

File the FAFSA at [studentaid.gov](http://studentaid.gov)  
The FAFSA won't take long to complete and requires both parent and student information.

**NEW** Direct Data Exchange (DDX)

The Direct Data Exchange inputs your tax information directly to the FAFSA. Everyone is **required** to consent to DDX, even if they didn't file taxes.



**PRO TIP:** Make sure your college(s) of choice are listed on your FAFSA. If corrections or updates are needed, complete them as soon as possible.

**NEW** FAFSA Submissions Summary (FSS)

After you submit the FAFSA form, you'll receive a FAFSA Submissions Summary. The FSS provides an estimated Student Aid Index (SAI) and estimated Pell Grant and student loan eligibility using information from your FAFSA.

### Financial Aid Offer

After your school receives your information, they send you a financial aid award offer that explains how much funding you're eligible to receive.



**PRO TIP:** Compare financial aid award offers to find out which one is best for you.



**PRO TIP:** Borrow only what you need. You don't have to accept the full amount of loans offered.

### Resources

- **Contact a Financial Aid office** - they love to help, and are the true experts on all things financial aid.
- **US Department of Education - [studentaid.gov](http://studentaid.gov)**  
This site includes tools to help you estimate your eligibility for federal student aid, and answers to common questions.



If you need financial aid to help you pay for college, you must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at [studentaid.gov](http://studentaid.gov).



**GOOD NEWS,** the revised "Better FAFSA" is now simpler and easier to complete than ever before. Here are a few of the changes that may affect you:

- **New deadlines**
- More students **will be eligible for Pell Grants**
- Families who receive federal benefits **may be exempt from providing asset information**
- **Reduced barriers** for at-risk students
- **Financial aid could decrease for:**
  - Families with **multiple children in college**
  - Families with **small businesses or farms**

### Pay Attention to the Deadlines

- The "Better FAFSA" will be available in Dec. 2023. Fill out as soon as possible! **Don't wait!**
- Check with your school for Priority Deadline.** The deadlines have changed this year.



**PRO TIP:** Missing the priority date could affect the amount of money you get for financial aid.

### Create an FSA ID at [studentaid.gov](http://studentaid.gov)

**Create it ahead of time.** FSA ID will be matched with Social Security information, and could take up to 3 days.

### Gather Information

**Have your documents ready.** Review our list of documents and have them ready when you fill out the FAFSA.

- FSA ID** (required for both parent and student)
- Driver's license** (if you have one)
- Social security number** (parent and student)
- Prior, prior year federal tax returns, W2 forms, and untaxed income records** (i.e. the 2024-2025 FAFSA, would use 2022 tax information)
- Information on savings/investments** (if applicable)
- List of the school(s)** you are interested in attending