

# Information about the 2024–25 FAFSA

We want to keep you informed about upcoming changes to the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** for the 2024–25 academic year. These changes, brought about by the federal FAFSA Simplification Act, are designed to make the financial aid process easier for your family and to better determine aid eligibility.

*Note that the following information is subject to change, we are waiting on further guidance from the U.S. Department of Education.*

## FAFSA availability

The FAFSA is typically available on Oct. 1. However, for the 2024–25 academic year, it will be available by **December 31, 2023**. This change applies to all schools and should not significantly impact current students. This is only for the 2024-25 academic year.

## Prepare for the FAFSA

While the 2024-2025 FAFSA won't be available late December, you can still prepare by doing the following:

1. Create an FSA ID on the Federal Student Aid website and assist contributors, such as your parent(s) or spouse, in creating an FSA ID.
  - o An FSA ID is an account and password that gives you access to the Federal Student Aid's online system and serves as your electronic signature.
  - o With the FSA ID, you can fill out the FAFSA when it's available, sign your Master Promissory Note (MPN), apply for repayment plans, complete loan counseling, and use the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Help Tool.
2. Complete the FAFSA as soon as it opens.

# Vocabulary changes

The FAFSA will introduce new terminology:

- **Student Aid Index (SAI)**: Replaces the Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) and measures your ability to pay for college
- **FAFSA Submission Summary**: Replaces the Student Aid Report (SAR) and summarizes your submitted FAFSA via email
- **Federal Tax Information (FTI)**: Describes financial data from the IRS
- **Direct Data Exchange (DDX)**: Replaces the Data Retrieval Tool (DRT) as the method for FTI retrieval

# FAFSA form changes

When you complete the FAFSA, you will notice that it is significantly shorter. Nearly 70 questions have been removed for most filers. Additionally, many questions have been re-worded for additional clarity.

The FAFSA form can now be started by either the student or the parent. Read on to learn about a few of the changes coming to the 2024–25 FAFSA form.

# Who is included on the FAFSA?

## Who is my parent?

For dependent students, the FAFSA will use the following flow chart to help you understand which parent's information you will need to include on the FAFSA.

- Are parents married to each other? If yes, list both.
- Are parents unmarried and living together? If yes, list both.
- If none of the above apply, did one parent provide more financial support than the other over the last 12 months? If yes, list that parent.
  - If this parent is remarried, the stepparent's information should also be included on the FAFSA.
- If one parent did not provide more financial support, the student should list the parent with the greater income or assets.
  - If this parent is remarried, the stepparent's information should also be included on the FAFSA.

## Contributors

Contributors are individuals who will need to provide FTI on the FAFSA.

**All contributors to the FAFSA will be required to have an FSA ID to log in to the FAFSA form. This includes non-citizen parents.**

### How are Contributors determined?

The student's or parent's answers will determine which contributors (if any) will be required to provide information.

### What do Contributors need to provide?

These contributors will be invited to complete their portion of the FAFSA form by entering their name, date of birth, Social Security number, and email address. They must also provide personal and financial information in their own sections of the FAFSA form.

A contributor is not a Grandparent, foster parents, legal guardian, brother or sister, aunt or uncle, even if they helped provide for or raise the student.

A Contributor on the FAFSA form doesn't mean they are financially responsible for the student's education costs.

### What are the steps Contributors must follow?

1. Contributor receives an email informing them that they've been identified as a contributor.
2. Contributor creates a StudentAid.gov account if they don't already have one.
3. Contributor logs in to account using their FSA ID account username and password.
4. Contributor reviews information about completing their section of the FAFSA form.
5. Contributor provides the required information on the student's FAFSA form.

### What if I am a Contributor and don't want to provide my information in my student's FAFSA?

Being a contributor does NOT implicate financial responsibility. However, if a required contributor refuses to provide their information, it will result in an incomplete FAFSA form, and the student will become ineligible for federal student aid.

# Consent, Taxes & Financial Data

## Financial data transfer

All contributors must consent to FFI transfer for aid eligibility. **Non-consent means the student is ineligible for Federal Student Aid.** This consent does not imply financial responsibility to pay for college by any party.

## What happens if I, as a student, or a spouse or parent, don't want to provide consent on the FAFSA?

If a student, spouse, or parent doesn't provide consent on the FAFSA, the Student Aid Index (SAI) will not be calculated, and the student will not be eligible for any federal aid.

## What if I had a low income and was not required to file taxes?

According to the [IRS tax year 2022, these are the thresholds by filing status](#). If an independent student (and spouse, if married), or a parent of a dependent student, were not required to file a federal income tax return for 2022, then the student will automatically receive a Student Aid Index (SAI) equal to -1500. They still need to provide consent when submitting the FAFSA, so the IRS can confirm to Federal Student Aid (FSA) the student, parents, and spouse didn't file taxes.

## If parents that are remarried provide more support to the child than a biological parent, does the stepparent have to provide their taxes information?

Yes. If the parent providing more financial support is remarried, the stepparent's tax information is required.

## What if my parent or stepparent does not want to provide their tax information for my FAFSA?

Our Federal Aid Counselors can offer to talk directly with the parent or stepparent to explain why that information is needed and answer any questions, which sometimes puts them at ease about how their sensitive info will be used. However, we cannot provide tax advice.

## What happens if a contributor provides consent but doesn't sign the application?

Starting 2024-25, there will be only two options for filing a FAFSA form: electronically, through [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov), or the option to file on paper which will also be available. However, once an application is started online, all parties must complete it online. So that means that if a signature is missing, the parent or the contributor that needs to complete their section and/or sign the application must obtain an FSA ID and get into the application and complete their section.

There is no option to print a signature page any longer. For this reason, financial aid administrators will not be able to accept a signed signature page to submit on behalf of the student and/or parent.

## In what situations will there be a match with IRS, but IRS wouldn't provide information?

Fraud or identity theft are the most likely reasons for the IRS not providing tax information to the applicant or the contributor. If the contributor has been flagged by the IRS, possibly due to identity theft or a breach of some sort to their information, then the IRS response code will be IRS enabled to provide information.

## New eligibility calculation

To expand Pell Grant access, the FAFSA will use new eligibility calculations, including the SAI, which can go as low as -1,500. Current students may see changes in Pell eligibility. An estimation tool will be available on [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov).

## Siblings in college

Beginning with academic year 2024–25, the number of children in college no longer impacts the SAI, potentially affecting aid eligibility for some families.

## Family farms and small businesses

- Farm net worth now includes family farms but excludes primary residences. It comprises land, buildings, livestock, crops, and machinery.
- The net worth of all businesses must be reported, regardless of size or employee count.