

Filing Your FAFSA





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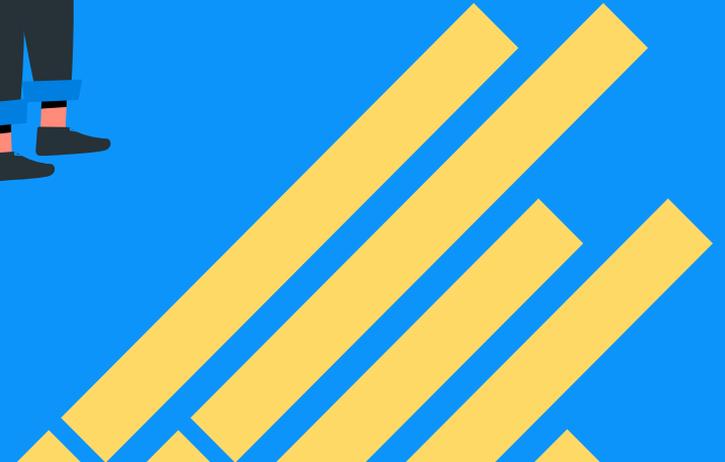
What other assistance is available?





FAFSA

What is the FAFSA?





True or False

Students must complete the FAFSA for every school year.





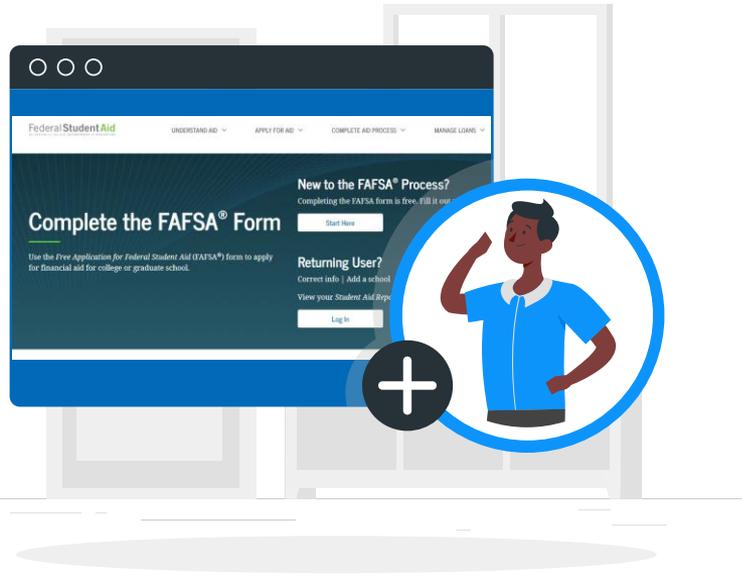
True or False

True

Students must complete the FAFSA every year to receive aid

What is the FAFSA?

www.studentaid.gov



What?

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid is used by the federal (and some state) governments to determine **eligibility for financial aid**.

When?

The FAFSA is made available on September 25th this year*. The Missouri deadline is **February 1st**.

Who?

Any student interested in federal student aid (grants, scholarships, or loans!) should complete the FAFSA.

*Typically, the FAFSA is available on October 1st.

Who is eligible?

Student

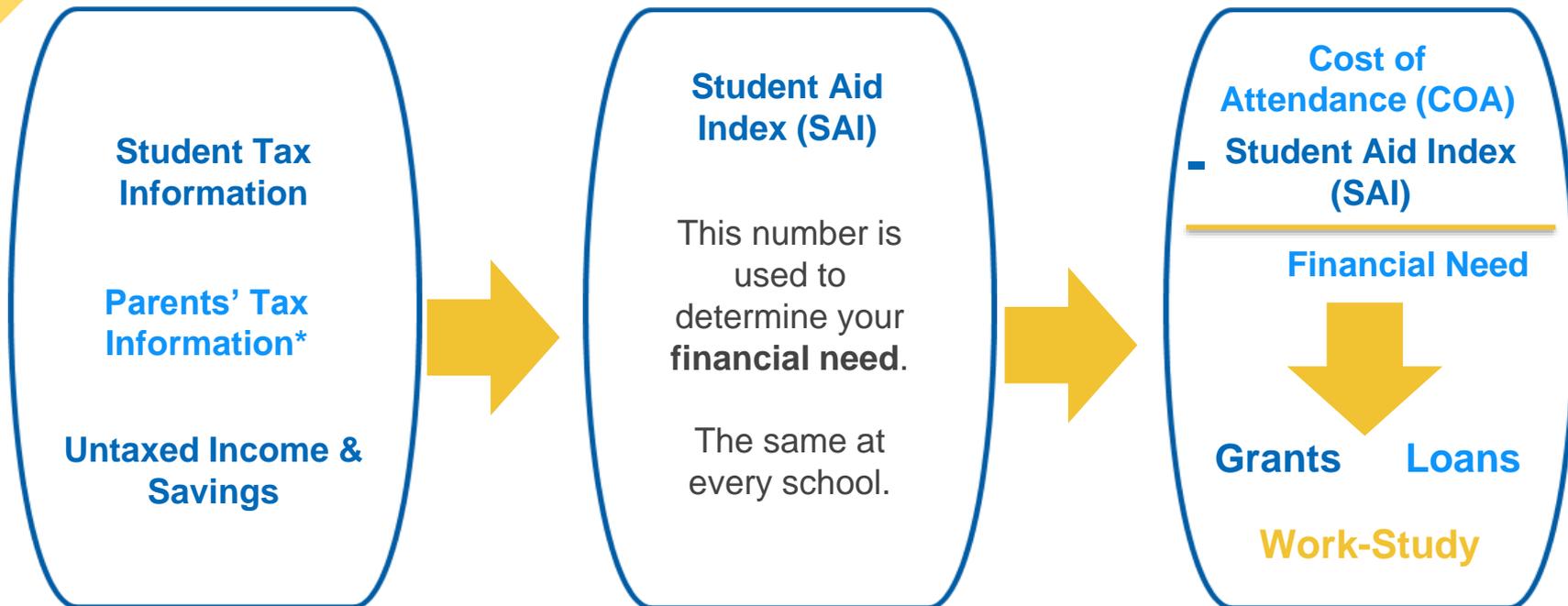
- U.S. Citizen
- U.S. Resident/Green Card Status
- U.S. National
- Arrival/Departure Record (I-94)
- Battered Immigrant Status
- T-visa or parent with T-1 visa

Parent(s)

A parent does not have to be a U.S. Citizen or U.S. resident for the student to be eligible for financial aid.



How does the FAFSA work?



* Parents' information is needed for dependent students. Dependency is not determined by tax filing status.

What is Cost of Attendance

Cost of Attendance is an **estimate** made by your school for your billable and nonbillable costs. Differs from school to school.



Tuition and Fees



Books and Supplies



Housing and Dining



Personal Expenses



Transportation

Financial Aid Calculation

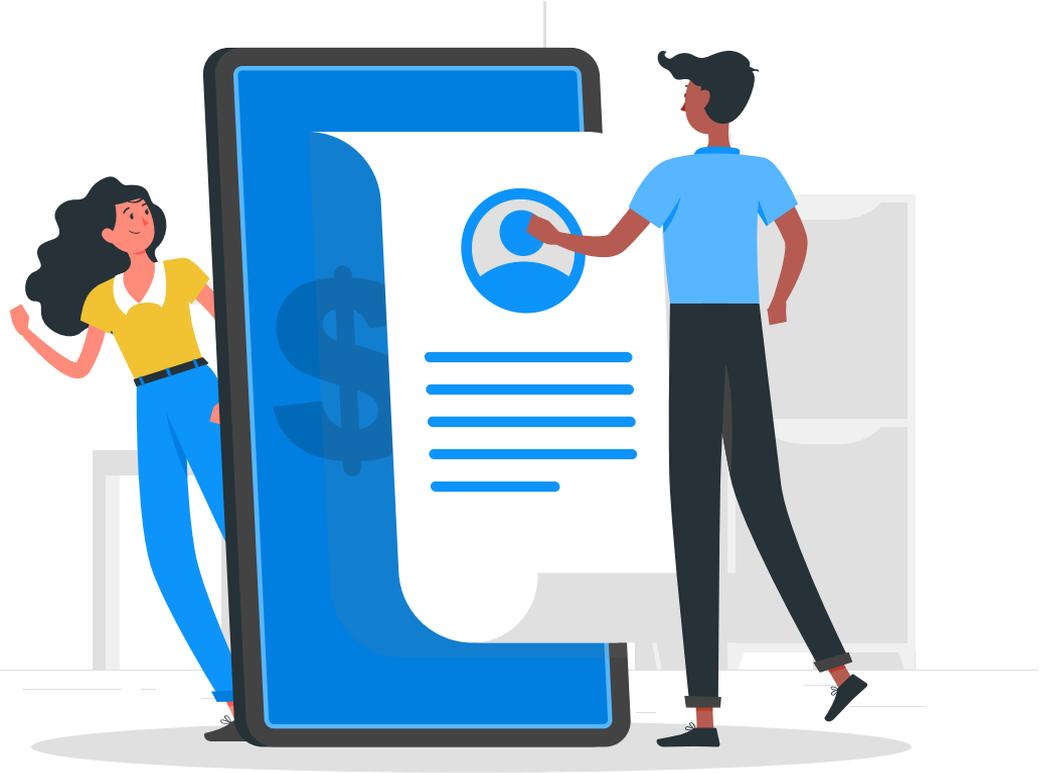


*Schools are **not** required to meet “full financial need.” Loans and grants have annual caps, and the totals **may not meet your student’s need.**

Student Aid

What financial aid is available?

2





True or False

Students may be eligible for more aid if they complete the FAFSA earlier





True or False

True

Some aid is first-come, first-served aid and will depend on when the student completes the FAFSA



Did you know?

\$4.4B

In Pell Grants went
unclaimed

Grants are a form of “gift aid” that do not need to be repaid. They are based on financial need, as determined by the FAFSA.

Federal Grants

Pell Grants
Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant

State Grants
(Missouri)

Access Missouri

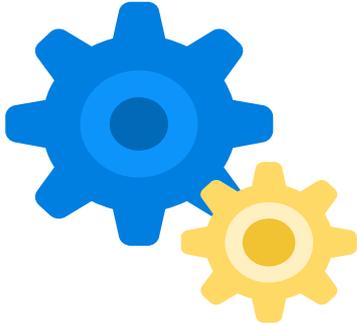
School Grants

Varies by School

Some grants are first-come, first-served so
complete the FAFSA early!

Scholarships

Automatic Scholarships



If you spend 2 hours on a \$1500 scholarship, you made
\$750 per hour!

Competitive Scholarships



Private Scholarships

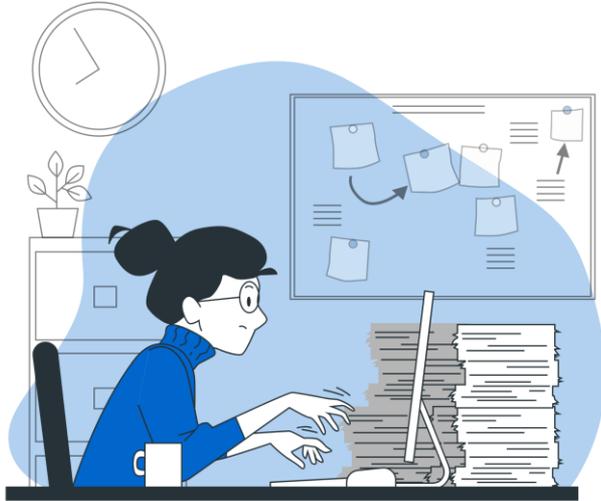


Pro Tip:

Look for automatic AND competitive scholarships to any schools you apply to!

How do I get a work-study job?

Part-time jobs for students with financial need



- **First-come, first-served** basis
- Must apply, be offered, and work a Work-study eligible job
- Earn up to the **award amount**
- Undergraduates are **paid hourly**
- Paycheck **does not** go directly to tuition and fees

What about Loans?

Loans can help cover gaps left after free and earned money.



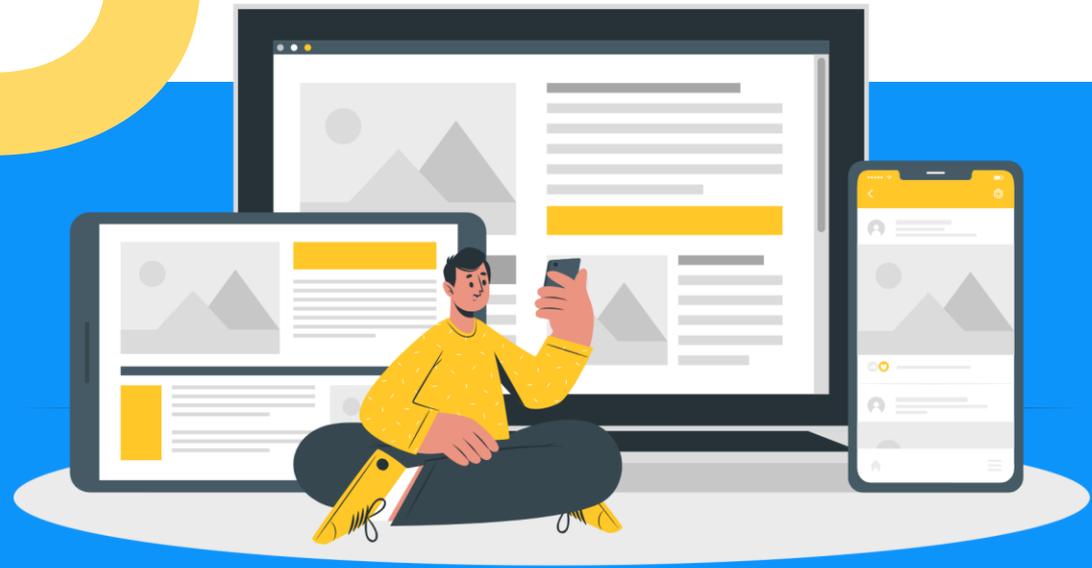
	Who is it for? (and Who pays?)	Interest?	Credit Check?
Direct Subsidized	Undergrad Students with Financial Need	Government pays interest while in school	No
Direct Unsubsidized	Undergrad, Grad & Professional	Interest accrues from disbursement (6.39%/7.94%*)	No
Parent PLUS	Parents of Undergrad Students	Interest accrues from disbursement (8.94%*)	Yes

When does repayment start?

- 6 months** after a student
- Graduates
 - Drops below half-time
 - Leaves school

The Federal Government sets maximums for loans based on the **year in school!**

3



How to apply



How can I apply for the FAFSA?



Website

The studentaid.gov website allows you to quickly complete the FAFSA.



Paper Application

The paper application is a slower process. It allows you to sign and mail it.

The FAFSA will be available in 11 common languages.

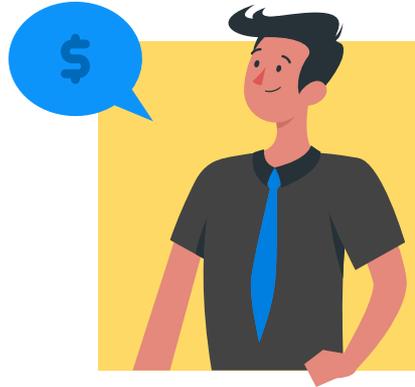
FSA ID & Password

All contributors need their own **FSA ID & Password** to complete the FAFSA. Answers on the FAFSA help identify who contributors are.



Students will need to create their FSA ID & Password using:

- Name
- Date of Birth
- Social Security Number
- Email (Don't use a HS email!)
- Phone number



Other Contributors may include parent(s) or a spouse and they will need the same information to create an account

All contributors **MUST CONSENT** to allow the FAFSA to directly transfer data from the IRS.

Who are my contributors?

Are your biological or adoptive parents married to each other?



Both your parents' information must be on the FAFSA. If they filed taxes jointly, only one needs to be a contributor, if separate, they must both contribute.



Do your biological or adoptive parents live together?



Marital status is unmarried and **both parents are contributors**- even if never married, divorced, or separated.



Did one parent provide more financial support than the other in the past 12 months?



Yes

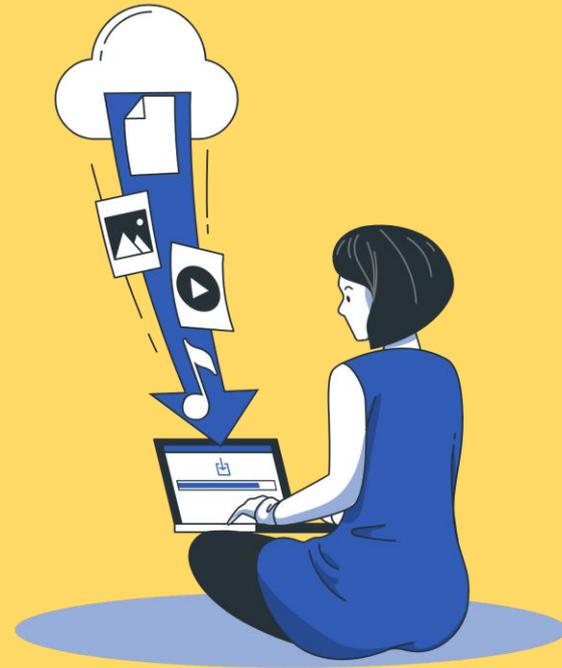
The parent who provided more support is the contributor and even if married but filing separate- the stepparent is too!

No

The parent with greater income or assets is the contributor and even if married but filing separate- the stepparent is too!

Gather Your Documents

- Student & Parents' Social Security Number (If they have them)
- Alien registration number (Eligible non-citizen)
- Federal Tax information or tax returns
- W-2
- Records of untaxed income (like child support)
- Cash, savings, and checking account balances
- Investments other than the home you live in
- List of Prospective Schools





Log In. Using your FSA ID and password you'll be able to log in directly to StudentAid.gov.

Fill out basic information. You'll be asked to review information pulled in through your FSA ID and answer a few questions about your family situation.

**Start the
FAFSA**



Consent to Import Federal Tax Information



What does it do?

Allows the FAFSA to import tax data from the IRS directly.

What if I don't?

If you decline, you must manually enter income data and you will not be eligible for federal student aid.

Summary

Your consent and approval is needed to retrieve and disclose federal tax information (FTI). With your consent and approval, we can obtain tax return information automatically from the IRS to help you complete the FAFSA[®] form. If you don't provide consent and approval, you will not be eligible for federal student aid, including grants and loans. You must provide consent and approval even if you didn't file a U.S. federal tax return or any tax return at all.

→ Get your 2024 tax return information for the 2025-2026 FAFSA form.

→ Tax return information is required to complete the FAFSA form.

→ FTI is used to determine your eligibility for federal student aid.

FAFSA Submission Summary (FSS)

After you submit the FAFSA form, you will receive a FAFSA Submission Summary (FSS) which summarizes the information you report and estimates aid.



Summary of
Responses



Student Aid
Index (SAI)



Estimated Eligibility
for federal student
loans and Pell grants

Review your FAFSA Submission Summary for mistakes. If you entered something incorrectly, you can go back into the FAFSA and correct or update your form.

You will receive instructions for how to access FSS within 3 days by email or 3 weeks for paper forms.



Common
Questions

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Familial Situations



Who's considered my parent?

A legal parent includes:

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

What if my parents/guardians are separated?

Report the information for the parent who provided more financial support over the last 12 months.

What if the parent identified above is remarried?

You will need to include financial information about the parent and stepparent.

Familial Situations



What if my stepparent does not provide any financial support for me?

Federal regulations require you to report your stepparent's information on the FAFSA if they are legally married.

Do I have to include my parents' information if they will not be paying for my education or financially supporting me?

Federal regulations require students to provide parental information unless they meet one of the following criteria:

- At least 24 years old
- Married
- Graduate or professional student
- Veteran or member of armed forces
- Orphan
- Ward of Court
- Legal dependents other than spouse
- Emancipated Minor
- Homeless or risk of homelessness

Familial Situations



What if my parents are undocumented?

If student meets eligibility criteria, the student can still receive aid.

Will need an FSA ID & Password*

Identity will be verified using questions similar to a credit report

Parents' citizenship status does not affect eligibility for federal student aid.

Common Concerns



Privacy

The federal law, FERPA, safeguards the privacy of educational records.

Residency/Citizenship Status

If your parents are undocumented, completing the FAFSA will not cause their status to be shared.

Tax Filing Status

The FAFSA is based on the prior, prior year's income and tax information. The 2026-2027 FAFSA will be using 2024 taxes.



Additional
Resources

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FederalStudentAid
An OFFICE OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

UNDERSTAND
AID

APPLY FOR
AID

COMPLETE AID
PROCESS

Help > Completing the FAFSA® Form

Completing the FAFSA® Form

Get answers to questions about how to fill out the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) form and browse common FAFSA questions.

Search

[Am I eligible to receive financial aid?](#)

There are some basic eligibility requirements such as having a Social Security number, enrollment in school, and more. Learn about the requirements for the federal student aid programs at: <https://studentaid.ed.gov/understand-aid/eligibility/requirements>.

[Are you considered a preparer for the purposes of filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA®\) form?](#)

A preparer is anyone who charges a fee for helping you fill out your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) form. If you're a student filling out your own FAFSA form or a relative or friend helping a student complete their form for free, you're NOT a preparer.

Additional Resources

[StudentAid.gov- Help Center](#)

[@FederalStudentAid on Instagram](#)

[University Financial Aid Offices](#)

[Education Opportunity Center at MCC](#)

816-604-4400

3100 Main Street, Ste 100, KCMO



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Questions?

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