FAFSA: All About the FAFSA

FAFSA

What is the FAFSA?
The FAFSA is the Federal Application for Student Aid. By completing the FAFSA eligible students can receive federal aid that can include grants and loans.

Priority Deadline
States and schools have their own priority deadline. UMKC and the State of Missouri has a priority deadline of **February 1st**. The priority deadline is set to make sure students are eligible for as much financial aid as possible.

Expected Family Contribution (EFC)
Your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is an index number used to determine your eligibility for federal student financial aid. This number results from the financial information you provide on your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) form.

Cost of Attendance (COA)
Cost of attendance (COA) is a college's total estimated expenses for one year including tuition, room and board, books, supplies, transportation, loan fees, and miscellaneous expenses. A school's cost of attendance is used to determine each student's eligibility for financial aid such as grants and loans.

Financial Need
Financial Need is determined by taking the COA-EFC.

How to Apply

Application Methods
You can complete the FAFSA application through three different ways:

Paper- Mail	Website	App
You can mail it after downloading a pdf and filling it out.	You can complete it on the studentaid.gov website.	Complete the FAFSA through the myStudentAid app.

Information needed
In order to complete the FAFSA you will need:
- Social Security number
- Alien Registration Number
- Federal tax information or tax returns
- Records of untaxed income
- Cash, savings, and checking account balances
- Record of investments other than the home in which you live

IRS Data Retrieval Tool
A tool that can be used to retrieve and transfer tax information automatically into the FAFSA.

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Common Questions

Who's considered my parent?

A legal parent includes:

- Biological
- Adoptive
- Or a person that the state has determined to be your parent

If the parent you reside with is remarried, federal regulations require you to report your stepparent's information on the FAFSA.

What if my parents aren't legally separated?

Parents do not have to be legally separated to file the FAFSA as separated. Colleges may ask for proof of separate residences.

What if my parents/guardians are separated?

Report the information for the parent you lived with the most over the past 12 months, regardless of who claims you on their income taxes.

What if my parents are undocumented?

If the student is a resident or citizen, they're still eligible for federal aid. When the FAFSA asks for a parent's SSN, the parent needs to put in **000-00-0000**. The parent will not be eligible to use the IRS data retrieval tool and cannot electronically sign the document. The parent will have to print out the signature page and mail it.

What if my parents do not live in the United States?

If your parents are not U.S. citizens and live in a different country and you are a U.S. citizen or resident, you are still eligible for federal aid. If your parents are from/ live in Mexico or Canadian provinces enter **00000** for the zip code. If your parents live somewhere else, then the student should:

- Enter the city and country in the space for City (abbreviations are acceptable but must be understandable).
- Choose "Foreign Country" for the answer to the State question. Enter 00000 in the space for ZIP code.

Am I an independent or dependent student?

Dependent	Independent
• Does not meet criteria for being an independent student Most undergraduate students are dependent Dependent students **must include** their parents' information on the FAFSA Being dependent <u>does not mean</u> your parents financially support you in any way.	Meets one of the following: • At least 24 years old • Married • Graduate or professional student • Veteran or member of the armed forces • Orphan • Ward of the court • Legal dependents other than a spouse • Emancipated minor • Homeless or risk of becoming homeless