

How to Apply for FAFSA

(Applications open October 1st of your senior year!)

What you Need:

- Your Social Security number
- Your family size and income (parent's tax information)
- Your personal income (if any)
- The list of colleges you're applying to. (It's okay if you don't know where you're going yet. List out **all** the schools you are considering)

Create Account

- Visit the the Federal Student Aid website [here](#).
- Once on the homepage, click "Get Started", and follow the steps to create a Federal Student Aid ID (FSA ID)
- Now that your FSA ID is created, visit the FAFSA website [here](#).
- Click "Start Here" to get started

Filling Out the Form

- Fill in Student information:
 - Name, Date of Birth, List of schools you're applying to, etc.
- Fill in Parent information:
 - Parent's name, address, etc.
 - **Fill this out even if you don't currently live with your parents!**
- Provide financial information:
 - Financial info for your household: your income (if any), and your parent's.
 - There is an option to use an IRS Data Retrieval Tool to automatically pull tax information
- Sign and submit your FAFSA
 - Double check the form is correct before submitting!
[\(Learn more here\)](#)

[Apply for FAFSA here](#)

I Applied. Now What?

Check Your Status

- Go to fafsa.gov or the myStudentAid mobile app and log in with your FSA ID username and password.
- The status of your application will be one of the following.
 - Processing: Your application is still processing. It typically takes three to five days, plus one additional business day to be made available to the schools you listed on the form.
 - Processed Successfully: Your application was processed successfully. No further action is needed.
 - Missing Signatures: Your application is missing the required signature(s).
 - Action Required: Your application requires further action. Contact your school to resolve the issue.

Review Your Student Aid Report (SAR)

The SAR is a summary of the FAFSA data you submitted. **You (the student) will get your SAR within three days to three weeks after you submit your FAFSA form.** Look over your SAR carefully, make sure you didn't make a mistake on your FAFSA form, and [make corrections to your FAFSA data](#) if necessary.

NOTE: The SAR **won't** tell you how much financial aid you'll get. Also, if you used the [Internal Revenue Service Data Retrieval Tool](#) (IRS DRT) when filling out your FAFSA form, the SAR won't show the details of your income and tax information.

How do you find out how much aid you'll get?

If you've been accepted at a college or career school that you listed on your FAFSA form, [the school will calculate your aid](#) and send you an electronic or paper [aid offer](#), sometimes called an [award letter](#), telling you how much aid you're eligible for at the school. The timing of the aid offer varies from school to school and could be as early as winter (awarding for the fall) or as late as immediately before you start school. It depends on when you apply and how the school prefers to schedule awarding of aid.

[\(Learn more here\)](#)