

# Filing the FAFSA

## What students need to know



### When to apply

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) applications can be filed starting October 1 each year.

Remember: Financial aid deadlines aren't the same as college admission deadlines. The FAFSA must be filed every year a student is in school.

### What do you need?

If you're a dependent student, you'll need this information for you and your parents

- Social Security number
- Alien Registration number (if you aren't a U.S. citizen)
- Federal income tax return, W-2s, and other records of money earned; you may be able to transfer your federal tax return information into your FAFSA using the IRS Data Retrieval Tool.
- Bank statements and investment records (if applicable)
- Records of untaxed income (if applicable)
- An FSA ID so you can sign the form electronically

### Why FAFSA matters

The FAFSA gives families and students access not just to federal loans, but also state aid, if it's available. Many colleges offer their own aid too, although it's usually limited. Students should check [fafsa.ed.gov](https://fafsa.ed.gov) for their state's deadlines and their colleges' websites for those deadlines.

Submit the FAFSA at [fafsa.ed.gov](https://fafsa.ed.gov)

### Submission time frames and tax information\*

College academic year  
**Fall 2020 – Spring 2021**

Submit your FAFSA beginning  
**October 1, 2019 through June 30, 2021**  
You can use your tax info from **2018**

College academic year  
**Fall 2021 – Spring 2022**

Submit your FAFSA beginning  
**October 1, 2020 through June 30, 2022**  
You can use your tax info from **2019**

College academic year  
**Fall 2022 – Spring 2023**

Submit your FAFSA beginning  
**October 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023**  
You can use your tax info from **2020**

\*Source: <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa>. FAFSA application submission time frames and required tax information are projected based on information provided in the September 14, 2015 IFAP FAFSA filing date change announcement (also referenced as the Dear Colleague letter). Please check StudentAid. Ed.Gov/Sa/FAFSA prior to each academic year for the most up-to-date FAFSA information.