

Free Application for Federal Student Aid

FAFSA Information

WHEN & WHERE TO APPLY



The 2026-27 version of the FAFSA Form will be available in December 2025. Please enter the URL below or scan the QR code to get started today.

<https://studentaid.gov>

FAFSA APPLICATION GUIDE

Application Steps

- 1 Create a Studentaid.gov Account
- 2 Determine Your Dependency Status
- 3 Complete the 2026-27 FAFSA Form
- 4 Sign and Submit Your FAFSA Form



◀ Want to watch a video on how to complete your FAFSA Form? Scan the QR code to the left, or visit the URL below to watch.

<https://studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/filling-out>



Where Education **Empowers.**

STEP 1

CREATE STUDENTAID.GOV ACCOUNT

All students need an FSA Account ID (username and password) in order to complete the FAFSA Application. If you do not currently have an account, please see the information below on how to create a new account. If you already have an account, please continue to Step 2.

Information Needed:

Student's First & Last Name

Permanent Address

Date of Birth

Social Security Number

Mobile Phone Number (must be valid - you will be asked to verify your account via text)

Email Address (must be valid - you will be asked to verify your account via email)



Use the QR code to the left, or the URL below, to create your FSA account.

<https://studentaid.gov>

Student, Parent(s), and/or Spouse

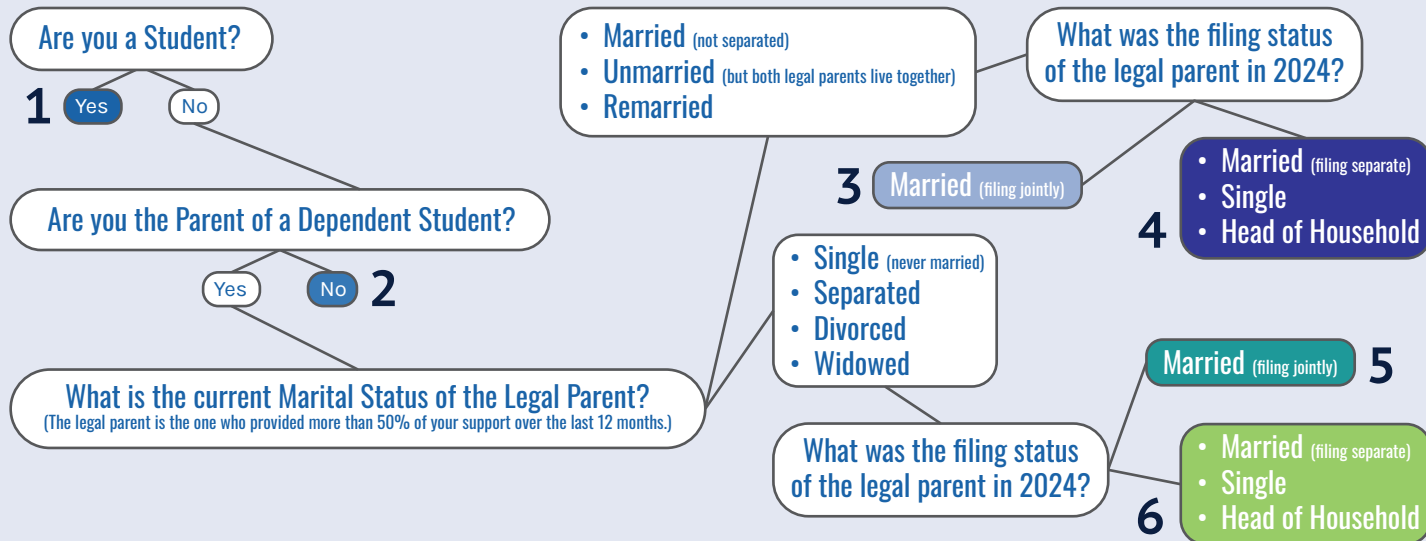
FAFSA CONTRIBUTORS

Contributors may be needed for both Dependent and Independent Students. (See Next Page to determine your status.)

Dependent Students must invite their parent(s) to contribute to their form if required.

Independent Students and a Dependent Student's Parent may need to invite their spouse to contribute to the student's form if spouse information is required.

Students and Contributors must provide consent to retrieve and disclose federal tax information from the IRS for the student to be eligible for federal student aid. The Contributor's federal tax information is transferred directly into the FAFSA form for the IRS.



1 Every Student needs a StudentAid.gov account.

2 Only the legal parent(s) of a dependent student (and their spouse in some cases) will need a StudentAid.gov account. Legal guardians will not be contributors to the FAFSA. If a student is determined to be independent for FAFSA purposes, no parents will need a StudentAid.gov account.

3 Only one parent will need a StudentAid.gov account to consent to the transfer of 2024 IRS information.

4 Both parents will need StudentAid.gov accounts to consent to the transfer of 2024 IRS information.

5 If currently separated, divorced, or widowed, but 2024 taxes were filed jointly, one parent will need a StudentAid.gov account to consent to the transfer of 2024 IRS information. The student should contact the financial aid office to request an income adjustment.

6 Only the legal parent will need a StudentAid.gov account to consent to the transfer of 2024 IRS information.



STEP 2

DETERMINE YOUR DEPENDENCY STATUS

Independent Student:

An independent student, is one of the following: at least 24 years old, married, a graduate or professional student, a veteran, a member of the armed forces, an orphan, a ward of the court, or someone with legal dependents other than a spouse, an emancipated minor, or someone who is homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

If you're married (and not separated) and didn't file taxes jointly with your current spouse, your spouse will be considered a contributor on your FAFSA form.

Dependent Student:

A dependent student is someone who does not meet any of the criteria for an independent student (see criteria above).

If you are a dependent student, you'll need to report parent information on your FAFSA form.



◀ Need more help to identify which parent(s) will be required as a contributor on the FAFSA form? Use the QR code to the left, or the URL below, help you figure it out.

<https://studentaid.gov/fafsa-apply/parents>



STEP 3

COMPLETE THE 2025-26 FAFSA FORM

Student Information Needed:

High School Diploma (or High School Equivalent Completion)

2024 Tax Return

Parent/Spouse Information Needed:

Parent/Spouse First and Last Names

Date of Birth

Social Security Number

Email Address

Parent/Spouse information is needed in order to send them an invite to contribute to your FAFSA Application. Your parent or spouse will receive an email invitation to create an account and contribute to your FAFSA Form.

SouthernTech Information Needed:

School Code: **010342**



Use the QR code to the left, or the URL below, to fill out your FAFSA Application Form.

<https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>

STEP 4

SIGN AND SUBMIT

After you complete your required section of the FAFSA form online, you'll acknowledge the terms and conditions of the form and electronically sign your section. You can then submit your section of the FAFSA form. However, your FAFSA form won't be considered complete until all required contributors provide their information on the FAFSA form, give their consent and approval to transfer federal tax information into the form, and provide their signatures.

After you and your parent/spouse (and/or any other required contributor) sign and submit the FAFSA form, the form will be considered complete and will be submitted for processing.



HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?

Brooke Baxter is SouthernTech's Financial Aid Specialist. She is always willing to help you with any financial aid questions you may have!

BROOKE BAXTER

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