

FAFSA - Completing your Financial Aid Application

When will FAFSA be opened? As of now, no date has been set. Many schools and websites list December 1st as the opening date. FAFSA has stated this date is tentative and only used as a reference or timeframe. ***As of December, the new tentative date is now December 31st.***

While we wait for new information about when the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) will be available, now is the perfect time to get your FSA IDs set up. That way, they are ready to complete and submit the FAFSA® as soon as it becomes available.

What is an FSA ID?

An FSA ID is a username and password that is required to log in to certain U.S. Department of Education (ED) websites. Your FSA ID identifies you as someone who has the right to access your own personal information on ED websites such as the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®).

Why do you recommend doing this now?

Processing a new FSA ID can take up to 5 business days. By getting those IDs now, it means your students and their families will be ready to complete and submit the FAFSA® once it's available and not have to wait for their FSA IDs to process.

Who needs an FSA ID?

Beginning with the 2024–25 FAFSA®, all contributors (student, student's spouse, and/or parent) must have their own FSA ID.

How does someone get an FSA ID?

To create an FSA ID, please go to studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch.

Students - you will need your social security number to set up your FAFSA ID. It should only take 5-10 minutes to complete.

Parents/Guardians - you will also need to set up your own FAFSA ID. You will have a separate account from your student and will complete the application process with them once the date opens up. If you have already set this up for a previous student who's graduated, you can use the same FAFSA ID.

What if the student or contributor doesn't remember their FSA ID or is not sure if they have one?

To retrieve a forgotten FSA ID or password, please go to studentaid.gov/fsa-id/sign-in/landing and click either the "Forgot my Username" or "Forgot my Password" links.

What if the parent of a student doesn't have a Social Security Number (SSN)?

Those contributors without an SSN, but whose student is eligible to apply for federal student aid, will need an FSA ID. However, they cannot yet create an FSA ID without an SSN. We expect this access to be available around the same time the FAFSA® is released.

Completing the FAFSA application or completing an exempt form is required by the Illinois State Board of education for seniors to graduate high school. Exempt forms are available on the FAFSA website and in the BHS Counseling Office. You will need to print a copy, sign, and return to the school counselor.

FAFSA 2024-2025

To qualify for financial aid, scholarships, and many work-study programs at any college, university, or trade school, you must complete the FAFSA application.

Preparing to complete the application with your student(s) once the application opens - Parents/guardians will need 2022 tax returns and will need the exact name and address information listed on those tax returns.

If you have any questions about parental responsibility, divorce, custody situations, or any other special circumstances, please contact the school counselor.

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