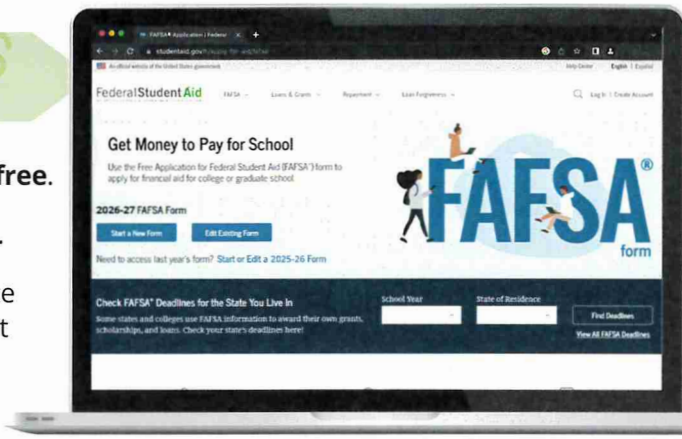
FAFSA® Tip Sheet

Complete the FAFSA to get Money for School

PHEAA
Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) is the most important application you must complete to qualify for almost all types of financial aid (money for school). Colleges and career schools use the FAFSA form to decide how much financial aid you qualify to receive. In Pennsylvania, we also use it to award the PA State Grant. Any student, regardless of family income, should complete a FAFSA to be considered for federal, state, and school financial aid programs.

How to Apply



Visit StudentAid.gov/fafsa to complete and submit your application for **free**.

You may need your 2024 federal tax returns and supporting documents.

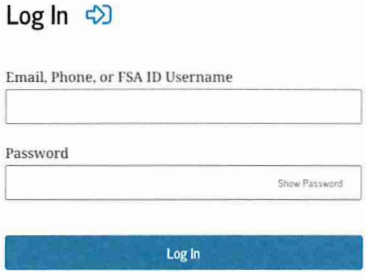
The 2026-27 FAFSA will use your 2024 tax information. If you complete your FAFSA online, each contributor will be required to provide consent and approval. The consent and approval will allow the IRS to import relevant tax data for most filers to their FAFSA..

Also Prepare...

- Your Federal StudentAid.gov Account
- Your Social Security number and alien registration number, if applicable
- Records of child support payments, including the total amount received for the last complete calendar year
- Current bank statements, records of stocks, bonds, 529 savings plans, and other investments
- List of colleges or career schools you want to include on your FAFSA
- A personal email address (not your school email!)

Dependent students **will also need their contributor's name and email address.**

NOTE: A contributor can be a student, student's spouse, biological or adoptive parent, or stepparent.



What is a Federal StudentAid.gov Account?

A Federal StudentAid.gov account is your verified account username and password. You will use the account you create at StudentAid.gov/fsa-id to log in to and sign the FAFSA. If you are a dependent student, you and all contributors must have their own username and password.

Get Help with the FAFSA!

Visit **pheaa.org/fafsa** for resources, videos, FAQs, and other helpful information to get you started on the FAFSA. Additional resources for students and families can be found at **pheaa.org/fafsaHelp**.

Use the Correct Tax Information

If you plan to attend college from	You can submit the FAFSA from	Using income & tax information from
July 1, 2025–June 30, 2026	October 1, 2024–June 30, 2026	2023
July 1, 2026–June 30, 2027	October 1, 2025–June 30, 2027	2024
July 1, 2027–June 30, 2028	October 1, 2026–June 30, 2028	2025

Once Your FAFSA is Processed

You will be notified by the U.S. Department of Education (ED) that your FAFSA has been processed, and you can view or print your FAFSA Submission Summary online. Check your FAFSA Submission Summary for any errors. If you find mistakes, you will need to make necessary corrections by logging in at StudentAid.gov.

Your FAFSA will be shared with any schools you listed on it. Schools send out financial aid notifications to students once they're accepted. Your school may also require you to fill out additional forms for their school-specific programs. Contact your postsecondary schools for more information about financial aid notifications.

Next Steps for the PA State Grant

Federal Student Aid (FSA) also shares your FAFSA information with PHEAA to determine your eligibility for the PA State Grant. After processing your information, we will email you at the address you provided on the FAFSA. The email will provide details on how to create a PHEAA account.

In addition to completing a PHEAA account, first-time applicants as well as some renewal applicants must complete the PA State Grant Form. Additional details on how to apply for a PA State Grant can be found at pheaa.org.

Did Your Circumstances Change?

Contact the financial aid department at your school for help if your family's income suddenly changed (such as high medical expenses not covered by insurance, divorce, or separation) or is less this year than what you reported on the FAFSA. **You can also contact PA State Grant staff for help reporting changes in your financial situation at 1-800-692-7392 (TTY: Dial 711, for hearing impaired).**

→ To learn more about the financial aid process, visit **pheaa.org**.

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Creating a StudentAid.gov Account (formerly FSA ID)

What you need to know...

What is a StudentAid.gov Account?

A StudentAid.gov Account is a username and password that you will use to log into the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) and other U.S. Department of Education websites.

Who should create a StudentAid.gov Account?

Students interested in receiving federal student aid should create a StudentAid.gov Account. All students **and** contributors (such as parent, parents, or spouses) must create a StudentAid.gov Account—even if the contributor does not have a Social Security number.

When should I create an StudentAid.gov Account?

We recommend you apply one day before filling out the FAFSA or attending a FAFSA Completion Event.

What do I need to create an account?

A personal email address (not high school email address) is required to set up an account.

NOTE: A student must be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen to be eligible for federal student aid. You will need to provide these credentials while creating your account.

How to Create a StudentAid.gov Account

Before you start: Make sure you have access to your personal email account while setting up the account.

Step 1 Visit StudentAid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch and select **Get Started**.

Step 2 Enter your name, date of birth, and Social Security number exactly as they appear on your Social Security card.

NOTE: A Social Security number, email address, and mobile phone number can only be associated with one StudentAid.gov Account.

Step 3 Enter your username, email, and password.

Step 4 Enter your optional mailing address and phone number. You may also set up Mobile Phone Account Recovery if you provided a mobile phone number, allowing you to unlock your account from your mobile device.

Step 5 Confirm your communication and language preferences.

Step 6 Provide four required unique, challenge questions and answers.

Step 7 Confirm and verify your personal information and acknowledge the account terms and conditions.

Step 8 Add Two-Step Verification to safeguard your account. Whenever you sign in, you will receive a code to verify it is really you. Verify your account via the email or mobile phone number you previously entered. You will see a green box confirming your Two-Step Verification is set up.

Step 9 A backup code is generated when you complete the Two-Step Verification process. Store this code in a secure place. Should you find yourself in a situation where you cannot use either of the Two-Step Verification methods, your generated backup code can be used to access your account.

OPTIONAL Use of an authenticator app, available from your phone's app store, provides the most security of the two-step verification methods. Select **set up an authenticator app** and follow the instructions provided.

I created my StudentAid.gov Account, now what?

You can now use your account to sign an original FAFSA. Once the Social Security Administration verifies your information, you will be able to start or renew the FAFSA, make changes to an existing FAFSA, and log in to U.S. Department of Education websites.

Never share your username and password with anyone, not even to someone helping you fill out the FAFSA.

For additional information, visit StudentAid.gov/fsa-id.

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