

FAFSA CHECKLIST

Follow these steps to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) each year to apply for most types of financial aid.

1

Determine if you are an independent or dependent student

Independent: only report information about yourself and not your parent(s)

Dependent: report information about yourself and your parent(s) — most common

You are an **independent** student if at least **one** of the following is true about you:

- You will be 24 years of age or older as of Jan 2026
- You have a child or other dependent for whom you provide the majority of financial support
- You have a court-ordered legal guardian who is not your biological or adoptive parent
- You were in foster care at any point after age 13
- You were a ward of the court at any point after age 13
- You are married (but not separated or divorced)
- You are homeless or at risk of being homeless
- Your parents are incarcerated or deceased
- You are currently on active duty or are a veteran of the U.S. armed forces

If none of the above apply, you're a **dependent** student. If special circumstances prevent you from providing parental information, contact your college financial aid office.

2

All students need to collect the following information

Gather as many items on the list as you can, even if you're unable to collect them all.

- ☐ Student FSA ID username and password
- ☐ Picture or copy of your social security card (if applicable)
- ☐ Picture or copy of your green card (if applicable)
- ☐ Your 2024 federal tax forms (if applicable)
- ☐ Total current amount in your checking and savings accounts: \$ _____
- ☐ Net worth of your investments: \$ _____
- ☐ List of colleges you will apply to or current college you will continue attending

3

If you're a dependent student, collect this info for your parent(s). If your parents are divorced/separated, include info about the parent who provides the majority of your financial support. If that parent is remarried, include your stepparent.

General Information

Parent's current marital status: ☐ Single ☐ Married/Remarried ☐ Divorced/Separated
☐ Unmarried & living together ☐ Widowed

☐ FSA ID for one or both parents

PARENT 1

PARENT 2

Full name (same as FSA ID): _____

Date of birth: _____

Social Security number or ITIN: _____

Email address: _____

Parent's move date to current state: _____

Tax Information

☐ 2024 federal tax forms (1040 and all schedules)

☐ If 2024 taxes were not filed, what was the reason? _____

Financial Information

☐ Total current amount in checking and savings account(s): \$ _____

☐ Net worth (value minus debt) of current stocks, bonds, mutual funds, 529 plans, etc.: \$ _____

☐ Net worth of investment/rental property/rented portion of your home: \$ _____

☐ Net worth of parent-owned business(es) and/or family farm(s): \$ _____

☐ Amount of child support received in the past year for all children: \$ _____

☐ Federal benefits (SNAP, WIC, TANF, etc.) received in 2024/2025: _____

**Certain situations may impact how you report information on the FAFSA.
Contact your college(s) if:**

- Your family's income has significantly changed since 2024 or after submitting your FAFSA
- You and your family are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless
- Your parent's marital status has changed since 2024
- You have concerns about your or your parents' citizenship status
- Other major life/financial changes have occurred recently



Click/scan for tax
form examples and
other resources