

# FAFSA® The FREE Application for Federal Student Aid Application Process

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is used to apply for federal, state and college-based financial aid.

You should file a FAFSA *as soon as possible* starting October 1.



## What you will need to file the FAFSA

- Social Security number.
- Alien registration number (if you're not a U.S. citizen).
- Most recent federal income tax returns, W-2s and other records of money earned.
- Bank statements and records of investments (if applicable).
- Records of untaxed income (if applicable).
- Parent's date of birth, social security number, marital status, and date parent was married, remarried, divorced or widowed
- An FSA ID to sign forms electronically. See reverse side for additional instructions about obtaining one.
- If you are a dependent student, you will also need most of the above information for your parent(s).

## TIP:

Unless you meet certain criteria, you are probably dependent. Visit [fafsa.gov](http://fafsa.gov), then click on the FAFSA Help section to determine if you are dependent or independent, and learn about how to fill out the form in more detail.

# FREE application at FAFSA.GOV



Federal Student Aid

Or, go mobile with the myStudentAid app to complete your FAFSA, available to download for iOS or Android.

The FAFSA is a free form. Students and parents don't need to pay to submit or have the form processed.





The FSA ID is the username and password you use to log in to and electronically sign your FAFSA.

It also confirms your identity when you access your financial aid information and sign federal student aid documents at other U.S. Department of Education websites.

Both the student and at least one parent of dependent students will need to create an FSA ID.



## TIP:

Set up active email accounts for both the student and one parent before applying for the FSA ID. Do not use a school email address!

1



Visit [fsaid.ed.gov](https://fsaid.ed.gov)

2



Create a memorable username and password.

3



Enter your name, date of birth, Social Security number, contact information and challenge answers and questions

4



Confirm your cell phone number using the secure code, which will be texted to the number you provided.

5



Confirm your email address using the secure code, which will be sent to the email address you entered when you created your FSA ID.

## TIP:

Keep track of your FSA ID since you'll use it frequently throughout the federal student aid application process.