



FAFSA Info Sheet

Why fill out the FAFSA? The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the first step in the financial aid process. You use the FAFSA to apply for federal student aid, such as grants, loans and work-study. In addition, most states and colleges use information from the FAFSA to award nonfederal aid.

It is recommended you complete the FAFSA prior to February 15th each year, or your schools' stated deadline. The website to complete the FAFSA is www.fafsa.ed.gov. You will be asked to create a FSA ID (student and parent) to sign electronically. Both student and parent will need an email to create the FSA ID.

- Use the student's legal name, including suffix, such as Jr. or III (as stated on Social Security card)
- Confirm Social Security Number is submitted correctly
- Add a valid student e-mail address
- Male students are required to register for Selective Services to receive federal aid; if currently 17 years old or unregistered, select the "register me" option and it will be done for you.
- Even if the student took CCP or AP classes throughout high school, select "Never attended college/1st year undergraduate" to the question 'what will be your grade level 2020-21?'
- Always answer "Yes" to be considered for work-study (it can be turned down or accepted, if offered)
- Student's balance in checking, savings, cash would include monies in the student's name where student is the owner of the account.
- Investments include real estate (outside of primary residence), rental property, trust funds, UGMA and UTMA accounts, money market funds, certificates of deposit, stocks, stock options, bonds, other securities, installment and land contracts, commodities, etc., education savings accounts (Coverdell savings, 529 accounts and 529 prepaid tuition plans).
- Investments do not include primary residence, value of life insurance, retirement plans (401k, pension funds, annuities, non-education IRA's, Keogh plans, etc.)
- Parents' 2018 Additional Financial Information: 1.) Education credits, 2.) child support paid, 3.) combat pay or special combat pay, etc.
- Parents' 2018 Untaxed Income: 1.) Payments to tax-deferred pensions and retirement savings plans (paid directly or withheld from earnings) including, but not limited to, amounts reported on W-2 forms in Boxes 12a – 12d, codes D, E, F, G, H, and S. Don't include amounts reported in code DD, 2.) IRA deductions and payments to self-employed SEP, SIMPLE, Keogh and other qualified plans from IRS Form 1040 – line 28 + line 32 or 1040A – line 17, 3.) child support received, 4.) tax exempt interest income, 5.) untaxed portions of IRA distributions, 6.) other untaxed income, such as workers' compensation, disability, etc. Don't include untaxed Social Security benefits, Supplemental Security Income.
- Who is considered a parent? It is typically the parent with primary physical custody. If parent one is (re-)married (to student's biological parent or step-parent) parent two's information will also need to be included on the FAFSA.
- The definition of legal guardianship does not include your parents. You are also not considered a legal guardian of yourself. The college or university will ask for a copy of the court's decision showing legal guardianship.