



2019/2020 HOW TO APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID

A simple 4-step guide to applying for Financial Aid.

For the Fall 2019, Spring 2020, and the Summer 2020 semesters, you will complete the 2019/2020 FAFSA

When applying for Federal Student Aid, whether it be Grants (money you do not have to repay), Loans, or Lottery Tuition Assistance, you'll need to complete the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**. In order to correctly complete the FAFSA, your first step is to determine whether you are classified a "Dependent" student or an "Independent" student. The way you accomplish that is to review the questions found below and place a check mark by each statement that applies to you. So let's get started.

IF you are already sure of your Dependency status, you may skip this section.

YES___ NO___ Was I born before January 1, 1996?

YES___ NO___ As of today, am I married (answer "YES" if you are separated but not divorced)?

YES___ NO___ At the beginning of the academic year, will I be working on a graduate degree such as an MBA, PhD, EdD, etc...? (I understand that if I am enrolling in a two-year institution, I must answer "NO", even, if I already have an undergraduate degree).

YES___ NO___ Am I CURRENTLY serving on Active Duty in the U.S. Armed Forces or was I on Active Duty at the time I completed my FAFSA)?

YES___ NO___ Am I a Veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces?

YES___ NO___ Do I have (or will I have) children who will receive MORE THAN half of their support from me between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020?

YES___ NO___ Do I have Dependents (other than children or a spouse) who resides with me that I provide MORE THAN half of their support now and through June 30, 2020?

YES___ NO___ At any time since I turned age 13, were both of my parents deceased, was I in Foster Care, or was I a Dependent or Ward of the Court?

YES___ NO___ As determined by a court in my state of LEGAL residence, am I or was I an emancipated minor?

YES___ NO___ Does someone other than my parent or stepparent have LEGAL GUARDIANSHIP of me as determined by a court in my state of LEGAL residence. I understand that any court documents which may have placed me in the custody of another must state "GAURDIANSHIP". ("Legal Custody" or "Sole Custody" is NOT Guardianship).

YES___ NO___ At any time on or after July 1, 2018, did my High School or School District Homeless Liaison determine that I was an "un-accompanied youth" who was homeless or was self-supporting AND at the risk of being homeless?

YES___ NO___ At any time on or after July 1, 2018 did the director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program, funded by the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, determine that I was an un-accompanied youth who was homeless or was self-supporting and at the risk of being homeless?

YES___ NO___ At any time on or after July 1, 2018 did the director of a away or Homeless Youth Basic Center or transitional living program determine that I was an un-accompanied youth who was homeless or was self-supporting and at the risk of being homeless?

If you checked "NO" to all of the questions, then you are considered to be "Dependent". If you checked "YES" to just one of the questions, then you are considered to be "Independent".*

***NOTE:** *Dependency classification is determined by the Department of Education (DOE) and is not based on whether the student was claimed as a Tax Exemption by a parent or whether the student claimed themselves; whether the student resides with parents or live away from parents, or the fact that the student may be self-supporting. For **Financial Aid** purposes, only the above questions pertain to dependency status.*

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Now that you've determined your dependency status, your second step will be to gather information needed to complete your FAFSA. Below is a list of the information students will need in order to complete a FAFSA.

DEPENDENT STUDENT

___ My SSN: _____ - ____ - _____

___ My parent's SSNs: Parent 1: _____ - ____ - _____ Parent 2: _____ - ____ - _____

___ My Driver's License number: _____

___ My Date of Birth: ____ / ____ / _____

___ My e-Mail address: _____ @ _____

___ At least one parent's e-Mail address: _____ @ _____

___ My parent's Dates of Birth: Parent 1: ____ / ____ / _____ Parent 2: ____ / ____ / _____

___ My parent's Current Marital Status [married, separated or divorced]: ___ Married ___ Separated ___ Divorced

___ My parent's Marital Status Date [the month and year my parents were married, separated or divorced]: ____ / _____

___ My phone number: _____

___ My 2017 income information [Tax Return and W-2(s)] *see note*

___ My parent's 2017 income information [Tax Return and W-2(s)] *see note*

"Dependent" students are required to include parental information on their FAFSA, even they do not reside with their parents.

INDEPENDENT STUDENT

___ My SSN: _____ - ____ - _____

___ My Driver's License number: _____

___ My Date of Birth: ____ / ____ / _____

___ My e-Mail address: _____ @ _____

___ My phone number: _____

___ My 2017 income information [Tax Return and W-2(s)] *see note*

___ My spouses 2017 income information [Tax Return and W-2(s)] *see note*

"Independent" students do not need parental information, however; if they are married, they are required to provide spousal information even if they were not married prior to completing the FAFSA.

NOTE: It is highly advisable to use the **IRS Data Retrieval Tool** on the FAFSA website. This insures accuracy, greatly speeds up the Financial Aid process and will place you ahead of the game.

OK, now that you have everything needed to complete the FAFSA, it's time for step three, which is to apply for a **Federal Student Aid ID (FSAID)**. You will use an FSA ID not only to sign your FAFSA, but also for future access to it.

Log in to <https://www.fsaaid.ed.gov> and simply follow the step-by-step process to set up your FSA ID. (Remember, if you're "Dependent", a parent will also have to apply for an FSA ID). It is a good idea to record your **FSAID Username** and **Password**.

MY USERNAME: _____ **MY PASSWORD:** _____

PARENT USER NAME: _____ **PARENT PASSWORD:** _____

Now that you have an **FSA ID**, it's time for the fourth and final step; completing your FAFSA. Log on to www.fafsa.gov and follow the Instructions associated with the FAFSA. "Helpful Hints" for each section of the FAFSA will appear on the right hand side of the screen to help guide you through the process. Don't forget to add SCC to your FAFSA. The SCC School Code is: 003994.

Congratulations! You've completed your FAFSA. It's time now to sign your FAFSA with your FSA ID and after signing, be sure to click the **SUBMIT** button. Once submitted, print a copy of your "Confirmation" Page for future reference.