

FAFSA: A Step-by-Step Guide for Seniors & Parents

The **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** is the application used to determine eligibility for federal student aid, including grants, work-study, and federal student loans. The FAFSA is a graduation requirement for the Class of 27'

STEP 1 — Create Your StudentAid.gov Account FIRST

Do this before starting the FAFSA!

- ☐ Student creates a **StudentAid.gov account** at [StudentAid.gov](https://studentaid.gov)
- ☐ Parent/contributor creates their **OWN StudentAid.gov account**

 **Keep your username and password private. Do not create the student's account using the parent's information.**

STEP 2 — Gather Your Information

Have the following available:

- ☐ StudentAid.gov account information
- ☐ Social Security numbers, if applicable
- ☐ Driver's license/state ID, if applicable
- ☐ Federal tax and income information (2025)
- ☐ Information about savings, investments, and other assets
- ☐ Family/household information
- ☐ List of colleges the student is considering

STEP 3 — Complete the FAFSA

Go to **FAFSA.gov** and select **Start New Form**.

The student should:

- ☐ Log in using their StudentAid.gov account
- ☐ Select the correct FAFSA year (27-28)
- ☐ Complete the student section
- ☐ Provide required consent and approval for IRS tax information
- ☐ List the colleges that should receive the FAFSA

STEP 4 — Parent/Contributor Completes Their Section

If parent information is required:

- ☐ Student invites the parent/contributor through the FAFSA
- ☐ Parent logs in using the **parent's OWN StudentAid.gov account**
- ☐ Parent completes the required questions
- ☐ Parent provides required consent and approval
- ☐ Parent electronically signs their portion

The FAFSA is not complete until all required contributors have completed their sections and the form has been submitted.

STEP 5 — Review & Submit

Before submitting:

- ☐ Review all information carefully
- ☐ Make sure required sections are complete

- ☐ Student signs electronically
- ☐ Parent/contributor signs electronically, if required
- ☐ Submit the FAFSA

STEP 6 — AFTER You Submit

- ☐ Save your FAFSA confirmation
- ☐ Watch your email for updates
- ☐ Review your **FAFSA Submission Summary**
- ☐ Respond to any requests for additional information
- ☐ Check individual college financial aid requirements and deadlines

★ Remember!

Create your StudentAid.gov account BEFORE starting the FAFSA.

Student = Student's own account

Parent = Parent's own account

Official FAFSA Website

FAFSA.gov: <https://studentaid.gov/>