

Paying for College



Looking for Free College Planning Information?

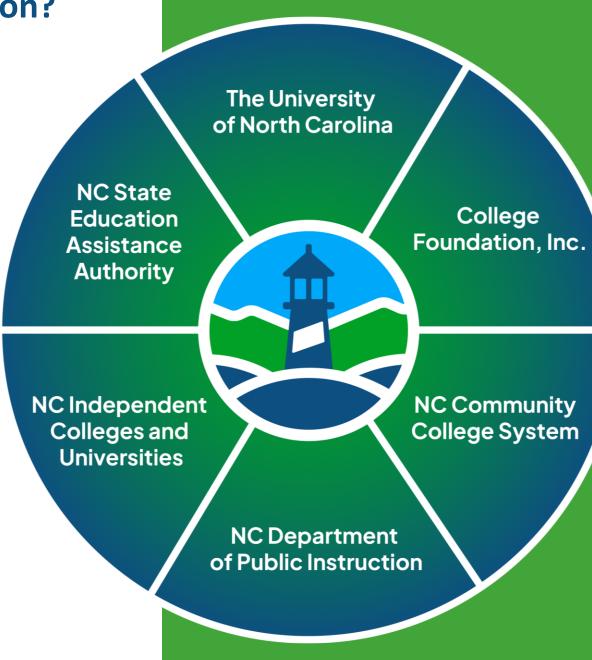
Discover CFNC!

- Comprehensive website: CFNC.org
- Toll-free telephone advice at 866.866.CFNC



A free resource for North Carolina students and families to Plan, Apply, and Pay for College!







NC Countdown to College (C2C) Month – October!

Extra resources to support high school seniors in completing:

- 1. NC Residency Determination
- 2. Admission Applications
- 3. Financial Aid Applications

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Rickry	Seturdo
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

SAVE THE DATE!!2025 College Application Week
October 20 -26th





Fall 2025

College Application Week Participating Institutions

Many North Carolina colleges and universities are waiving their application fees from October 20, 7:30 a.m. to October 26, 5 p.m. Other colleges and universities may also accept special fee waivers through ACT, SAT, or NACAC.

Visit CFNC.org/C2C for the most up-to-date lists of participating colleges for your student type (e.g. first-year, transfer, readmission).

Appalachian State University

Barton College

Belmont Abbey College

Bennett College

Brevard College

Campbell University

Carolinas College of Health Sciences

Catawba College Chowan University Davidson College

East Carolina University

Elizabeth City State University

Elon University

Fayetteville State University

Gardner-Webb University

Greensboro College

Guilford College

Johnson & Wales University - Charlotte

Johnson C. Smith University

Judson College

Lees-McRae College

Lenoir-Rhyne University

Livingstone College

Louisburg College

Mars Hill University

Meredith College

Methodist University

Mid-Atlantic Christian University

Montreat College

North Carolina Agricultural

and Technical State University

North Carolina Central University

North Carolina Wesleyan University

Pfeiffer University

Queens University of Charlotte

Saint Augustine's University

Salem College

Shaw University

University of Mount Olive

University of North Carolina Asheville

University of North Carolina at Pembroke

Warren Wilson College

Western Carolina University

William Peace University

Wingate University

Winston-Salem State University

And all 58 community colleges



CFNC.org/C2C for more information and all things Countdown to

College!



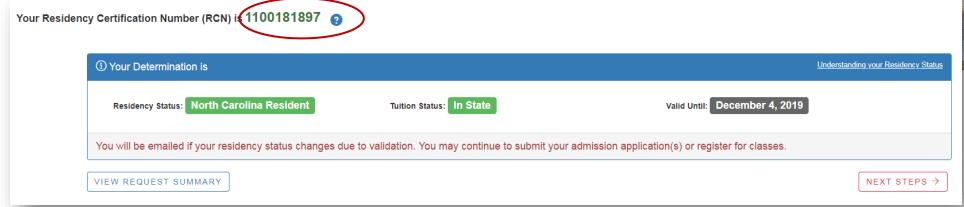


Residency Determine Service- RDS

NCResidency.org

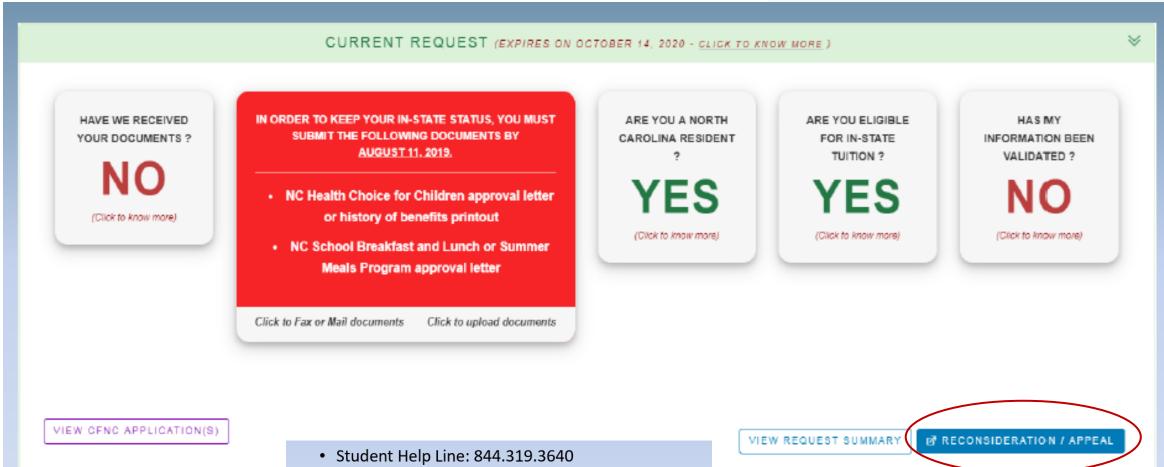
- Students use CFNC.org username and password
- Input student and parent information
- RCN = Residency Certification Number (give to colleges)







RDS- If Documentation is Due





√3rd party release

✓ Hours: 8 AM – 6 PM Monday – Thursday

8 AM - 5 pm Friday

(extended hours in available in peak periods)

Student Email: rdsinfo@ncresidency.org

Paying for College Starts with Understanding the Cost!

Direct Costs

- Tuition
- Required Fees
- Housing
- Meals

Indirect Costs

- Books & Supplies
- Transportation
- Personal & Miscellaneous*
- Health Insurance*

Direct Costs
+
Indirect Costs
=
Cost of
Attendance
(COA)





16 University of North Carolina System Colleges

*NC Promise

In-state Tuition = \$500 per semester

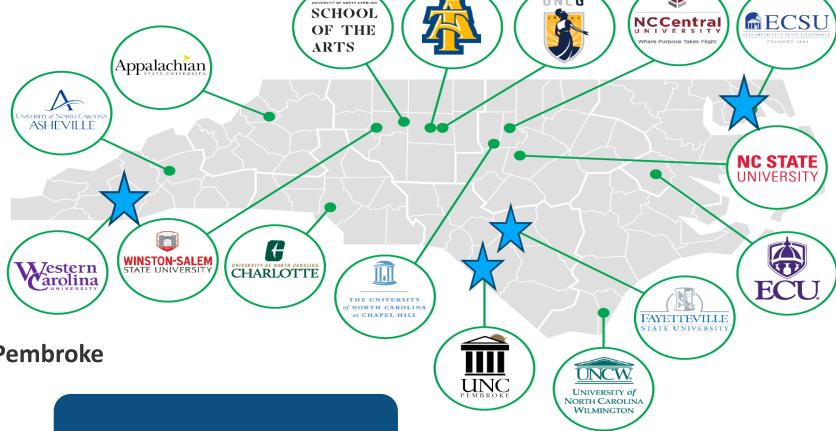
4 UNC System Institutions

Participating Institutions:

Elizabeth City State University

University of North Carolina at Pembroke

- Fayetteville State University
- Western Carolina University





Tuition to all 16 system institutions is fixed for 8 semesters

State scholarship Program



Know what you're getting. Know where you're going.



\$80,000

Most students from households making \$80,000 or less will qualify

At least \$3,000/yr

community college
will get at least
\$3,000/yr that covers
all tuition & fees

At least \$5,000/yr

Students attending a
UNC 4-year will get at
least \$5,000/yr that
covers more than half
of
tuition & fees



FAFSA & Possible Other Forms

Forms Needed to Get a Financial Offer



FAFSA

Free Application for Federal Student Aid

- Primary form for need-based financial aid.
- Annual form used across the US.
- No obligation to take any aid offered.



Studentaid.gov or FAFSA.gov



Federal Aid State Aid Institutional Aid

Start By Creating an Account



FAFSA® Form ✓

Grants and Loans ∨

Loan Repayment Y

Loan Forgiveness Y

Q

Log In | Create Account

2026–27 FAFSA® Form Now Available!

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



Accept an Invitation for a 2026–27 FAFSA® Form

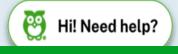
Accept an Invitation



Need the 2025–26 FAFSA® Form?

Start New Form

Edit Existing Forms or Accept an Invitation





FAFSA: What Will I Need

ALL contributors to a FAFSA (students and parents) will be asked to share information about:

- Income from the prior year to enrollment year from (IRS) – must approve / consent.
- Assets as of the day FAFSA is submitted:
 - Cash, checking, savings
 - Value of small businesses / farms / investments
 - DO NOT report home or retirement accounts

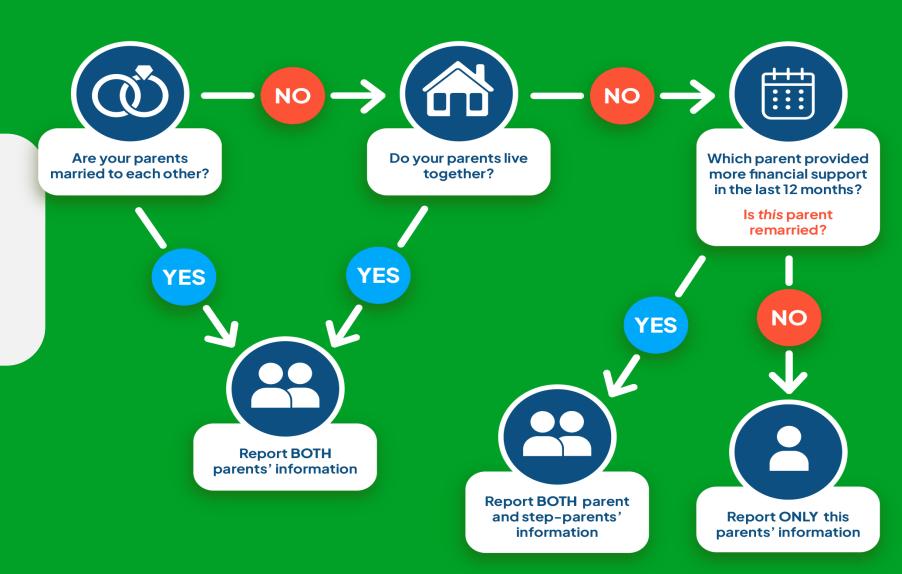




Other Info

- Marital Status
- Education
- Military Status
- Family Size
- Up to 20 Colleges

FAFSA Parent Tool



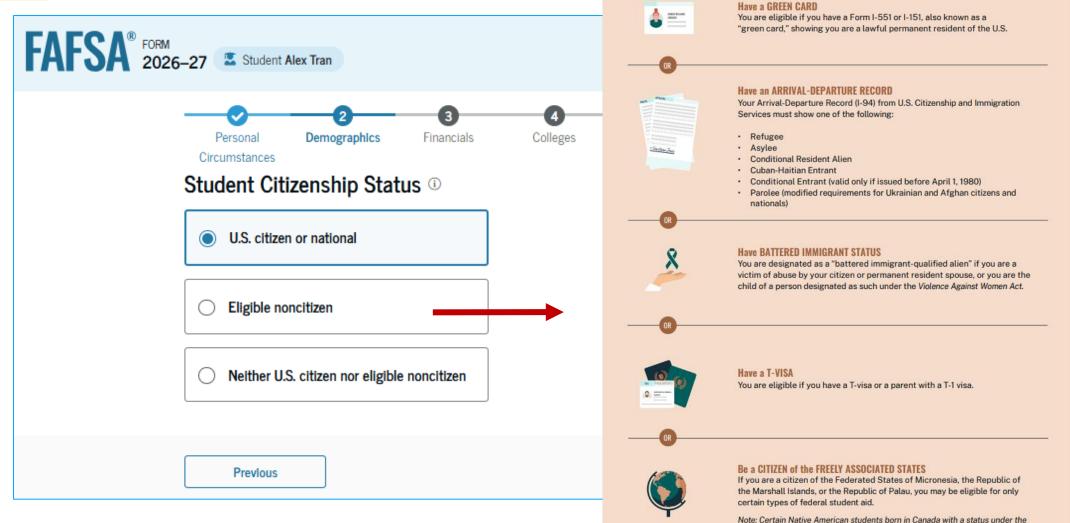
*Most high school students will need at least one parent to help with FAFSA.





Jay Treaty of 1794 may also be eligible for federal student aid.

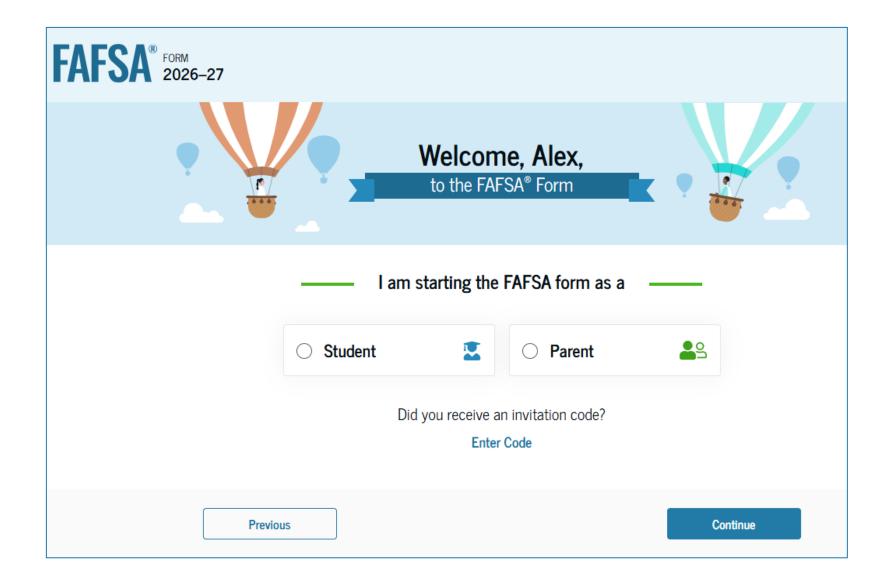
Student: FAFSA Citizenship Status Question







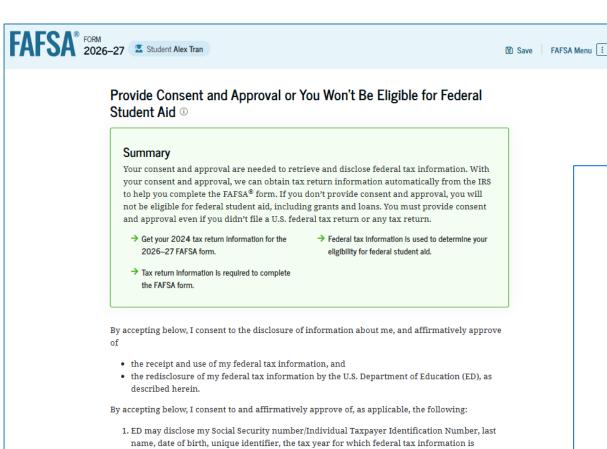
Student or Parent Chooses their Role







Student & Parent: Provide Consent and Approval



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

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

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(I)(13)(E)]) for the purpose of determining eligibility for and the amount of federal

Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) form.

By accepting below, I consent electronically to the use of my StudentAid.gov account username and password (FSA ID) as my signature and certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America, that the foregoing is true and correct. I understand that any falsification of this statement is punishable under the provisions of 18 U.S.C. § 1001 by a fine, imprisonment of not more than five years, or both, and that the knowing and willful request for or acquisition of records pertaining to an individual under false pretenses is a criminal offense under the *Privacy Act of 1974*, subject to a fine of not more than \$5,000 fine (5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(i)(3)). By accepting and submitting my part of the FAFSA form, my execution (including date and time) of consent and approval will be logged in ED's Person Authentication Service System of Record (18-11-12).

Frequently Asked Questions

Who should provide consent and approval?

If I'm married and didn't file a joint tax return with my current spouse, does my spouse have to provide consent and approval for you to access their tax information?

What happens after I provide consent and approval?

What happens if I decline consent and approval?

Select "Approve" to provide consent and approval for the use of your federal tax information to determine your eligibility for federal student aid. If you select "Decline," you will not be eligible for federal student aid.

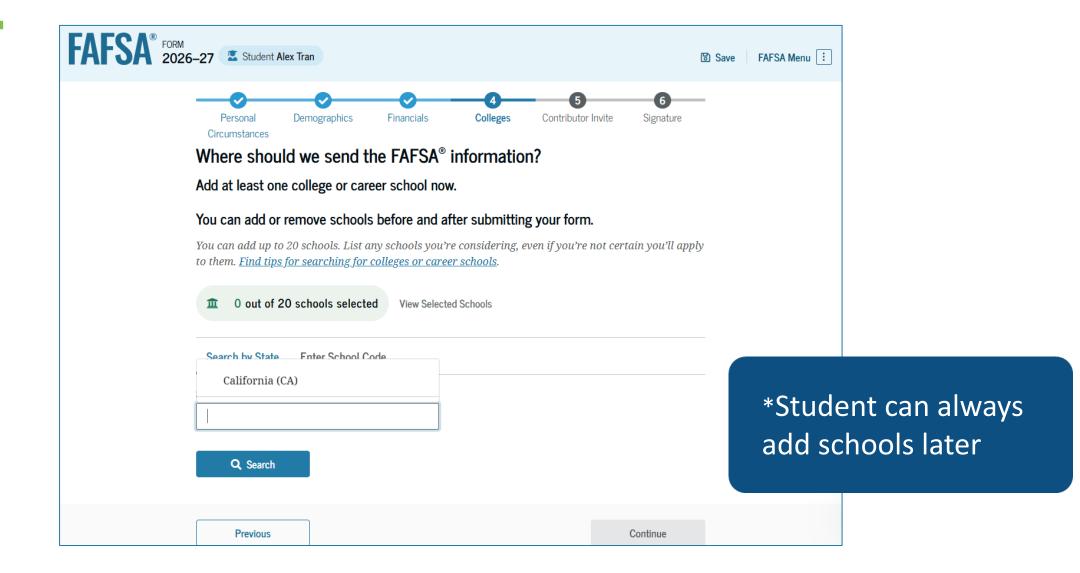


Previous

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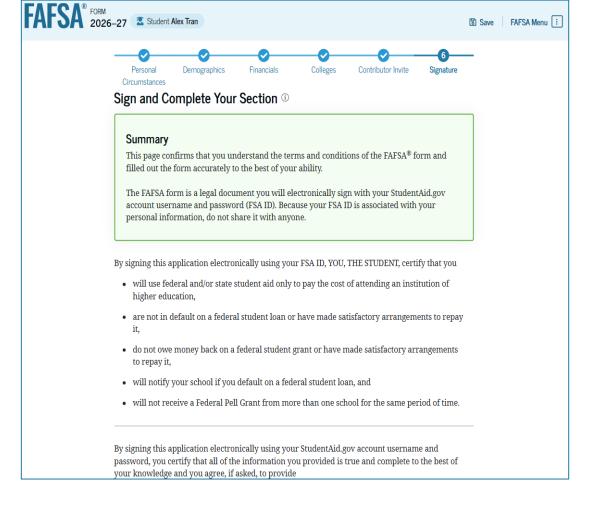


Student: College Search





Student Signs the Application





By signing this application electronically using your StudentAid.gov account username and password, you certify that all of the information you provided is true and complete to the best of your knowledge and you agree, if asked, to provide

- · information that will verify the accuracy of your completed form, and
- . U.S. or foreign income tax forms that you filed or are required to file.

You also certify that you understand that the secretary of education has the authority to verify information reported on your application.

If you sign this application or any document related to the federal student aid programs electronically using a username and password, and/or any other credential, you certify that you are the person identified by the username and password, and/or any other credential and have not disclosed that username and password, and/or any other credential to anyone else. If you purposefully give false or misleading information, including applying as an independent student without meeting the unusual circumstances required to qualify for such a status, you may be subject to criminal penalties under 20 U.S.C. 1097, which may include a fine up to \$20,000, imprisonment, or both.

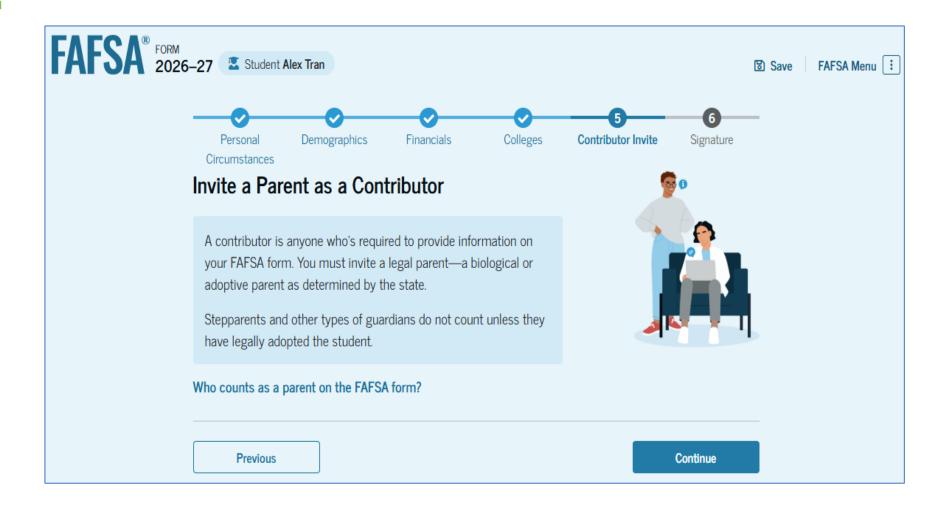
Additionally, by signing this application electronically using your FSA ID, you authorize the U.S. Department of Education to disclose all information provided on this application, as required under Section 483(a)(2)(D)(i) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, to the institutions you have identified herein, state higher education agencies (in your state of residence and the states in which the institutions identified herein are located), and designated scholarship organizations to assist with the application, award, and administration of federal, state, or institutional financial aid programs and designated scholarship programs. Notwithstanding this authorization, the name of an institution that you select to authorize such disclosure shall not be shared with any other institution.

Sign	Your FAFSA* Form
~	I, Alex Tran, agree to the terms outlined above.

Previous



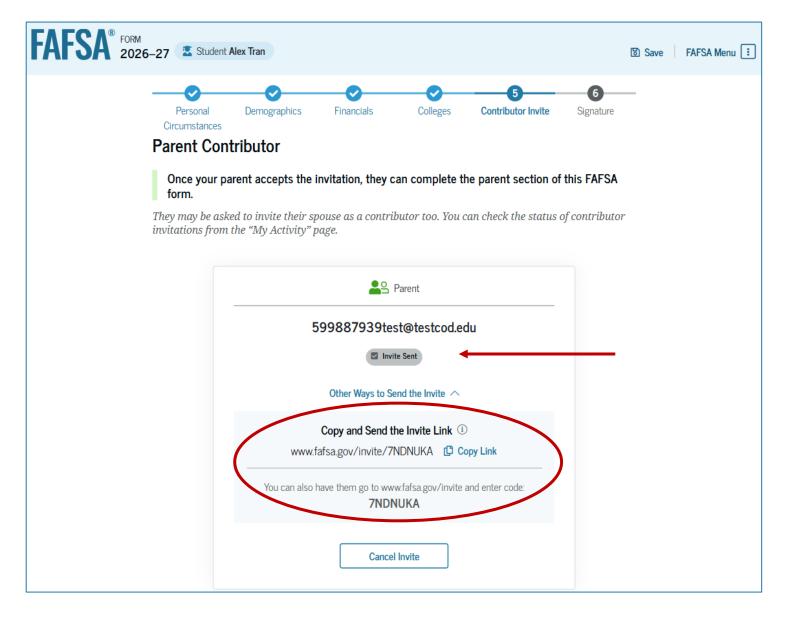
Dependent Student Invites Contributor







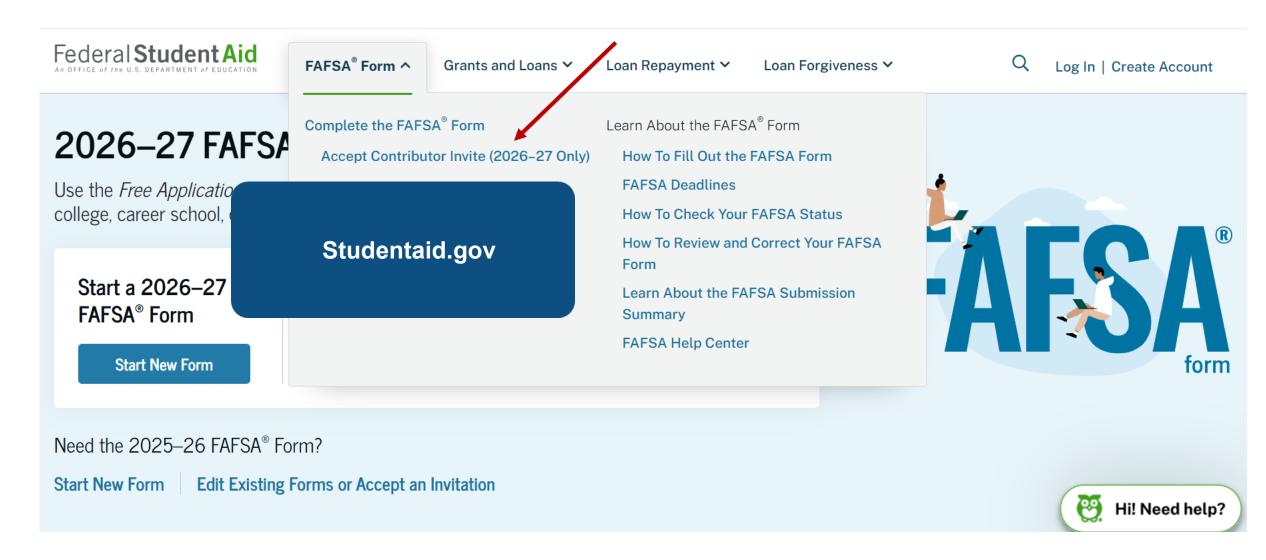
Dependent Student: Invites Contributor





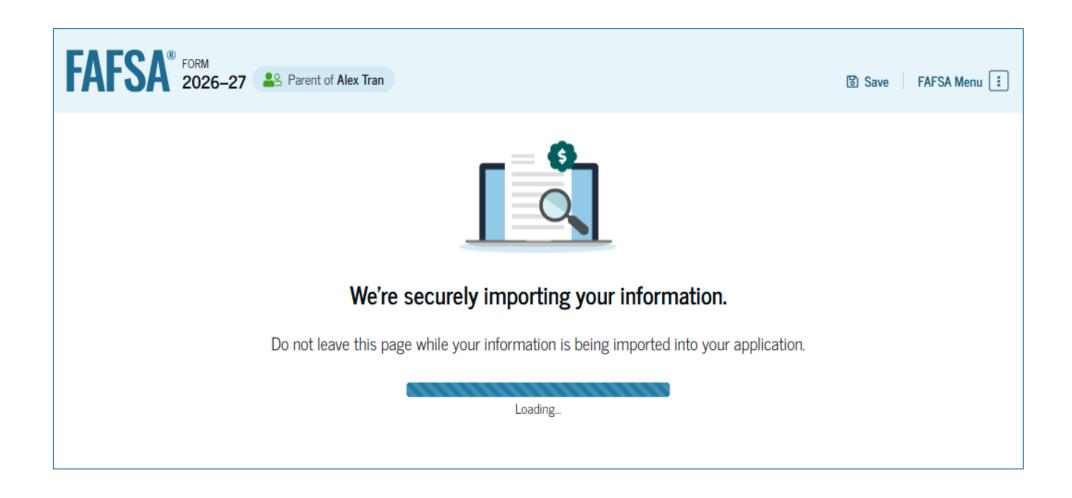


OPTION TO ACCEPT CONTRIBUTOR INVITE CODE



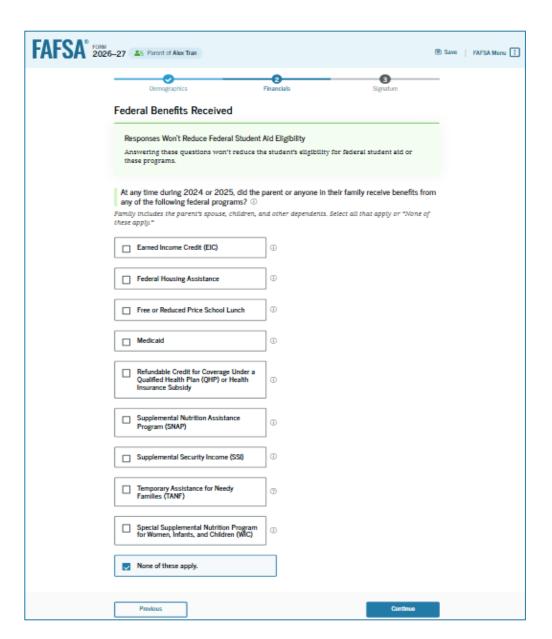


Dependent Student: Parent Imports IRS Information



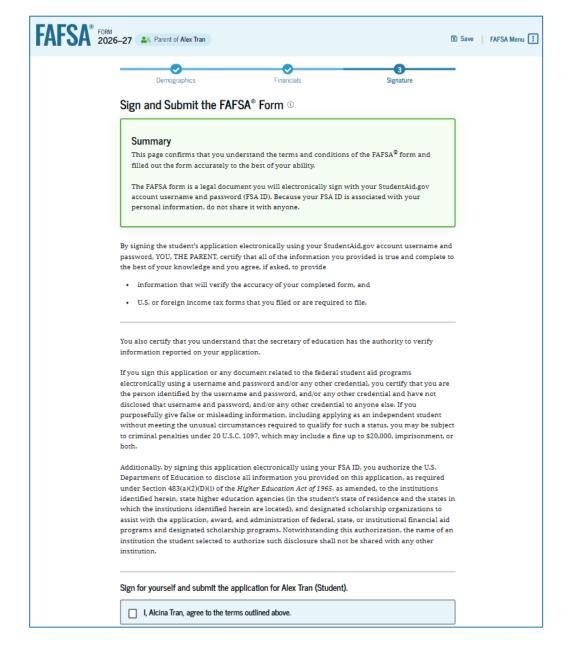
Parent Federal Benefits Received





Parent Signature



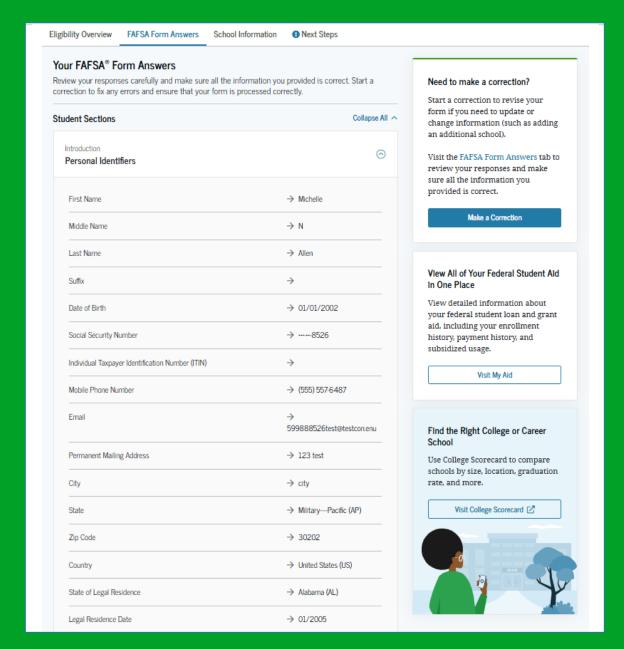


Eligibility Overview (SAI)

- FAFSA Form Answers
- School Information
- Next Steps



FAFSA Submission Summary



FAFSA Verification



You may be selected to verify information via FAFSA or the college.

If you are selected:

- It does NOT mean you did anything wrong!
- You must verify certain information listed on the FAFSA.
- If you have questions, contact your college financial aid office(s).
- When turning in documents, be as thorough as possible.
- Your financial aid process is on hold until verification is satisfied.

Some examples of information that may need to be verified:

- Tax Information
- Household Information
- Untaxed Income Information

- Marital Documents
- Citizenship Documents
- Identity Confirmation



Possible CSS (College Scholarship Service) Profile





✓ Opens October 1st

Submit

CollegeBoard.org

What Makes Up College Offers?

Gift Aid

Scholarships

Grants

Federal Aid

State Aid
State Aid is only offered from colleges in state

Self Help Aid

Work Study

Loans

Institutional Aid





Federal Loan Limits for Dependent Students

Grade Level	Subsidized No Interest while in School	Unsubsidized Interest begins after Disbursement	Annual Limit
1 st Year Undergraduate	\$3500	\$2000	\$5500
2 nd Year Undergraduate	\$4500	\$2000	\$6500
3 rd and 4 th Year Undergraduate	\$5500	\$2000	\$7500



Aggregate limit for undergraduate dependent students is \$31,000 with no more than \$23,000 in Subsidized Loans. You cannot borrow more than your cost of attendance minus any other financial aid you'll get, so you may receive less than the annual maximum amounts.

Federal Parent PLUS Loans

- Credit Check Required
- Parent borrows on behalf of student
- 8.94% Interest / 4.228% Loan Fee (July 2025-June 30, 2026)
- Repayment begins 60 days after loan is disbursed
- Repayment can be deferred while student is enrolled at least half-time
 *Interest continues to accrue
- Maximum: Cost of Attendance minus Other Financial Aid



Financial Aid OFFER Comparison

	College A	College B	College C
Cost of Attendance (COA)	16,000	27,000	45,000
Student Aid Index (SAI)	7,000	7,000	7,000
Financial Need	9,000	20,000	38,000
Merit-Based Aid	0	10,000	4,000
Need-Based Aid	3,000	5,000	30,000
Work Study	2,500	2,500	2,500
Student Loans	5,500	5,500	3,500
Total Financial Aid	11,000	23,000	40,000
Net Cost (per year) After Aid	5,000	4,000	5,000
Net Cost including Student Loans *Not including APR/interest	10,500	9,500	8,500



Options to Pay a Bill Balance

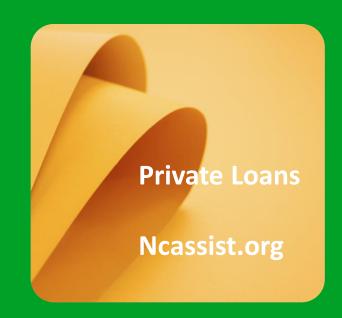






Education
Savings Plan-529
Plan

Want to Start
Saving
CFNC.org/NC529





Some National Scholarship Search Engines

- StudentAid.gov
- CFNC.org
- Collegeboard.org
- CareerOneStop.org
- Fastweb.com
- Petersons.com
- GoingMerry.com

- ScholarshipOwl.com
- MyScholly.com
- Scholarships.com
- Appily.com
- Google!



College bound? Don't get hooked by misleading financial aid offers!

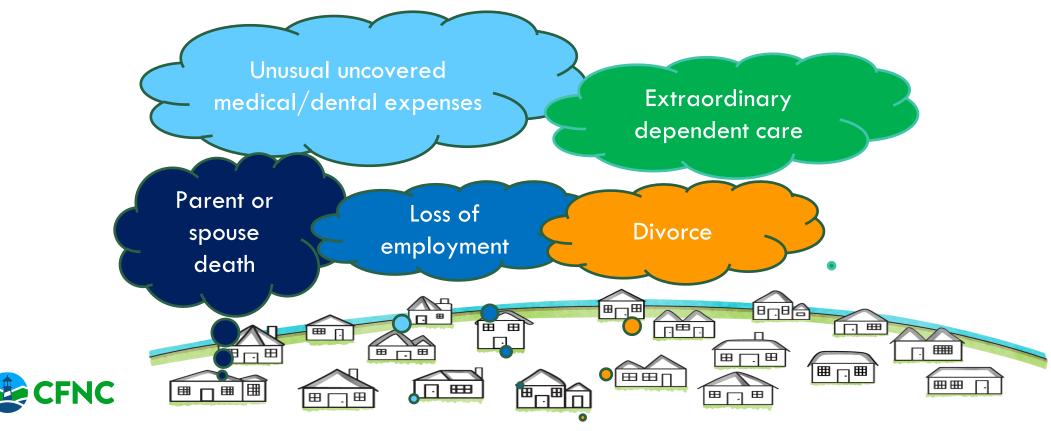
You should never have to pay

- For information about financial aid
- To apply for federal financial aid (FAFSA)
- To receive financial aid



What if your financial situation changes while enrolled in college?

- Conditions exist that cannot be documented with the FAFSA
- Contact the Financial Aid Office of the Institution
- Will require written explanation and documentation







Don't miss our Statewide Webinars!!

Visit CFNC.org/events



Good Takeaways.....

- ✓ Make sure you create or know your CFNC.org username/password
- ✓ Complete your NC Residency application (same username/password as CFNC.org) complete @ Ncresidency.org
- √ Register for a Student Aid Account (parent &student) @ studentaid.gov
- ✓ Complete the 2026-27 FAFSA at FAFSA.gov starting Now!
- ✓ Research and apply for Scholarships from Beginning to the end of the Senior year! (Many deadlines end by early spring) Don't forget to search scholarships on CFNC.org!
- ✓ Check Your Email OFTEN after you submit admission applications, the FAFSA, Residency, and any other college forms for updates!
- ✓ Enjoy the LAST year of high school !!!!!!!!!!!!!



Stay Connected! Visit CFNC.org



Sign up for CFNC College Update Emails!

Bit.ly/CFNCnews









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Follow your local expert: @TimekaatCFNC

