Free Application for Federal Student Aid

# FAFSA Information

## WHEN & WHERE TO APPLY

The 2027-28 version of the FASFA Form will be available in December 2026. 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 You Dependency Status
3. Complete the 2027-28 FAFSA Form
4. Review and Sign 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**

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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

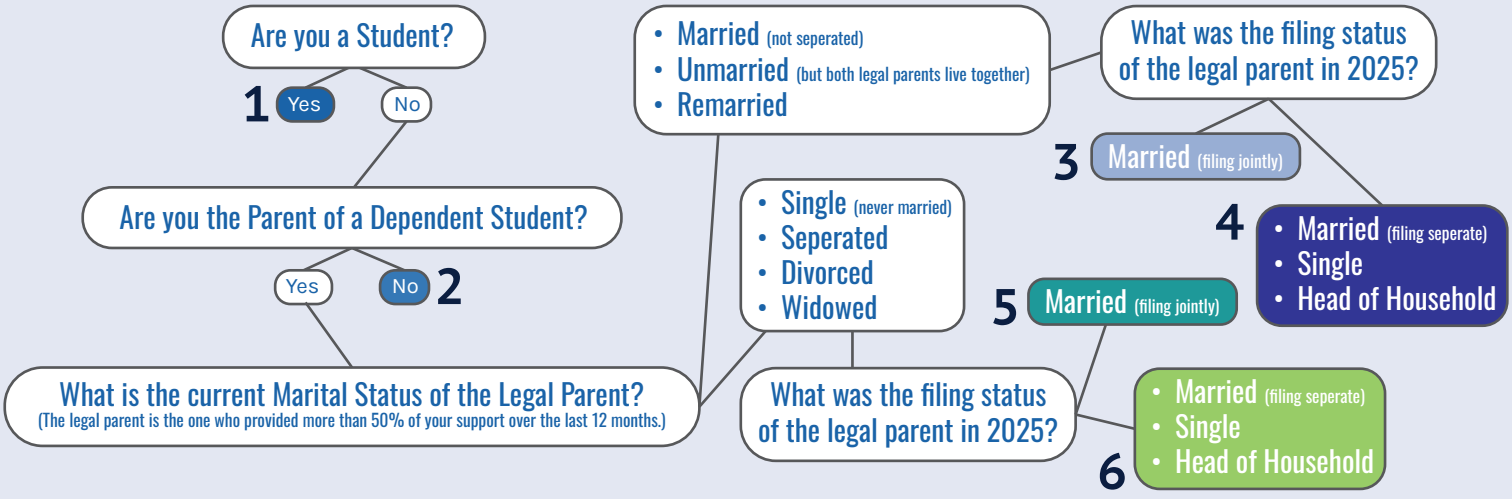
# FAFSA CONTRIBUTORS

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 must invite their spouse to contribute to the student's form if the spouse's 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 transfered directly into the FAFSA form from 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 2025 IRS information.

4 Both parents will need StudentAid.gov accounts to consent to the transfer of 2025 IRS information.

5 If currently separated, divorced, or widowed, but 2025 taxes were filed jointly, one parent will need a StudentAid.gov account to consent to the transfer of 2025 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 2025 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 on 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 2026-27 FAFSA FORM

## Student Information Needed:

High School Diploma (or High School Equivalent Completion)

2025 Tax Return

## Parent/Spouse Information Needed:

Parent/Spouse First and Last Names

Date of Birth

Social Security Number

Email Address

Cell Phone Number

*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 or text 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.

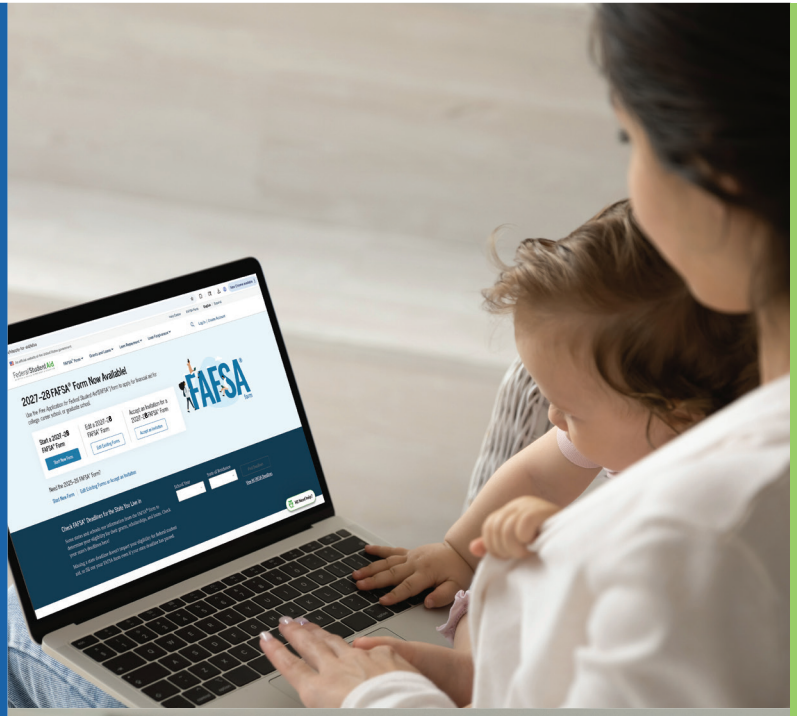
**https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa**

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 might have!

BROOKE BAXTER

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