

Practitioner FAQ: Appeals and the 2024-25 FAFSA

Appealing during the financial aid process is essential for those with circumstances not adequately explained on the FAFSA or other financial aid forms. With the changes on the 2024-25 FAFSA, for many students, appealing will play an important role in accessing the financial aid they need to make attending and persisting in college a reality. Below are some FAQs about how the 2024-25 FAFSA may create additional reasons to appeal.

Have changes to the 2024-25 FAFSA created new reasons a student may want to appeal?

Due to changes in the federal methodology, a student may want to appeal if they have siblings in college or if they or their parent(s) filed as married in 2022 but now file as single or head of household. As with previous years, there are also other reasons students should appeal, such as decreases in income from 2022 or loss of employment.

Will all colleges consider siblings in college and changes to tax filing status acceptable reasons to appeal?

It depends. With professional judgment appeals, colleges can determine how they want to treat different circumstances. Some colleges may accept these appeals and adjust the information reported on the FAFSA, while others may not.

What is the ideal timeline for submitting an appeal to consider additional information beyond what was reported on the FAFSA?

Students should contact the financial aid office soon after submitting their financial aid application(s) to understand each college's professional judgment appeals process. If the college will let the student appeal BEFORE receiving their financial aid offer, we recommend they do that.

Can students still appeal after receiving their financial aid offer?

Yes, students can wait to appeal until after receiving a financial aid offer. Still, we recommend that students appeal as soon as they know there is additional information for the college to consider. Colleges have limited financial aid, and the availability of financial aid funds can decrease later in the process.

For more information about appeals and guidance for students on how to write an appeals letter, check out [SwiftStudent](#).