

FAFSA CHECKLIST

The FAFSA, Free Application for Federal Student Aid, is completed and filed by all college-bound and college-aged students and their parents. Filing the Application calculates the Expected Family Contribution (EFC), used in determining a student/family's eligibility for need-based financial aid.

Who needs to file the FAFSA?

Parents of Dependent Students who are:

- 24 years of age or younger
- Have no children of their own or other dependents
- Is not a ward of the state or was until the age of 18
- Not currently serving on active duty in the military
- Not a veteran
- Not working on their Master Degree

Other individuals who do not meet these dependent criteria may be determined to be independent students. All independent students file their FAFSA reporting individual financial information.

The FAFSA is completed and filed to provide critical information to ALL Colleges, Universities, other post-secondary institutions, Federal and State agencies, and many private external scholarship organizations.

How to Get Started

Step One - Register for an FSA ID- required for all students and one parent.

- Student: User ID and Password:
- Parent: User ID and Password:

Go to <https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm> to set up the FSA ID and password. Save the ID and Password in a location that is secure and easily retrievable. This information is vital to launch, e-sign, and the annual completion of the Application. Don't lose the ID and Passwords – hint hint

Step Two – Gather Important Household Information

- Financial and Demographic for both the Student AND Parent(s)
 - Demographics: name, social security #'s, address, driver's license (student)
 - 2020 Federal Tax Return – parent information is for those
 - 2020 W-2's & 1099
 - 2020 Untaxed Income
 - 2020 Pre-Tax Contribution to Retirement Accounts
 - Current balances of bank accounts (checking/savings)
 - The current value of College Savings Accounts, including 529 Plans
 - The current value of investments (non-retirement), disposable assets, and real estate (not primary home)
 - Name of college and universities: Intending to or considering applying to for admissions; list by state
 - Note: IRS Income Tax Return must be filed before attempting to complete the FAFSA

Step Three – Log-in, launch and complete the FAFSA Application at the Student Aid website

www.fafsa.gov