FAFSA® Tip Sheet

Filing the FAFSA & Getting Financial Aid

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) is the most important application you must complete in order to qualify for almost all types of financial aid including federal, state, local, and private grants.

How to Apply
Visit **studentaid.gov/FAFSA** to complete and submit your application for FREE.

Why complete a FAFSA?
The U.S. Department of Education (USDE) uses the information provided on your FAFSA to determine your eligibility for aid from federal student financial assistance programs.

What are the deadlines?
Financial aid deadlines vary by school, state, program of study, and more. To ensure that you are considered for all financial aid programs, the FAFSA should be filed by the earliest application deadline date for each school you are considering attending. You must complete a new FAFSA Application each year by the **May 1st** priority deadline.

What is the IRS Data Retrieval Tool?
If you complete your FAFSA online, you have the option of retrieving your income and tax data from the IRS and having it automatically transferred into your FAFSA.

What do I need to file my FAFSA?
- Your Social Security number
- Your driver's license number, if you have one (optional)
- Your alien registration number, if you are not a U.S. citizen
- Your W-2 forms
- Records of other untaxed income received, including workers' compensation, child support, payments to tax-deferred pension, and savings plans, etc.
- Your federal income tax return and schedules from the prior-prior year (For example, if completing the 2023-24 FAFSA, use 2021 income tax return information.)
- Your current bank statements and records of stocks, bonds, 529 plans, and other investments.
- A personal email address (not a school email address) If you are a dependent student, you will also need: • Your parent's Social Security number
- Your parent's income and financial records (as listed above)
- Parents date of marriage/remarriage – month/year
- Parents date of separation/divorce – month/year

What is a Federal Student Aid account username and password (FSA ID)?
When you create an account at studentaid.gov the username and password (also referred to as an FSA ID) you create will be used to log in to and sign the FAFSA. If you are a dependent student, both you and one of your parents must have your own account with a username and password.

10-2022