

**FAFSA® Submission Timelines and Other Deadlines**

**Official Filing:** FAFSA.GOV

There are three key dates students should circle in their calendars every year: October 1st, June 30th and September 15th.

- October 1st – FAFSA® opens for the next academic year
- June 30th – FAFSA® closes for the current academic year
- September 15th – Deadline to make FAFSA® corrections for the previous academic year

Until further noted by the FSA, those dates will not change for subsequent academic years. Students should be prepared to file their 2020-2021 FAFSA® on October 1st, 2019.

If you ever wondered why the FAFSA® asks for financial information from two years prior to the application year, it's due to the date the FSA opens the FAFSA®. Students who file their 2020-2021 FAFSA® on October 1st, 2019 would not yet have filed their 2019 taxes.

Keep Track of School and State Deadlines, too

While the federal deadline allows students to file their FAFSA® after the school year is already over, that doesn't mean schools and states are equally lenient.

**School Deadlines**

Many schools and states have their own financial aid deadlines, which could affect the amount of aid you receive. While those schools and states will still accept your FAFSA® for federal aid, they may not use your FAFSA® to judge your candidacy for school and state-provided financial aid.

While the federal deadline generally corresponds to the end of the school year, school deadlines often align with the beginning of the academic calendar. Students already enrolled in college may be required to file their FAFSA® no later than the beginning of the Fall semester.

Students who are still going through the application process may find that their FAFSA® deadlines are even earlier. Some schools may request that financial aid paperwork is submitted to meet the same deadlines as applications for enrollment. That window is usually between November and January, 8-10 months before the school year begins.

The last deadline that students must remain aware of is the tuition deadline set by their school. If you fail to pay for your classes on time, your school may prevent you from registering for classes for the following semester, or even drop you from your current courses.

Check your school's website or ask your school's financial aid office for a list of important financial aid dates so you don't miss any crucial deadlines.

**File Early – Financial Aid Is First Come, First Serve**

Financial aid is awarded on a first come, first served basis, so it is recommended students file their FAFSA® as soon as possible to ensure the best financial aid offer.

Students going through the college application process should know that the earlier they file their FAFSA®, the earlier they'll receive their financial aid offers. Filing early will allow them more time to make an informed decision when choosing a school.

Deadlines are strictly enforced, so students will need to keep on schedule.

Do you have to fill out FAFSA every year?

Yes, you most likely will have file FAFSA® every year you plan on attending school. Most academic institutions require students to re-apply for financial aid by filing FAFSA® every year the student is enrolled because the amount of aid a student may be eligible to get may fluctuate across years depending on a variety of factors.

**It'll be easier to complete the FAFSA form if you gather what you need ahead of time. Below is what you'll need to fill it out.**

### **1. Your FSA ID\***

\*An FSA ID is a username and password that you can use to log in to certain U.S. Department of Education (ED) websites. Each student, and one parent of each dependent student, will need an FSA ID to complete the FAFSA process on [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov). We recommend creating your FSA ID early—even before you're ready to complete the FAFSA form—to avoid delays in the process. For step-by-step instructions, watch How to Create Your FSA ID at <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/filling-out/fsaid>

**IMPORTANT:** Do NOT create an FSA ID on behalf of someone else. That means parents should not create FSA IDs for their children and vice versa. Doing so may result in issues signing and submitting the FAFSA form and could lead to financial aid delays. (Also, it's against the rules to create an FSA ID for someone else.)

### **2. Your Social Security number\***

\*You can find the number on your Social Security card. If you don't have access to it, and don't know where it is, ask your parent or legal guardian or get a new or replacement Social Security card from the Social Security Administration. If you are not a U.S. citizen, but meet Federal Student Aid's basic eligibility requirements, you'll also need your Alien Registration number.

### **3. Your driver's license number**

\*If you don't have a driver's license, then don't worry about this step.

### **4. Your 2018 tax records\***

\*In case you didn't hear about the changes we made to the FAFSA process, beginning with the 2017–18 FAFSA form, we now require you to report income information from an earlier tax year.

On the 2020–21 FAFSA form, you (and your parents, as appropriate) will report your 2018 income information, rather than your 2019 income information. Since you'll probably already have filed your 2018 taxes by the time the FAFSA form launches, you'll be able to import your tax information into the FAFSA form right away using the IRS Data Retrieval Tool (DRT). (No more logging back in to update after filing taxes!)

### **5. Records of your untaxed income\***

The FAFSA questions about untaxed income may or may not apply to you; they include things like child support received, interest income, and veteran's non-education benefits. On the 2020–21 FAFSA form, you'll report 2018 tax or calendar year information when asked these questions. Find specific details for parents and students.

### **6. Records of your assets (money)\***

This section includes savings and checking account balances, as well as the value of investments such as stocks and bonds and real estate (but not the home in which your family lives). You should report the current amounts as of the date you sign the FAFSA form, rather than reporting the 2018 tax year amounts.

### **7. List of the school(s) you are interested in attending**

Be sure to add any college you're considering, even if you haven't applied or been accepted yet.

Even if there is only a slight chance you'll apply to a college, list the school on your FAFSA forms. You can always remove schools later if you decide not to apply, but if you wait to add a school, you could miss out on first-come, first-served financial aid.

The schools you list on your FAFSA form will automatically receive your FAFSA results electronically. They will use your FAFSA information to determine the types and amounts of financial aid you may receive.

**TIP:** To be considered for state aid, several states require you to list schools in a particular order (for instance, you might need to list a state school first). Find out whether your state has a requirement for the order in which you list schools on your FAFSA form.