Why the FAFSA® is important

(Like really, really important)

Filing the FAFSA® (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is your key to getting all kinds of financial aid for school—we're talking federal, state, and school aid. If you want to qualify for the most free money you can, and pay less out of your own pocket, you need to file the FAFSA®. Nearly everyone who submits the FAFSA® qualifies for some aid.

What you'll need to complete the FAFSA®

If you're a dependent student, you'll need this information for both you and your parents.

- You and your parents will need an FSA (Federal Student Aid) ID to access the FAFSA® and sign the form electronically. Apply for your FSA IDs at **studentaid.gov** 3-5 days before you plan on starting the FAFSA®.
- Your Social Security number
- Your parents' Social Security numbers (SSN). Parents without a social security number need to check the box stating "I do not have an SSN".
- **What's no longer needed?** Student and parent tax documents. All of this information will be automatically accessed from the IRS through the FUTURE Act Direct Data Exchange (FA-DDX).
- If your financial status has changed since you filed your 2023 taxes, you must complete the FAFSA® with the required information, and then follow up with your school's financial aid office for further advice.

Submission time frames

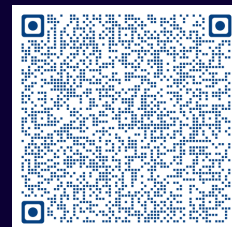| Academic year **2025 – 2026**	Academic year **2026 – 2027**	Academic year **2027 – 2028**
Submit your FAFSA® beginning **December 1, 2024**	Submit your FAFSA® beginning **October 1, 2025**	Submit your FAFSA® beginning **October 1, 2026**

FAFSA®Guide by sallie

Looking for FAFSA® help?

Our guide walks you through all the FAFSA® questions to help you answer correctly so you can maximize your financial aid for college.

salliemae.com/fafsaguide

STUDENTAID.GOV ACCOUNT WORKSHEET

FAFSA.gov

StudentAid.gov accounts are required for students and parents to access and electronically sign the FAFSA. Parent(s) of a dependent students will also need to create an account. *KEEP IN A SAFE PLACE.*

1   **ENTER AN EMAIL ADDRESS** _____
The email address must be unique to each individual. You will not be able to use the same email address for student and parent. DO NOT use high school email accounts.

2   **CREATE A USERNAME** _____
Must be 6-30 characters. Avoid using personal identifiers like your name or birthdate.

3   **CREATE A PASSWORD** _____
Must be 8-30 characters and contain upper- and lowercase letters and numbers. Avoid personal identifiers.

4   **COMPLETE YOUR PROFILE**
1. Enter your Social Security number, if you have one. Parents without Social Security numbers can create their own StudentAid.gov accounts.
2. Enter your birthdate
3. Enter your name exactly as it is listed on your social security card

StudentAid.gov accounts are confirmed within 3 to 5 days. Errors can cause delays.

5   **CHALLENGE QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**
There are four challenge questions and answers. Select the questions from drop down menus and provide your answers below.

1. _____   3. _____
2. _____   4. _____

6   **VERIFY YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS & MOBILE PHONE NUMBER**
FSA will send an email with a code that must be entered to verify your email address. FSA will send a text message with a code used to verify your mobile phone number.

7   **COMPLETE THE TWO-STEP VERIFICATION PROCESS**
To verify the information used to create your StudentAid.gov account username and password, you'll need to set up at least one verification method to utilize two-step verification. Use one of these options: SMS Text, Email or download an Authenticator app.

8   **KEEP TRACK OF IMPORTANT NUMBERS**
A backup code will be generated when you create your account or when you enable two-step verification. The backup code lets you access your account if you can't use the two-step verification method. If it gets lost, log in to your account and select "Generate a New Backup Code" under "Two-Step Verification" in Settings. Contact Federal Student Aid at 1-800-4-FED-AID for assistance. Save your backup code here: _____