



**2019-2020 (FAFSA)**  
***Free Application for Federal Student Aid***

[www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov)

College Financial Aid season kicked off October 1, 2018 as the 2019-2020 Free Application for Federal Financial Aid opened for filing.

**Important:** Anyone who wants to access the billions of dollars of federal financial aid awarded each year including grants, loans, and work study, has to complete the FAFSA. The information you report on the form is used by the U.S. Department of Education to calculate your Estimated Family Contribution, or EFC. The number is used by colleges to determine your family's level of financial need.

**FAFSA TOPICS:**

- [Creating an FSA ID](#)
- [Gathering the Documents Needed to Apply](#)
- [Getting Help](#)
- [Starting Your FAFSA Form and Providing Your Basic Personal Information](#)
- [Listing Colleges and/or Career Schools](#)
- [Determining Your Dependency Status](#)
- [Reporting Parents' Information](#)
- [Providing Financial Information](#)
- [What to Do If Your Parents' \(or Your\) Marital Status Has Changed Since Taxes Were Filed](#)
- [Automatically Transferring Your Tax Information Using the Internal Revenue Service Data Retrieval Tool \(IRS DRT\)](#)
- [Signing and Submitting the FAFSA Form](#)
- [Taking the Next Steps](#)



## Complete the 2019-2020 FAFSA ([www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov))

**Everyone should fill out a FAFSA, even if you think your family earns too much money to qualify for need-based aid.** Aside from the federal government, many states and private scholarship organizations use the FAFSA to award their aid, and some private colleges routinely award aid to families with six-figure incomes. Aside from need-based aid, the form is required for work study and to take out a federal student loan, which are cheaper and safer than private loans.

**STEP 1:** Start by [creating an FSA ID](#). You will need an FSA ID for the student and for the guardian. Before you begin completing the FAFSA, parents will need to collect the 2017 tax return, W-2 forms and current bank statements. The 2017 tax information will be used to apply for the school year that starts in the fall of 2019. You will also need Social Security numbers for both, student & parent FSA IDs. **Some of the most common FAFSA errors occur when the student and parent mix up their FSA IDs. If you don't want your financial aid to be delayed, it's extremely important that each parent and each student create his or her own FSA ID and that they do not share it with ANYONE, not even with each other.**

### **Double Check College/University Deadlines**

While the amount of federal grants you qualify for is not affected by when you file the form, states and colleges do set priority deadlines for financial aid. In as many as 10 states, aid is first-come, first-served, meaning it is best to fill out the form early. Submitting it by the end of the year is ideal.



**LOOK  
WHAT'S  
NEW!**

**You Can File the 2019-2020 FAFSA from Your Phone!!**

For the first time, students and their parents can download a mobile app to fill out the form. This means you can work on the FAFSA from anywhere. You can start it on your phone and finish it online if you'd like. The app, called myStudentAid, also allows you to manage your FSA ID and view all information. Prefer a mobile app? The 2019-2020 FAFSA form is on the myStudentAid app, available on the App Store (iOS) or on Google Play (Android).

Officials hope the app will make it easier for the nearly 19 million students who file a FAFSA every year, particularly students from low-income backgrounds who may not have a computer or high-speed internet access at home.

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**Important Reminder** ↓

**The FAFSA form is FREE. If a website or mobile app asks you to pay to fill it out, you are not dealing with the official FAFSA site or the official myStudentAid app. Remember, this is a government application. The application is on a .gov website and an official U.S. Department of Education mobile app.**