

Frequently Asked FAFSA Questions

What is my dependency status?

If you can answer “yes” to any of the following statements, you are an independent student and will not have to provide parental information. If you cannot answer “yes” to any of the following statements, you are a **dependent student and will be asked to provide parental information for program reporting requirements and for the completion of the FAFSA.**

- > I was born before January 1, 1996 (if completing the 2019-20 FAFSA)
- > I was born before January 1, 1997 (if completing the 2020-21 FAFSA)
- > I am married (regardless of gender – considered legally married in the state or other jurisdiction in which the marriage took place)
- > I am serving as active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces for purposes other than training
- > I am a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces
- > I have or will have children who I provide more than half of their support (July 1 – June 30)
- > I have dependents (other than children or spouse) who live with me and I provide more than half of their support (July 1 – June 30)
- > Since turning age 13, both of my parents were deceased
- > I was in foster care since turning 13
- > I was a dependent or ward of the court
- > I am currently or I was a legally emancipated minor as determined by a court (released from control by my parent or guardian)
- > I am currently or I was in legal guardianship (court appointed to someone other than parents). Note: Custody is different from guardianship.
- > I will be working on a master's degree or doctoral program (e.g., MA, MBA, MD, JD, PhD, EdD)
- > I have a special circumstance with approved documentation from Financial Aid
- > At any time on or after July 1, 2018 I am an unaccompanied youth who is homeless* or I am self-supporting and at risk of being homeless*, as determined by (a) a high school or district homeless liaison, (b) the director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, or (c) the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program.*

***“Homeless” strictly means lacking fixed or regular housing. This includes living in shelters, parks, motels, hotels, cars, or temporarily living with someone else because you have nowhere else to go. Unaccompanied means that you’re not in the physical custody or care of a parent or guardian. Youth means you are 21 years of age or younger or are still enrolled in high school. If you do not have a determination that you are homeless or an unaccompanied youth who is homeless or self-supporting and at risk of being homeless, contact your financial aid office to explain your situation.*

What should I bring to my appointment?

2019 – 2020 FAFSA: July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020 | 2017 Income | Fall 2019/Spring 2020/Summer 2020

2020 – 2021 FAFSA: July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021 | 2018 Income | Fall 2020/Spring 2021/Summer 2021

- > Your (and your parents’, if dependent) social security card, picture ID, and permanent registration card (if applicable)
- > Your (and your spouse’s, if married; or your parents’, if dependent) 2017 and/or 2018 federal tax return, W2s, and untaxed income records (i.e., Social Security, Family Independence [FI], welfare, or veteran benefit records)
- > Documentation of untaxed financial assistance (i.e., child support, in-kind support)
- > Your (and your spouse’s, if married; or your parents’, if dependent) current balance of cash, savings, and checking accounts; net worth of investments (including real estate); and net worth of current businesses or investment farms (do not include family business or farm with 100 or fewer full-time employees)
- > Completed FAFSA Pre-Application Worksheet (for parents of dependent students) located on EOC website or available for pick up in EOC office

What is my FSA ID?

All students and parents of dependent students will be required to create a Federal Student Aid (FSA) ID (username and password). Your FSA ID confirms your identity when you access your federal student aid information and electronically sign documents. Go to fsaid.ed.gov to set up or retrieve your account information.

What information do students/parents need?

- > Social security card
- > A valid personal email address and/or a mobile phone number – The email address and/or mobile phone number may only be used for one individual and should be accessible immediately. We advise you not to use a high school email account.

Please note: Students and/or parents who filed their income tax return are encouraged to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool when completing the Financial Information section of the FAFSA. Users will need to authenticate their identity before any personal information is retrieved.