

Navigating the Financial Aid Process



 INvestEdIndiana.org

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We'll Discuss...

- Types of Aid
- First Steps & Info.
- FAFSA Overview
- After You Submit
- We'll Help

2



Types of Aid

3

Grants



• Federal

- Pell Grant - **Max \$7,395**
- Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG) - **\$100-\$4,000**
- TEACH Grant - **\$3,772**

• State of Indiana

- 21st Century Scholars
- Frank O'Bannon Grant Programs
- William A. Crawford Minority Teacher Scholarship
- Workforce Ready Grant

Visit INvestEdIndiana.org/Grants

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Credit Completion



On -Time

- 30 Credits**
 - 15 Credits – Fall
 - 15 Credits – Spring
- 60 Credits**
 - 15 Credits – Fall
 - 15 Credits – Spring
- 90 Credits**
 - 15 Credits – Fall
 - 15 Credits – Spring
- 120 Credits**
 - 15 Credits – Fall
 - 15 Credits – Spring

Full - Time

- 24 Credits**
 - 12 Credits – Fall
 - 12 Credits – Spring
- 48 Credits**
 - 12 Credits – Fall
 - 12 Credits – Spring
- 72 Credits**
 - 12 Credits – Fall
 - 12 Credits – Spring
- 96 Credits**
 - 12 Credits – Fall
 - 12 Credits – Spring
- 120 Credits**
 - 12 Credits – Fall
 - 12 Credits – Spring

• **On-Time vs. Full-Time:**

- Complete 30 credit hours per year to maintain maximum grant eligibility

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Scholarships



• **Need Based vs. Merit Based**

- Where to look for scholarships

- FREE National Search Sites
- College/University
- Local/Community

- School Counselor
- Community Foundation
- Business & Employer
- Church & Civic Organizations

Visit INvestEdIndiana.org/Scholarships for more information

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Enter the **INvestEd**

\$1,000

Scholarship Giveaway!

- No essay required
- Need to be 16 or older
- Not based on GPA
- Must live in Indiana

Enter at: INvestEdIndiana.org/1000





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Student Employment




- **Benefits**
 - Earn money to pay for college & minimize student loans
 - Job & interview experience
 - Build time management skills
- **Options**
 - Federal Work-Study
 - Part-Time Employment
 - Internships

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First Steps & Info.

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FAFSA



• Free Application for Federal Student Aid

- Annual Application for most types of financial aid

• Basis for determining:

- Federal Funds
 - Grants
 - Work-study
 - Loans
- State of Indiana Grants
- Some Institutional funds

- Calculates Student Aid Index

The screenshot shows the FAFSA website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Federal Student Aid' and several dropdown menus: 'FAFSA® Form', 'Grants and Loans', 'Loan Repayment', and 'Loan Forgiveness'. There are also icons for a notification bell, a user profile, and a search icon. The main heading is 'Get Money To Help Pay for School', followed by a sub-heading: 'Use the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) form to apply for financial aid for college, career school, or graduate school.' Below this, there are three main buttons: 'Start a 2026-27 FAFSA® Form', '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. At the bottom of the page, there is a question: 'Need the 2025-26 FAFSA Form?' with links for 'Start New Form', 'Edit Existing Forms', and 'Accept an Invitation'.

Visit studentaid.gov

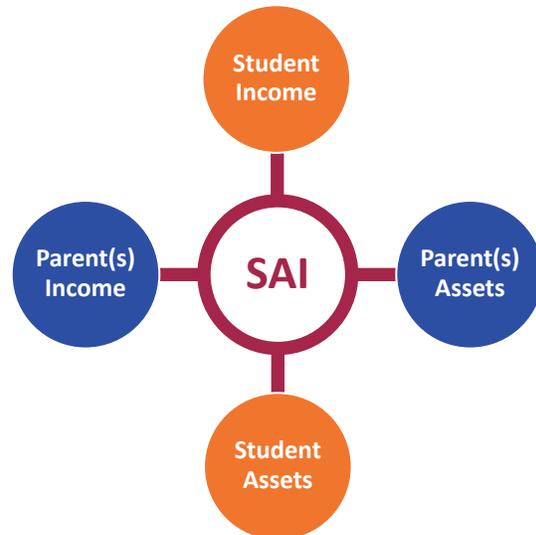
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Student Aid Index



• FAFSA Calculation

- Based on income and assets
- Used by the college to calculate your financial aid offer



Visit INvestEdIndiana.org/FAFSA

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StudentAid.gov Account



• User account unique to each person

- Student
 - Use to login to FAFSA & sign electronically
- Contributors (parent, parent's spouse, student's spouse)
 - Use to accept invitation and sign in electronically
- Student & Contributors can NOT use the same email or phone number (used for two-step verification)

Need help creating your StudentAid.gov Account?

Visit INvestEdIndiana.org/FAFSA

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FAFSA Overview

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The FAFSA



• Found at StudentAid.gov

- Opens on **October 1st** each year
- Uses completed tax data (prior/prior)

HS Graduation Year	FAFSA Year	Academic Year (Attending College Between:)	FAFSA Open Date	Tax Year Data
2025	2025-2026	July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026	October 1, 2024*	2023
2026	2026-2027	July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027	October 1, 2025	2024
2027	2027-2028	July 1, 2027 - June 30, 2028	October 1, 2026	2025

• Know deadline:

- State of Indiana Priority Deadline – April 15th
- Colleges – Ask individual colleges



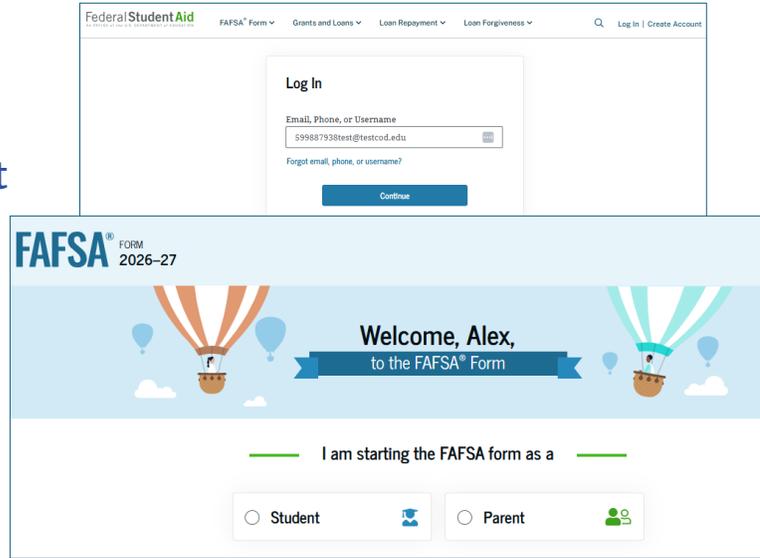
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Start the FAFSA



StudentAid.gov

- **Login - Using your StudentAid.gov Account**
- **Select Role**
 - Student
 - Contributor (Parent)
- **FAFSA Onboarding**

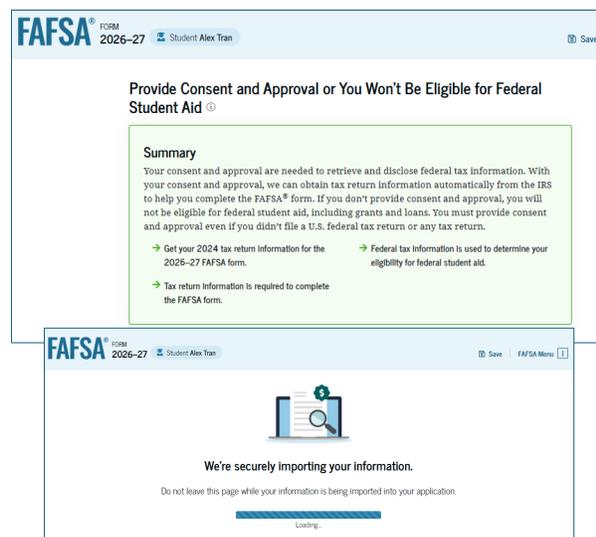


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Confirmation and Consent



- **Confirmation Info.**
 - Check Identity Info (SSN, Address, etc)
- **Provide Consent**
 - Providing consent from both student and parent contributor(s) is required to receive aid
 - Consent allows the FAFSA to automatically import IRS tax data
- **After Consent**
 - IRS Data is automatically imported into your FAFSA



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Student Personal Circumstances



FAFSA[®] FORM 2026-27 Student Alex Tran Save

1 Personal 2 Demographics 3 Financials 4 Colleges 5 Contributor Invite 6 Signature

Student Personal Circumstances
Select all that apply or "None of these apply"

- The student is currently serving on active duty in the U.S. armed forces for purposes other than training.
- The student is a veteran of the U.S. armed forces.
- The student has children or other people (excluding their spouse) who live with them and receive more than half of their support from the student now and between July 1, 2026, and June 30, 2027.
- At any time since the student turned 13, they were an orphan (no living biological or adoptive parent).
- At any time since the student turned 13, they were a ward of the court.
- At any time since the student turned 13, they were in foster care.
- The student is or was a legally emancipated minor, as determined by a court in their state of residence.
- The student is or was in a legal guardianship with someone other than their parent or stepparent, as determined by a court in their state of residence.
- None of these apply.

- **Marital Status**
 - For the Student
- **College Plans**
 - Year in college for 2026 - 2027
- **Dependency Determination**
 - Born before January 1st, 2003
 - Graduate/Professional student
 - Student marital status
 - At risk of being homeless
 - Additional situations

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Student Dependency Status



- FAFSA determines eligibility for a variety of aid types, which includes federal loans
- Answering "Yes" here means a student could miss out on other aid

Your Dependency Status



Dependent Student
Based on your answers, you're a dependent student. This means you must provide parent information on your FAFSA[®] 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[®] 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

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Student Demographic Information

- Sex, Race, & Ethnicity
- Parent's education
- Citizenship
- Student's high school information



FAFSA[®] FORM 2026-27 Student Alex Tran

Student Demographics

We'll ask questions about your background and family.

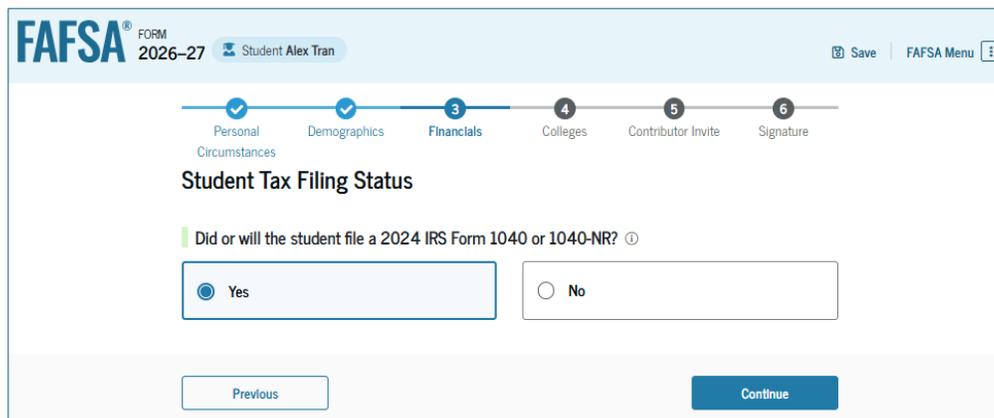


Previous Continue

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Student Financials

- All questions answered through the Direct Data Exchange (DDX) are not shown
- Only questions that need manual entry will appear



FAFSA[®] FORM 2026-27 Student Alex Tran Save FAFSA Menu

Personal Demographics **Financials** Colleges Contributor Invite Signature

Student Tax Filing Status

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

Yes No

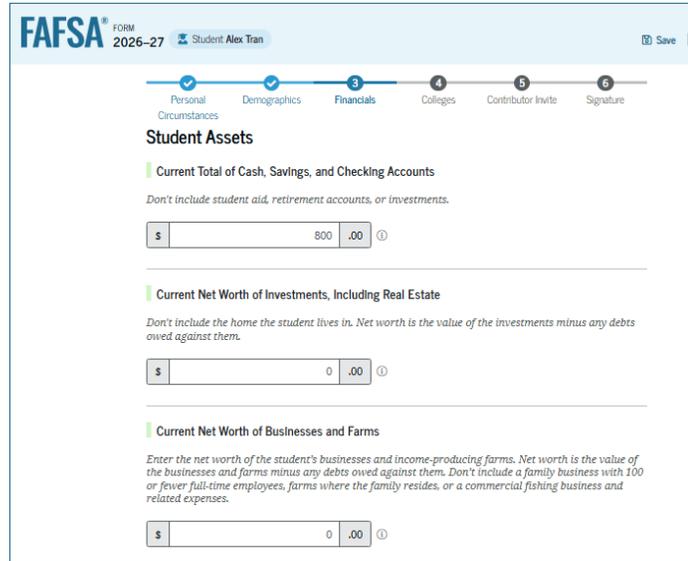
Previous Continue

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Student Asset Information



- **Assets DO NOT include:**
 - The home you live in
 - Qualified retirement plans
 - Value of life insurance
 - Businesses with less than 100 full-time equivalent employees
- **Assets DO include:**
 - Cash, savings, and checking accounts
 - Real estate
 - Stocks, Bonds, and other investments
 - 529 College Savings Plans
 - Education savings plans are counted as an asset of the account owner ONLY if the account is designated for the student whose FAFSA is being completed



FAFSA[®] FORM 2026-27 Student Alex Tran Save

Personal Circumstances Demographics Financials Colleges Contributor Invite Signature

Student Assets

Current Total of Cash, Savings, and Checking Accounts
 Don't include student aid, retirement accounts, or investments.

\$ 800 .00

Current Net Worth of Investments, Including Real Estate
 Don't include the home the student lives in. Net worth is the value of the investments minus any debts owed against them.

\$ 0 .00

Current Net Worth of Businesses and Farms
 Enter the net worth of the student's businesses and income-producing farms. Net worth is the value of the businesses and farms minus any debts owed against them. Don't include a family business with 100 or fewer full-time employees, farms where the family resides, or a commercial fishing business and related expenses.

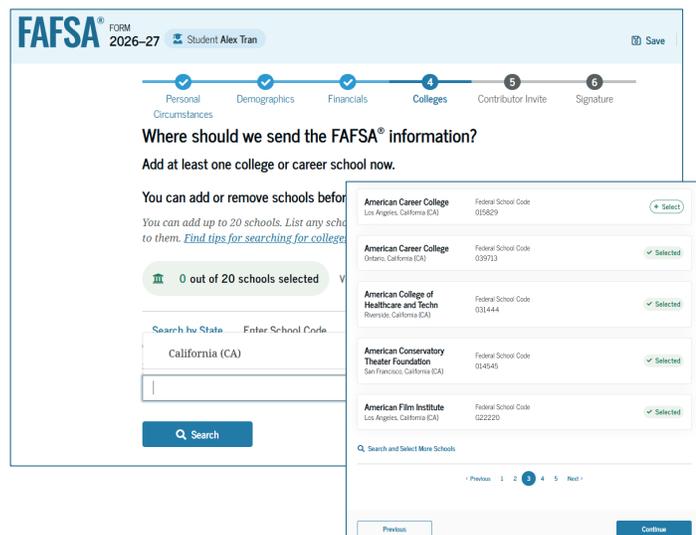
\$ 0 .00

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School Selection



- **Select colleges you want to receive your FAFSA info.**
 - List up to 20 colleges
 - Encouraged to list at least one college in Indiana
 - Can always add / update schools



FAFSA[®] FORM 2026-27 Student Alex Tran Save

Personal Circumstances Demographics Financials Colleges Contributor Invite Signature

Where should we send the FAFSA[®] information?

Add at least one college or career school now.

You can add or remove schools before you submit your FAFSA. You can add up to 20 schools. List any schools you want to add. Find tips for searching for colleges.

0 out of 20 schools selected

Search by State Enter School Code

California (CA)

Search

American Career College Los Angeles, California (CA)	Federal School Code 015829	Select
American Career College Ontario, California (CA)	Federal School Code 039713	Selected
American College of Healthcare and Techn Riverside, California (CA)	Federal School Code 031444	Selected
American Conservatory Theater Foundation San Francisco, California (CA)	Federal School Code 014940	Selected
American Film Institute Los Angeles, California (CA)	Federal School Code 022220	Selected

Search and Select More Schools

Previous 1 2 3 4 5 Next

Previous Continue

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Inviting Contributors


Form 2026-27 Student **Raya Tran**


Invite a Parent as a Contributor

A contributor is anyone who's required to provide information on your FAFSA form. You must invite a legal parent—a biological or adoptive parent as determined by the state.

Stepparents and other types of guardians do not count unless they have legally adopted the student.

Who counts as a parent on the FAFSA form?

[Previous](#)

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?](#)

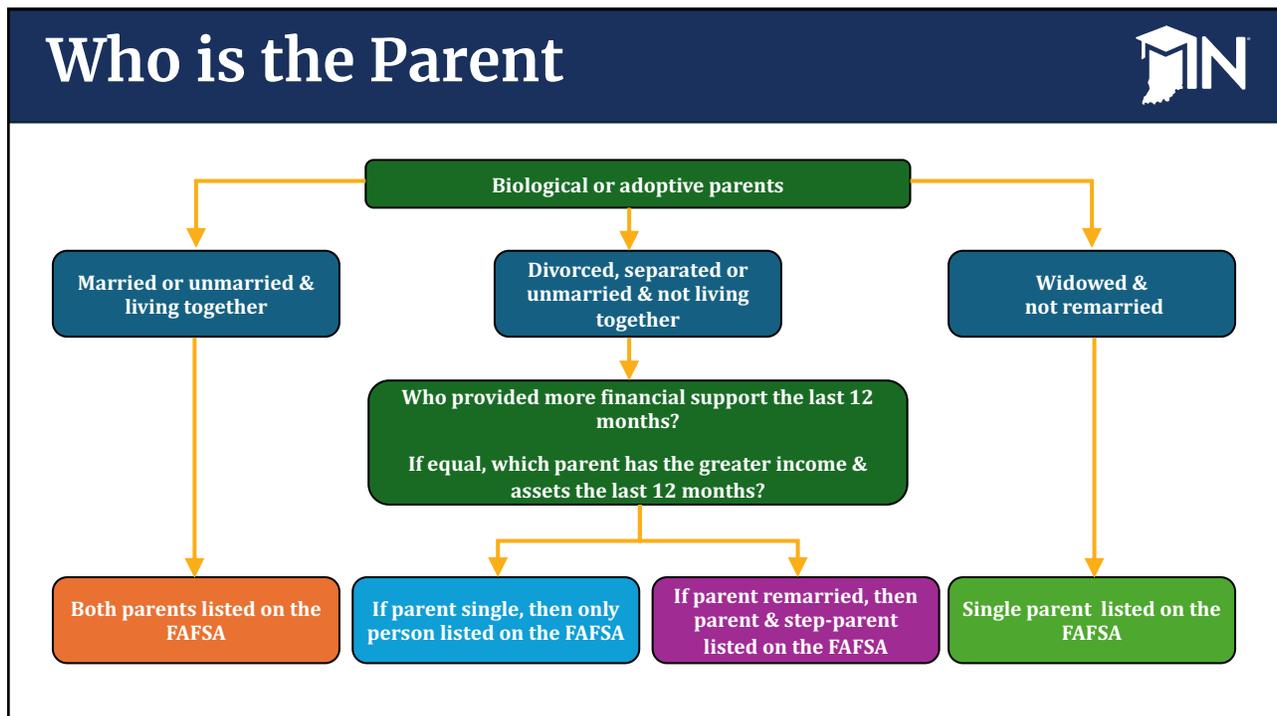
 Parent

Invite a Parent Contributor

Email

[Send Invite](#)

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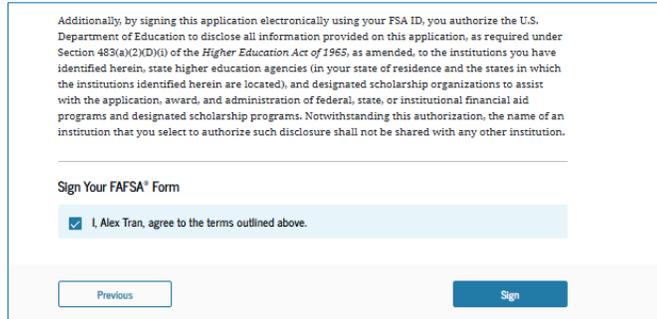
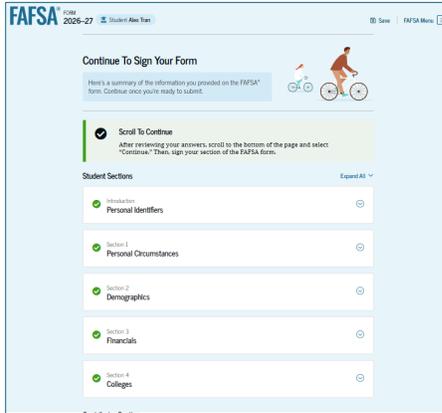


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Review, Sign, & Submit

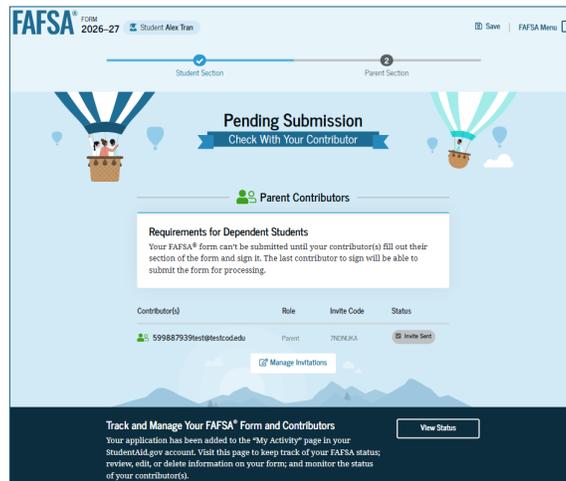


- Student reviews all entered information
- Student agrees and signs their part of the FAFSA



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Student Section Complete

- Note: The FAFSA is not submitted until the contributor(s) complete and sign their sections of the form.

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Parent Info.

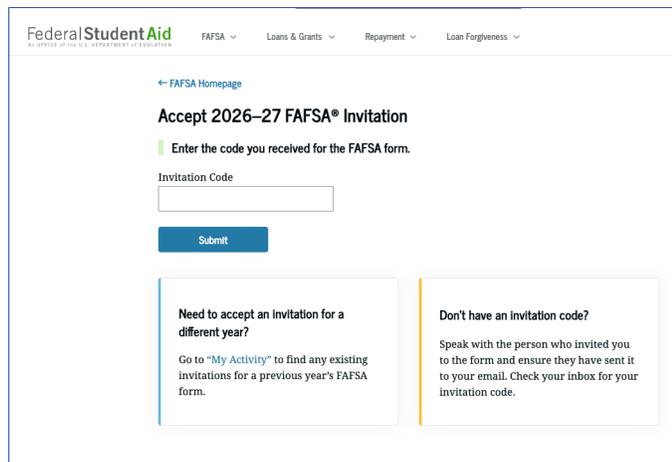
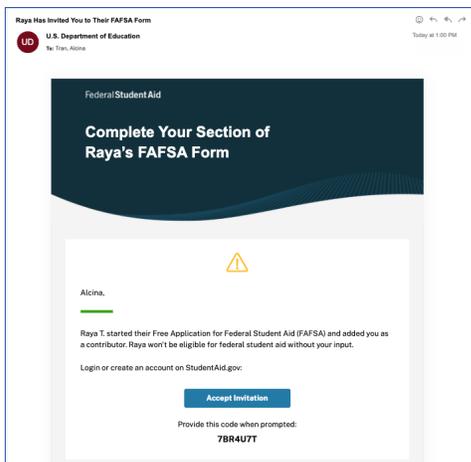
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Contributor / Parent Info.



• Invitation Email

- Log in / Accept invitation



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Confirmation and Consent

- **Confirmation Info.**
 - Check Identity Info (SSN, Address, etc.)
- **Provide Consent**
 - Providing consent from both student and parent contributor(s) is required to receive aid
 - Consent allows the FAFSA to automatically import IRS tax data
- **After Consent**
 - IRS Data is automatically imported into your FAFSA



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Parent Demographic Information

- **Marital Status**
- **State of Residence**

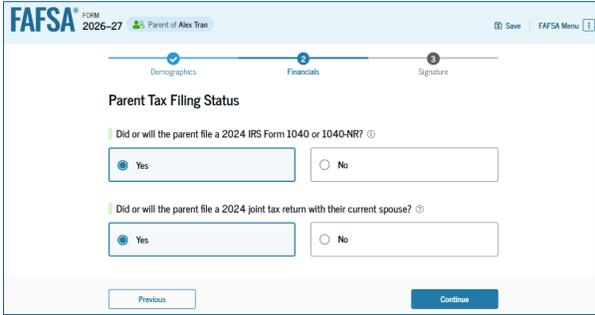


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Parent Financials



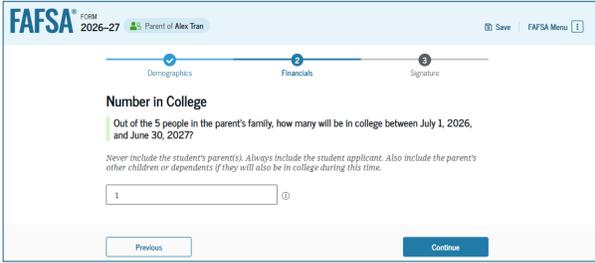
- **Federal Benefits Received**
- **Tax Filing Status**
 - Determines if one or both contributors need an StudentAid.gov Account to sign and submit
- **Family Size**
 - Could need adjusting if different from 2024 tax forms
- **Number in College**



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



Number in College

Out of the 5 people in the parent's family, how many will be in college between July 1, 2026, and June 30, 2027?

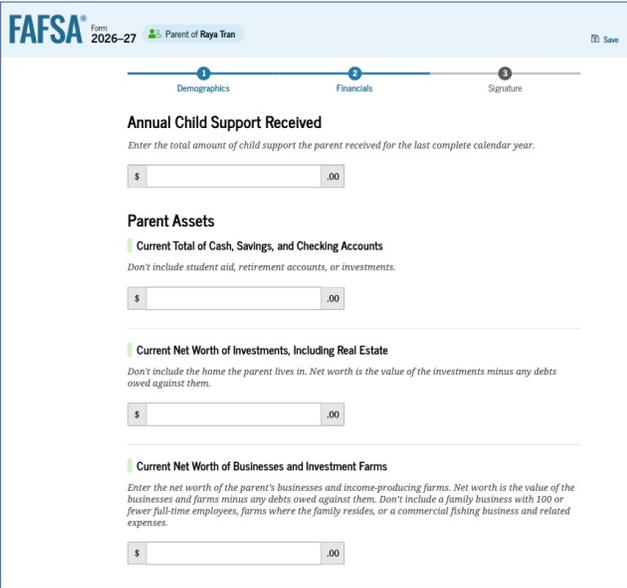
Never include the student's parent(s). Always include the student applicant. Also include the parent's other children or dependents if they will also be in college during this time.

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Parent Asset Information



- **Assets do NOT include:**
 - The home you live in
 - Qualified retirement plans
 - Businesses with less than 100 full-time equivalent employees
- **Assets DO include:**
 - Cash, savings, and checking accounts
 - Real estate
 - Stocks, Bonds, and other investments
 - 529 College Savings Plans
 - Education savings plans are counted as an asset of the account owner ONLY if the account is designated for the student whose FAFSA is being completed



Annual Child Support Received

Enter the total amount of child support the parent received for the last complete calendar year.

\$.00

Parent Assets

Current Total of Cash, Savings, and Checking Accounts

Don't include student aid, retirement accounts, or investments.

\$.00

Current Net Worth of Investments, Including Real Estate

Don't include the home the parent lives in. Net worth is the value of the investments minus any debts owed against them.

\$.00

Current Net Worth of Businesses and Investment Farms

Enter the net worth of the parent's businesses and income-producing farms. Net worth is the value of the businesses and farms minus any debts owed against them. Don't include a family business with 100 or fewer full-time employees, farms where the family resides, or a commercial fishing business and related expenses.

\$.00

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Other Parent Info



- Refers to the spouse of the parent contributor

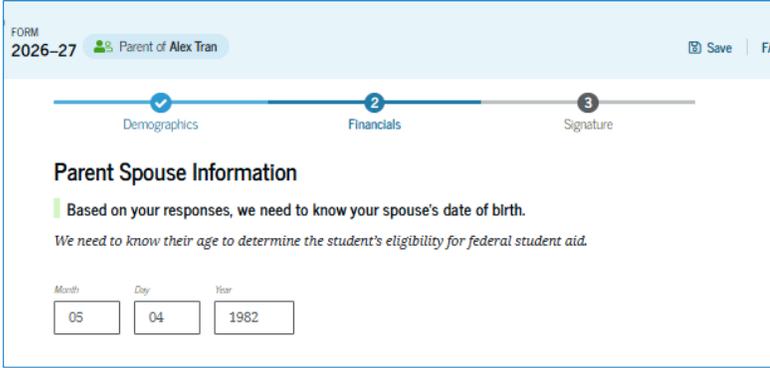
- Includes married stepparent

- Information needed

- Date of Birth
Only needed for joint tax filers

- OR -

- Email address
To send invite



FORM 2026-27 Parent of Alex Tran Save

Demographics 2 Financials 3 Signature

Parent Spouse Information

Based on your responses, we need to know your spouse's date of birth.
We need to know their age to determine the student's eligibility for federal student aid.

Month Day Year

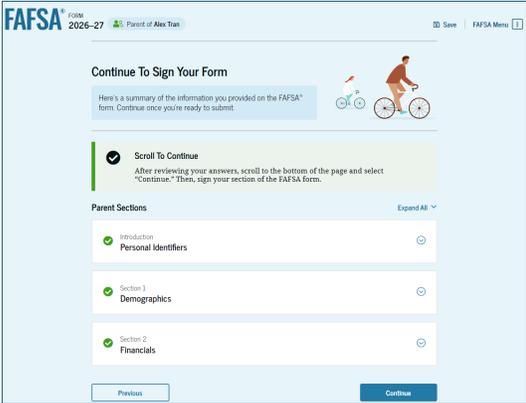
05 04 1982

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Review, Sign, and Submit



- Review all entered information
- Contributor agrees, signs and submits the FAFSA



FAFSA FORM 2026-27 Parent of Alex Tran Save

Continue To Sign Your Form

Here's a summary of the information you provided on the FAFSA form. Continue once you're ready to submit.

Scroll To Continue
After reviewing your answers, scroll to the bottom of the page and select "Continue". Then, sign your section of the FAFSA form.

Parent Sections Expand All

- Introduction Personal Identifiers
- Section 1 Demographics
- Section 2 Financials

Previous Continue



FAFSA FORM 2026-27 Parent of Alex Tran Save

Demographics Financials Signature

Sign and Submit the FAFSA Form

Summary
This page confirms that you understand the terms and conditions of the FAFSA form and filled out the form accurately to the best of your ability.

The FAFSA form is a legal document you will electronically sign with your StudentAid.gov account username and password (PSA ID). Because your PSA ID is associated with your personal information, do not share it with anyone.

By signing the student's application electronically using your StudentAid.gov account username and password, YOU, THE PARENT, 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 special 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 \$25,000, imprisonment, or both.

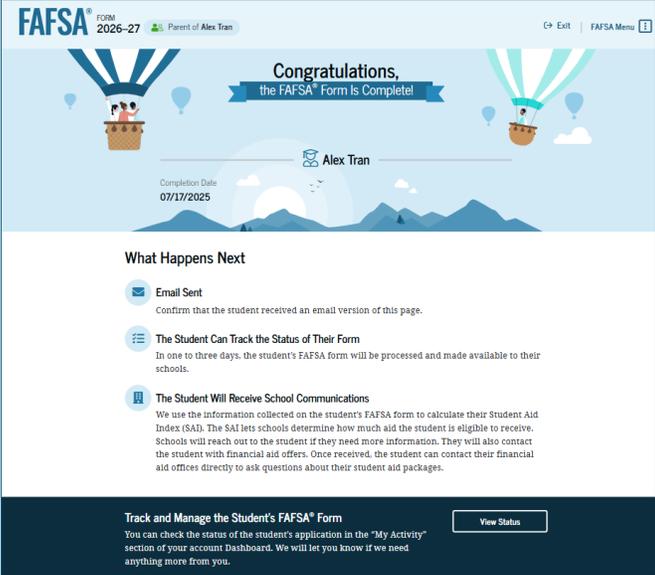
Additionally, by signing this application electronically using your PSA ID, you authorize the U.S. Department of Education to disclose all information you provided on this application, as required under Section 483(a)(2)(D) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, to the institutions identified herein, state higher education agencies in the student's 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 the student selected to authorize such disclosure shall not be shared with any other institution.

Sign for yourself and submit the application for Alex Tran (Student).

I, Alexia Tran, agree to the terms outlined above.

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Congratulations!



The image shows a screenshot of the FAFSA 2026-27 completion confirmation page. At the top, it says "Congratulations, the FAFSA Form Is Complete!" and identifies the user as Alex Tran, with a completion date of 07/17/2025. Below this, a section titled "What Happens Next" lists three items: "Email Sent" (confirming an email was received), "The Student Can Track the Status of Their Form" (noting it will be processed in 1-3 days), and "The Student Will Receive School Communications" (explaining that schools will use the data to calculate the Student Aid Index and may contact the student for more information). At the bottom, there is a "Track and Manage the Student's FAFSA Form" section with a "View Status" button.

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After You Submit

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FAFSA Submission Summary



• Eligibility Overview

- Includes Student Aid Index (SAI)
- FAFSA Form Answers
- Next Steps
 - Correct any errors
 - Update school info
 - Make sure school has needed documents
 - *Dependency paperwork (if needed)*
 - *Additional financial aid forms*

Eligibility Overview FAFSA Form Answers School Information **Next Steps**

Your Estimated Federal Student Aid

Federal Pell Grant You are not eligible for a Federal Pell Grant, but you may be eligible for other aid.	N/A
Federal Direct Loans A federal direct loan is money lent to you by the government that you must repay with interest.	Up to \$9,500
Federal Work-Study Federal Work-Study is a way for students to earn money to pay for school through part-time jobs on or off campus.	You May Be Eligible

Amounts shown here are only estimates of federal student aid based on full-time enrollment and the average cost of attendance. Your school will determine how much student aid to offer you, which may include additional aid from your school or state.

[Learn more about financial aid](#)

Keep in mind, this is only an estimate
 Always refer to your school's financial aid offer for a final determination of financial aid available.

Need to make a correction?
 Start a correction to revise your form if you need to update or change information (such as adding an additional school).
 Visit the FAFSA Form Answers tab to review your responses and make sure all the information you provided is correct.

[Make a Correction](#)

View All of Your Federal Student Aid In One Place
 View detailed information about your federal student loan and grant aid, including your enrollment history, payment history, and subsidized usage.

[Visit My Aid](#)

All other aid determined by the college's Financial Aid Office

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Special Circumstances



• Changes to your situation not represented on the FAFSA may include:

- Change in employment or income status
- Medical expenses not covered by insurance
- Change in parent marital status
- Unusual dependent care expenses
- Student unable to obtain parent information

If a special circumstance occurs, contact the college's Financial Aid Office

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Financial Aid Offer



Each college provides a financial aid offer outlining:

- Cost of attendance
- Financial aid amounts (grants, scholarships, work-study, and loans)
- Options to pay remaining balance

Timing and delivery of offer varies by college

What you should do:

- Review costs and financial aid offers
- Clearly understand your obligations
- Ask questions

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Sample Financial Aid Offer



- **Typical Sections**
 - Cost
 - Grants and Scholarships
 - Work-study
 - Student Loans
 - Remaining Balance
 - Outside Scholarships
 - Out of Pocket
 - Payment Plan
 - PLUS (Parent) Loan
 - Private Loan



INvestEd Sample University
2026-27 Financial Aid Offer

Cost of Attendance	
Tuition & Fees	\$11,100
Housing & Food	\$13,500
Direct Cost Subtotal	\$24,600
Books & Supplies	\$1,100
Transportation	\$500
Misc. Personal Expenses	\$2,300
Total Cost of Attendance	\$28,500
Financial Aid Offers	
Pell Grant	\$4,250
Frank O'Bannon State Grant	\$3,250
Institutional Scholarship	\$3,500
Grants & Scholarships Subtotal	\$11,000
Federal Work-Study	\$3,000
Direct Subsidized Loan	\$3,500
Direct Unsubsidized Loan	\$2,000
Total Financial Aid	\$19,500
Remaining Balance	\$9,000

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The INvestEd College Planning Toolbox



College Planning Toolbox

Home | Resources | College Planning Toolbox

Take the First Step

Any adventure starts with the first step, and INvestEd wants to help you plan for college wisely. Determining the right major, school and funding options takes time and research. Organizing your information is critical too. The starting point is realistically looking at where you are today so you can determine the steps needed to move forward toward your future goal and INvestEd's College Planning Toolbox can help you do just that.

An essential piece to any plan is having a map and tools to move from point A to point B. The INvestEd College Planning Toolbox helps families track the various pieces of the college planning puzzle, allowing for more informed decisions. Regardless of whether college is far off or starts much sooner, the tool will provide vital help with the process. You can also project the costs needed to cover for college and the amount you'll need to save to help reduce potential loan debt, as well as compare various savings options. Don't wait. Get started today!

[GET STARTED](#)

• College Planning Toolbox

- Free resource to track college planning information for family or individual student

• Tools to help:

- Financial Center to track savings & costs
- Calendar to set reminders
- Scholarship Search Engine

INvestEdIndiana.org

Under "Resources"

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College Goal Sunday

- Free FAFSA help from financial aid professionals

Sunday, November 9th, 2025

2:00pm – 4:00pm Local Time

- For more information visit:

CollegeGoalSunday.org



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Stay Connected With Us!



 317.715.9007

 Outreach@INvestEdIndiana.org

 www.investedindiana.org

Follow @INvestEDIndiana



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