



Finish the FAFSA in only 5 Steps

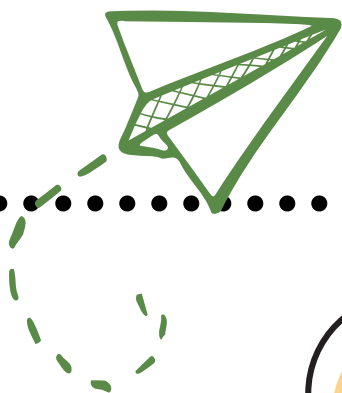
Free Application for Federal Student Aid



Create a STUDENTAID.GOV Account



- ▶ You'll need to create your own StudentAid.gov account to apply for, receive, and manage your federal student aid.
- ▶ Use your account username and password to access and electronically sign your FAFSA and student loan applications, make corrections to your FAFSA and more.
- ▶ Go to StudentAid.gov to sign up. Click Create Account to get started.
- ▶ Save your StudentAid.gov account to use again next year.
- ▶ If a student is a dependent, the parent(s) will also need to create an account



Fill it out



Sign & Submit

- ▶ **Apply online** at FAFSA.gov.
- ▶ Enter student and parent names as shown on Social Security cards.
- ▶ Send your FAFSA results to up to 20 campuses.
- ▶ Contributors must consent to have their Federal Tax Information (FTI) transferred to the FAFSA through the IRS.
- ▶ **Review** your answers from the Summary page to search for errors.
- ▶ **Review** your Confirmation page for information about the campuses you've selected and an estimate of your federal aid eligibility.



Gather Materials

- ▶ **Social Security card.**
- ▶ **W-2 forms and tax returns** specified on the FAFSA. (2024-2025 taxes)
- ▶ **Current balances** of cash, checking and savings accounts.
- ▶ **Determine your dependency status** with the Dependency Questionnaire (studentaid.gov)
- ▶ If you're a dependent student, you'll also need your parents' financial information.



Follow Up



- ▶ **Watch your email** for a FAFSA Submission Summary and information from the institutions that received your FAFSA results.
- ▶ Provide any other necessary documentation required by your institution, such as your accepted financial aid offer, and follow up with your college financial aid office if you have additional questions.

FAFSA FACTS

- ▶ Complete the FAFSA as soon as it's available **every year** to meet college and state deadlines.
- ▶ **Never pay to complete the FAFSA** – the first letter in FAFSA stands for FREE!
- ▶ **Set up your StudentAid.gov Account at StudentAid.gov at least 3-5 days before you complete the FAFSA.**
- ▶ **To find out who needs an account -**
Use the Who Needs a Account at StudentAid.gov
- ▶ Use this worksheet to **keep track of your information** – UCanGo2.org/publications.
- ▶ Visit FAFSA.gov to complete the application online when it becomes available and **receive step-by-step instructions.**
- ▶ **Hit the “Save” button often.** Always use the “Next” and “Previous” buttons on the site. Never use the “Back” button on your browser or you may lose your information.
- ▶ **All contributors** (parents or spouses) who provide information on the FAFSA **must consent to have their Federal Tax Information (FTI) transferred** to the FAFSA through the IRS, **even if they have not filed taxes.**
- ▶ Dependent students will have their parents enter their income and asset information when completing the FAFSA. **If you have a special situation, you should contact your campus financial aid office.**
- ▶ You should receive a copy of the FAFSA Submission Summary after submitting your FAFSA. Remember to **review the summary for accuracy.**
- ▶ Even if you think you won't qualify for aid, **fill out the FAFSA anyway!** Income is only one of the factors considered and nearly everyone qualifies for some type of financial aid.
- ▶ Because **StudentAid.gov is a secure site**, your information is encrypted for privacy.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
The 2026-2027 FAFSA is available October 1, 2025!