/University payment plan
- Military

# Financial Aid Offers

- Timing will vary on when students will receive these
- Compare offers:
  - Amount of aid vs. cost of attendance
  - Gift money vs. borrowed money
  - Types of loans





# Questions

Recommend  
contacting school  
student plans to  
attend

Presentation –  
[betsyj@bgsu.edu](mailto:betsyj@bgsu.edu)

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FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD.  
BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY