Why the FAFSA® is important

(Like really, really important)

Filing the FAFSA® (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is your key to getting all kinds of financial aid for school—we're talking federal, state, and school aid. If you want to qualify for the most free money you can, and pay less out of your own pocket, you need to file the FAFSA®. Nearly everyone who submits the FAFSA® qualifies for some aid.

What you'll need to complete the FAFSA®

If you're a dependent student, you'll need this information for both you and your parents.

- You and one of your parents will need to set up an account (FSA ID) on **studentaid.gov** to access the FAFSA® and sign the form electronically. You can now do this at the same time you begin the FAFSA®.
- Social Security numbers (SSN) for you and your parents. Parents without a social security number need to check the box stating "I do not have an SSN."
- **What's no longer needed?** Student and parent tax documents. All of this information will be automatically accessed from the IRS through the FUTURE Act Direct Data Exchange (FA-DDX).
- If your financial status has changed since you filed your 2025 taxes, you must complete the FAFSA® with the required information, and then follow up with your school's financial aid office for further advice.

Submission time frames

Academic year
2027 – 2028

Submit your FAFSA® beginning
October 1, 2026

Academic year
2028 – 2029

Submit your FAFSA® beginning
October 1, 2027

Academic year
2029 – 2030

Submit your FAFSA® beginning
October 1, 2028

FAFSA® Guide by sallie

Looking for FAFSA® help?
Our guide walks you through all the FAFSA® questions to help you answer correctly so you can maximize your financial aid for college.
sallie.com/fafsaguide

*Source: FAFSA® application submission time frames and required tax information are projected based on information provided at https://studentaid.gov

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