



# FILING THE FAFSA – TOP 5 FAQs

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## DISCUSSION TOPICS

- Top FAQs
- Completing the FAFSA
- Next Steps
- FAFSA Tips
- Federal Updates



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION 1: WHAT IS THE FAFSA?

### Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

The FAFSA is the first step in the financial aid process. It is used to apply for federal student financial aid such as grants, loans and work study. In addition, postsecondary schools use information from the FAFSA to award non-federal financial aid. The application is available free of charge.

- Beware of SCAMS! This is a “FREE” application
- Administered by the Department of Education (ED)
- ALL families should complete – not all aid is based on financial need
- Gateway to Federal – State – School financial aid



**2023-2024 FAFSA**

Available for completion:

**October 1, 2022**

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION 2: WHO SHOULD COMPLETE THE FAFSA?

- **Dependent Undergraduate Students and Parent(s)**
  - FAFSA determines dependency status (Step 5)
  - Divorced parents – custodial parent only
  - If remarried – include stepparent information
- **Independent Undergraduate Students**
  - FAFSA determines dependency status (Step 5)
- **Graduate Students**
  - Graduate students are independent
  - Medical and Law students may be asked to include parent(s) information

### Tools and Resources

[Home | Federal Student Aid](#)

[Eligibility Requirements | Federal Student Aid](#)

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION 3: WHY SHOULD I COMPLETE THE FAFSA?

- Students may qualify for federal, state, and school financial aid
- FAFSA is required for federal student loan programs (undergraduate and graduate)
- Financial aid is not always based on financial need
- Some schools require the FAFSA for merit aid
- Some states require the FAFSA before high school graduation
- Graduate students complete the FAFSA independently



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION 4: WHEN ARE THE DEADLINES?

### Federal Deadline

- June 30th after the academic period aid is needed
- [FAFSA® Application Deadlines | Federal Student Aid](#)

### State Deadline

- Varies with each state
- Some states require additional forms
- [FAFSA® Application Deadlines | Federal Student Aid](#)

### School Deadline

- Confirm with the school



### Corrections

**Corrections or updates must be submitted by September after the academic period aid is needed**

- Add or delete schools
- Update financial information
- Correct mistakes

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION 5: WHERE DO I GO TO FILE?

### Online FAFSA Application:

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

### Paper FAFSA Application

- [2022-2023 FAFSA Application](#) (English)
- [2022-2023 FAFSA Application](#) (Spanish)
- You can always request a print-out to be mailed to you from the U.S. Department of Education by calling 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243), for TTY for the deaf or hard of hearing 1-800-730-8913.

### ED Recommends:

*It is highly recommended that you complete the application online or through the mobile app because they offer a customized experience. You don't need to complete the online versions in one sitting, you can create a "Save Key" which you can use to take breaks or share with your parents to help complete the application.*

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION 6: HOW DO I COMPLETE THE FAFSA?

### 8 Steps to Complete

1. Create an FSA ID
2. Begin the Application
3. Student Demographics
4. School Selection
5. Dependency Status
6. Parent Demographics
7. Financial Information
8. Sign and Submit

### Prepare Ahead of Time

You will need various documents and pieces of information ready in order to complete the FAFSA. Read through these 8 steps to learn more about how to fully prepare yourself before getting started.



## COMPLETING THE FAFSA

### STEP 1: CREATE AN FSA ID

#### Student

An FSA ID is your account username and password. You need it to sign the FAFSA form online. If you don't have an FSA ID, you can create one online to complete federal student aid tasks.

#### Parent

If you are the parent, you need to create your own FSA ID to sign your child's FAFSA form online. As a parent, you'll be able to use your FSA ID right away.

*The FSA ID is unique to both student and parent. It is extremely important that students and parents created their own FSA ID and keep it secure. Do not share with anyone, including each other. To save time, create your FSA ID before completing the FAFSA.*

#### FSA ID – Why Do I Need?

- Complete and Sign the FAFSA
- Sign your Master Promissory Note
- Complete the Financial Aid Process
- Apply for Repayment Plans

# COMPLETING THE FAFSA

## STEP 2: BEGIN THE APPLICATION

### What To Expect

- Select your applicant role
  - Student – Parent – Preparer
- Log in using your FSA ID
- Choose the FAFSA form for the correct academic year (2023-2024)
- Create a “Save Key”

### Where to get FAFSA help:

- [Filling Out the FAFSA® Form](#)
- Tool Tip (next to each question within the application)
- [FAFSA Help Page](#)
- Financial Aid Office (of your school)

# COMPLETING THE FAFSA

## STEP 3: STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

### This section includes:

- Student's name
- Address
- Date of birth
- Social security number
- Etc.

If the student is **renewing the FAFSA form** and logged in with their FSA ID, most of this information will prepopulate.

Students should enter their information **exactly as it appears** on their social security card.

### Did you know?

**The FAFSA form is the student's application.** When the form says "you" or "yours" it is referring to the student.

#### The FAFSA is color coded

- The parent's section is always **purple**.
- The student's section will be **yellow** for the 2023-2024 academic year.

*EX: the student's section was **blue** for the 2022-2023 application.*

## COMPLETING THE FAFSA

# STEP 4: SCHOOL SELECTION

**Students may list up to 10 schools in this section.**

Students should include **any school they are considering**, even if they haven't applied or received an acceptance letter. It doesn't hurt your application to add more schools. School officials can't see the other schools.

If you want to make your information available to more than 10 schools, and you have received your Student Aid Report (SAR), you can Add/Update Schools in your account. This will allow you to **remove schools and replace them with** new ones before re-submitting your changes.

***Note:** Any college removed from the list won't have automatic access to **new** FAFSA information you provide after you've removed that college. However, the college will still have the data you submitted when you listed that college on your FAFSA form.*

### Need Help Editing Schools?

Data Release Number (DRN) can be found on the Student Aid Report (SAR)

[Call the Federal Student Aid Information Center](#) to add the colleges for you. When you call, you must provide the Data Release Number (DRN) from your SAR or "Confirmation" page.

# COMPLETING THE FAFSA

## STEP 5: DEPENDENCY STATUS

### Dependent or Independent

- FAFSA questions determine the student's status (10 Questions)
  - If a student answers **no to all questions** – dependent
  - If student answers **yes to one of the questions** – independent
- Special Circumstances/Judgements
  - Marital status change
  - Income change
  - Parent's information not available
  - Contact the financial aid office for assistance

### Do I have to provide my parent's information?

**Dependent Students:** Report your and your parents' information

**Independent Students:** Report your information and your spouses (if married)

[Dependency Status | Federal Student Aid](#)

## COMPLETING THE FAFSA

### STEP 6: PARENT DEMOGRAPHICS

*This will not apply to independent applicants.*

#### **This section includes:**

- Name and permanent address
- Email address and phone number
- Social security number, date of birth, driver's license
- Household size



#### **Who is the parent?**

[Reporting Parent Information |  
Federal Student Aid](#)

## COMPLETING THE FAFSA

### STEP 7: FINANCIAL INFORMATION

- IRS Data Retrieval Tool (IRS DRT) or manually
  - Parents and students may use the IRS DRT if filed
  - Parents enter their financials first
    - Tax return questions
    - Untaxed income questions

If you are eligible, you will see “Link to IRS” in the financial section of the online FAFSA application.

Transferred from the IRS = Success



***Easy - Fast - Accurate***

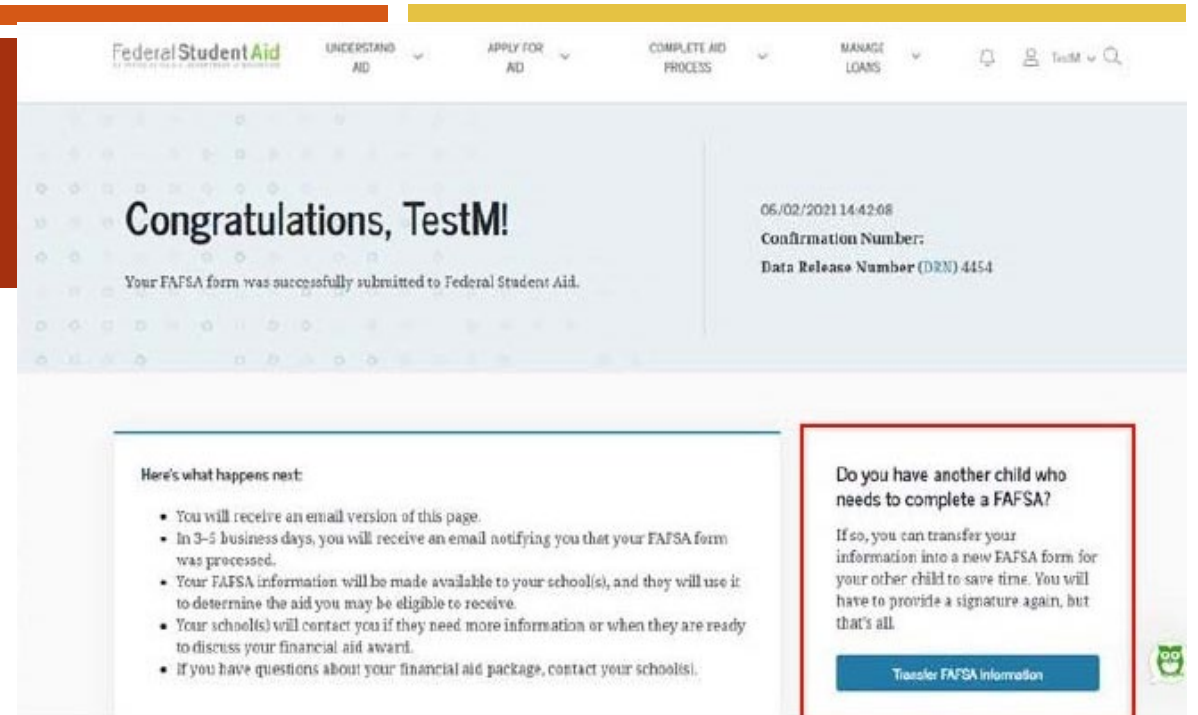
#### Not everyone is eligible for the IRS DRT

- The student/parent is married, and either the student/parent or his/her spouse filed as **Married Filing Separately**.
- The student/parent is married, and either the student/parent or his/her spouse filed as **Head of Household**.
- The parents' marital status is “**Unmarried**” and both legal parents living together
- The student/parent filed a Puerto Rican, foreign tax return, or an IRS Form 1040-NR or 1040NR-EZ.

# COMPLETING THE FAFSA

## STEP 8: SIGN & SUBMIT

- Review FAFSA Summary
- Signature Page
  - Students and parents will need their FSA ID to sign – be sure you don't get them mixed up!
  - Only one parent will need to sign the application – be sure to use the correct FSA ID
  - Some situations may require you to manually sign and mail in your application, even after completing it online
- Agreement of Terms
- Submit
- Review Next Steps



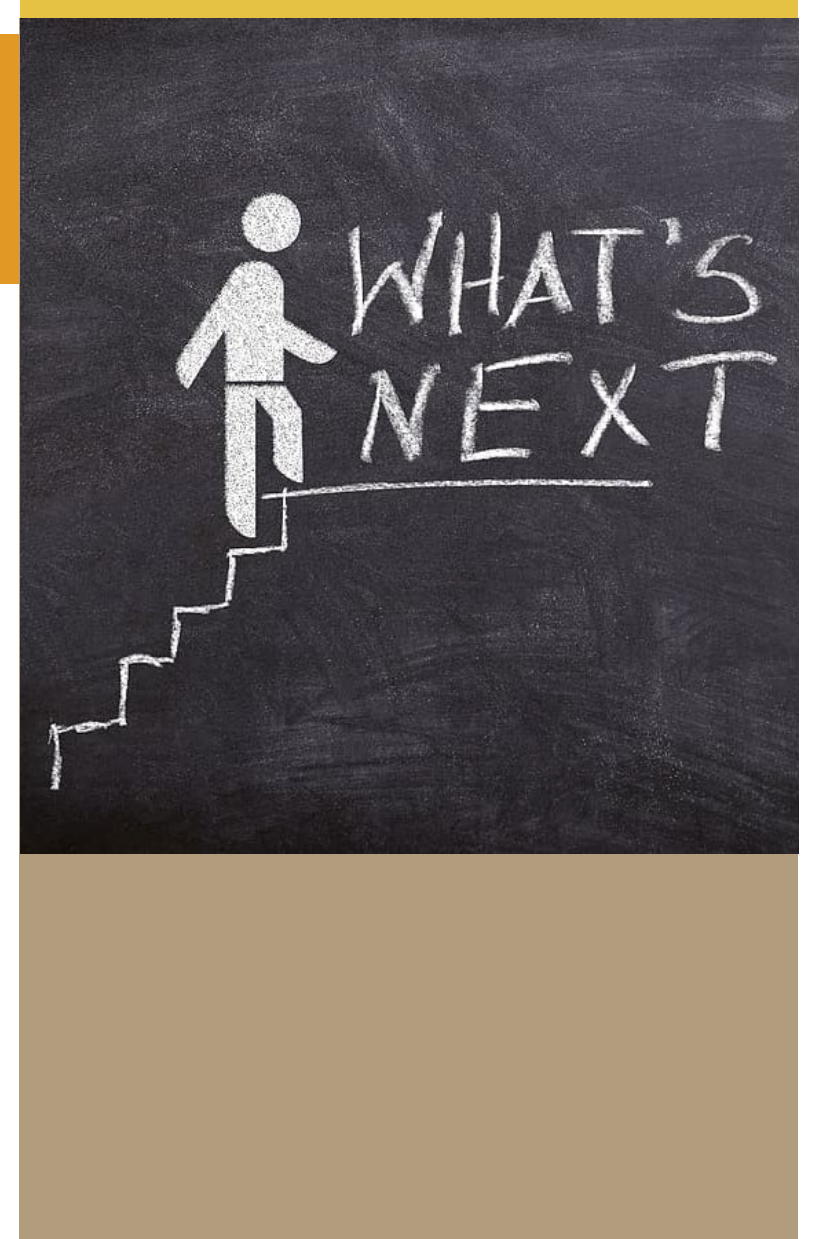
### Additional children?

Repeat the above steps as needed to complete the FAFSA for more children.



## FAFSA: NEXT STEPS

- **Online FAFSA** processed within **3 – 5 business days**
- **Paper FAFSA** processed within **10 - 14 business days**
  
- Student Aid Report (SAR)
  - Summary of FAFSA information
  - Expected Family Contribution (EFC)
  - Data release number (DRN)
  - FAFSA verification
  - Make corrections if necessary



# FAFSA TIPS

Visit [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov)  
Review FAFSA Info  
Create FSA ID

Gather Information Needed

Schedule FAFSA Time

Review FAFSA Before  
Signing

Review SAR

Watch for FAFSA Emails

# FEDERAL UPDATES: BIDEN-HARRIS ADMINISTRATION'S STUDENT DEBT RELIEF PLAN

## Part 1

- **Final extension of the student loan repayment pause**
  - Expires December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022
  - Repayment begins automatically – borrowers need to do nothing

## Part 2

- **Providing targeted debt relief to low and middle-income families**
  - Debt cancellation
    - Check your eligibility
    - Prepare – update contact info with servicer – sign up for Dept. of Ed communication
    - Submit the application (when available)
  - Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF)

## Part 3

- **Make the student loan system more manageable for current and future borrowers**
  - Create a new income-driven repayment plan

### Did you know?

**This is a three-part plan to help families transition back to regular repayment after pandemic-related support expires.**

For more information, please visit:  
[studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov)

Department of Education  
Subscription Page: [Subscriptions | U.S. Department of Education](#)

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# THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING!

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## **Tricia Poplicean**

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- Credit Union Student Choice

**Please contact us with any additional questions:**

- [scholarhelp@studentchoice.org](mailto:scholarhelp@studentchoice.org)

## **Schedule an Appointment**

- [Online Appointment Scheduler: College Counselor](#)