



# 2026-2027 FAFSA & Financial Aid

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Compliance Officer  
College of DuPage



# Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid

[Access the application here](#)

ALTERNATIVE  
APPLICATION  
FOR ILLINOIS  
FINANCIAL AID

Intended for qualifying  
undocumented students

The Retention of Illinois Students & Equity (RISE) Act allows eligible undocumented students who are disqualified from federal financial aid to apply for all forms of state financial aid.

## **2026-2027 Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid**

- Based on **2024** Income
  - Fall Semester 2026
  - Spring Semester 2027

**Opens October 1, 2025**

**Apply online at [isac.org](https://isac.org)**





# Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

**2026-2027 FAFSA Application** - Based on **2024** Income

- Fall Semester 2026
- Spring Semester 2027
- Summer Semester 2027 – depends on eligibility

**Opens October 1, 2025**

**Apply online at [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov)**



# One Big Beautiful Bill...Changes to Financial Aid

- Changes go into effect July 1, 2026
- Most will be effective with 2026-2027 FAFSA & school year
- Still waiting on final guidance from Department of Education
- Information is as of today...it may be subject to change



# **One Big Beautiful Bill...Changes to Financial Aid**

- Reinstates the exemptions of family farm and a family-owned small business as assets. Also expands asset exemptions to family-owned commercial fisheries
- All parents (combined) may borrow \$20,000 per year per dependent student and a \$65,000 aggregate limit per dependent student (without regard to amounts forgiven, repaid, canceled, or discharged).
- Borrowers with new loans made on or after July 1, 2026 can be repaid using only two plans: a new standard repayment plan and the new income-based repayment plan, RAP.



# Account Username & Password (FSA ID)

## studentaid.gov > Create Account

Federal Student Aid  
An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

FAFSA® Form ▼

Grants and Loans ▼

Loan Repayment ▼

Loan Forgiveness ▼



Log In | **Create Account**

## Manage and Repay Your Federal Student Loans

[Get Repayment Tips](#)

[View Your Loans](#)

### POPULAR TOPICS

[Use Loan Simulator To Compare Repayment Plans >](#)

[Find Your Student Loan Servicer >](#)

[Apply for a Direct Consolidation Loan >](#)

[Apply for an Income-Driven Repayment Plan >](#)

[Fill Out a FAFSA® Form >](#)



# Who needs to have a FSA ID?

**Anyone who is required to provide consent on the FAFSA. This includes the student AND parent(s):**

- **If parents are married AND filed a joint tax return with current spouse**
  - Only 1 parent provides consent and 1 parent needs to have a FSA ID
- **If parents are married AND filed separate tax returns**
  - Both parents provide consent and both parents need to have a FSA ID
- **If parents are unmarried BUT live together**
  - Both parents provide consent and both parents need to have a FSA ID
- **If parent(s) did not file a tax return**
  - Both parents provide consent and both parents need to have a FSA ID



# **\*\*Required\*\* Consent**

## Provide Consent and Approval or You Won't Be Eligible for Federal Student Aid ⓘ

### Summary

Your consent and approval are needed to retrieve and disclose federal tax information. With your consent and approval, we can obtain tax return information automatically from the IRS to help you complete the FAFSA<sup>®</sup> form. If you don't provide consent and approval, you will not be eligible for federal student aid, including grants and loans. You must provide consent and approval even if you didn't file a U.S. federal tax return or any tax return.

- Get your 2024 tax return information for the 2026-27 FAFSA form.
- Federal tax information is used to determine your eligibility for federal student aid.
- Tax return information is required to complete the FAFSA form.

By accepting below, I consent to the disclosure of information about me, and affirmatively approve of

- the receipt and use of my federal tax information, and
- the redisclosure of my federal tax information by the U.S. Department of Education (ED), as described herein.

By accepting below, I consent to and affirmatively approve of, as applicable, the following:

1. ED may disclose my Social Security number/Individual Taxpayer Identification Number, last name, date of birth, unique identifier, the tax year for which federal tax information is required, and the date and timestamp of my approval for the use of my federal tax information in determining eligibility by ED for which approval is provided to the U.S. Department of the Treasury, Internal Revenue Service (IRS). I understand that in response to such a request from ED, the IRS shall then disclose my federal tax information to "authorized persons" (i.e., specifically designated officers and employees of ED and its contractors [as defined in 26 U.S.C. § 6103(l)(13)(E)]) for the purpose of determining eligibility for and the amount of federal student aid under a program authorized under subpart 1 of part A, part C, or part D of Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, for myself or an applicant for federal student aid who has requested that I share my federal tax information on their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA<sup>®</sup>) form.

By accepting below, I consent electronically to the use of my StudentAid.gov account username and password (FSA ID) as my signature and certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America, that the foregoing is true and correct. I understand that any falsification of this statement is punishable under the provisions of 18 U.S.C. § 1001 by a fine, imprisonment of not more than five years, or both, and that the knowing and willful request for or acquisition of records pertaining to an individual under false pretenses is a criminal offense under the *Privacy Act of 1974*, subject to a fine of not more than \$5,000 fine (5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(3)). By accepting and submitting my part of the FAFSA form, my execution (including date and time) of consent and approval will be logged in ED's Person Authentication Service System of Record (18-11-12).

### Frequently Asked Questions

Who should provide consent and approval? ⓘ

If I'm married and didn't file a joint tax return with my current spouse, does my spouse have to provide consent and approval for you to access their tax information? ⓘ

What happens after I provide consent and approval? ⓘ

What happens if I decline consent and approval? ⓘ

Select "Approve" to provide consent and approval for the use of your federal tax information to determine your eligibility for federal student aid. If you select "Decline," you will not be eligible for federal student aid.

Previous

Decline

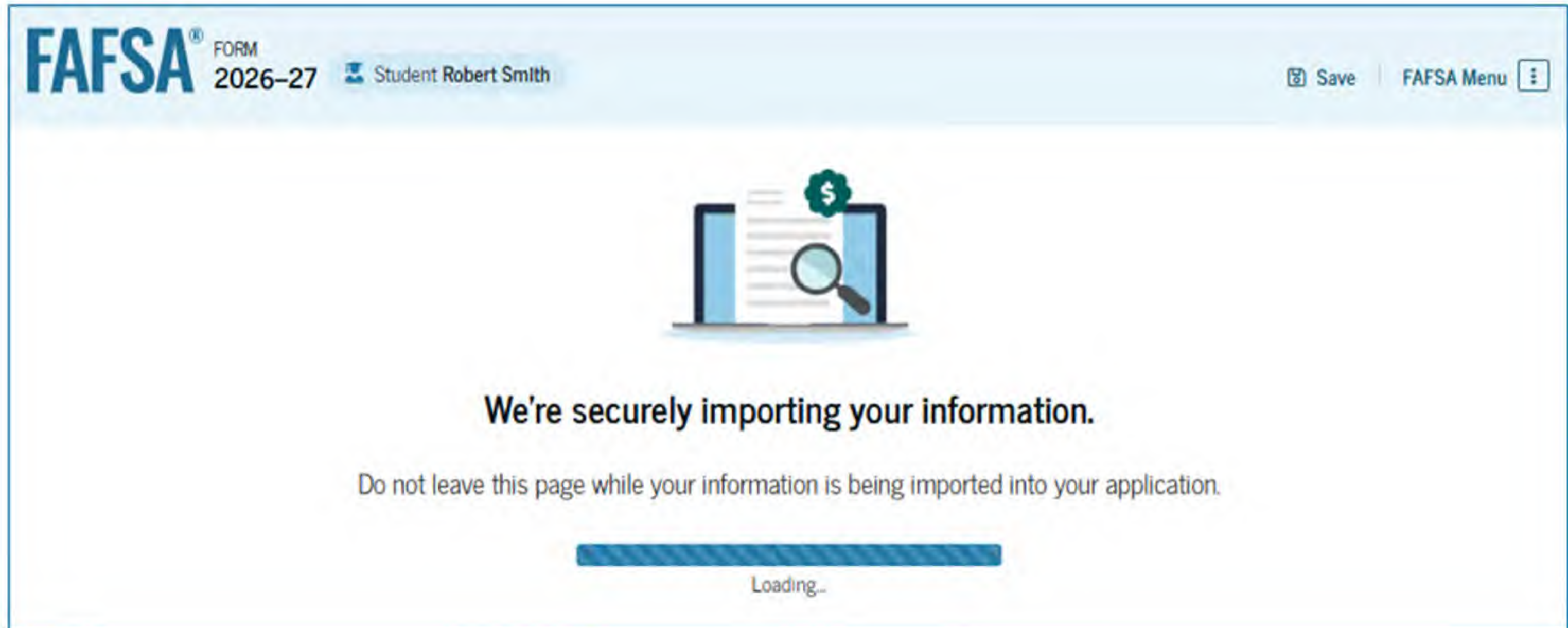
Approve



# Consent = Direct Data Exchange - IRS

Allows for an individual's Federal Tax Information (FTI) to be directly transferred from the IRS to the FAFSA.

**Note:** Some students and contributors will still need to manually enter tax information



The image shows a screenshot of the FAFSA 2026-27 application interface. At the top, the header includes the FAFSA logo, the text 'FORM 2026-27', the user name 'Student Robert Smith', and buttons for 'Save' and 'FAFSA Menu'. The main content area features a central illustration of a laptop with a magnifying glass over a document and a green dollar sign icon. Below this, the text reads: 'We're securely importing your information.' followed by 'Do not leave this page while your information is being imported into your application.' At the bottom, there is a blue progress bar and the text 'Loading...'.

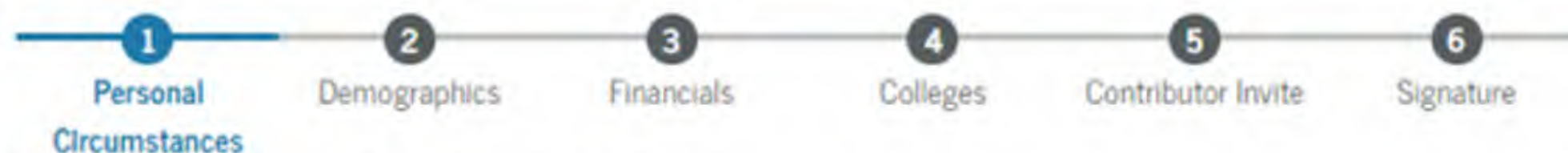


# Dependency Status

**To be classified as an independent student for the 2026–2027 award year, the student must answer “YES” to one of the following:**

- Born before Jan. 1, 2003
- Married (and not separated)
- A graduate or professional student
- A member of the armed forces on active duty
- A veteran of the armed forces
- Someone with dependent children or legal dependents other than a spouse
- An orphan
- A ward of the court
- A current or former foster youth
- An emancipated minor
- In a legal guardianship
- Is unaccompanied and homeless or self-supporting and at risk of being homeless





## Student Unusual Circumstances

*This information will help us evaluate the student's ability to pay for school.*

Do unusual circumstances prevent the student from contacting their parents or would contacting their parents pose a risk to the student? ⓘ

*A student may be experiencing unusual circumstances if they*

- *left home due to an abusive or threatening environment;*
- *are abandoned by or estranged from their parents;*
- *have refugee or asylee status and are separated from their parents, or their parents are displaced in a foreign country;*
- *are a victim of human trafficking;*
- *are incarcerated, or their parents are incarcerated, and contact with the parents would pose a risk to the student; or*
- *are otherwise unable to contact or locate their parents.*

*If the student's circumstances resulted in not having a safe and stable place to live, they may be considered a homeless youth and should review the answer to the previous question about being unaccompanied and homeless.*

☐ Yes

☒ No



# Students who are considered Dependent but do not have an Unusual Circumstance

## Your Dependency Status



### Dependent Student

Based on your answers, you're a dependent student. This means you must provide parent information on your FAFSA® form. This information helps determine how much federal student aid you're eligible to receive.

## Direct Unsubsidized Loan Only

Are the student's parents refusing to provide their information on this FAFSA® form?

*This response must be "No" for the student to be considered for Federal Pell Grant eligibility and most other types of federal student aid.*

☐ Yes

☒ No

### Scenario:

If a student is considered Dependent **but** cannot provide parent information because parent refuses to complete the FAFSA

**-OR-**

Parent is no longer financially supporting the student



# Parent = Biological or Adoptive Parent

## Never married

- Provide information for 1 parent

## Unmarried and both legal parents live together

- Provide information for both parents

## Married

- Provide information for both parents

## Remarried

- Provide information for parent and step-parent






# Divorced / Separated Parents

- Parental income and assets is reported for the parent who provides more than 50% of the student's financial support during the 12 months immediately prior to filing the FAFSA **even if the student does not live with that parent or lives with the other parent.**
- If neither parent provided support in the 12-month period, the parent of record is the parent who provided the greater portion of support during the most recent year that the student received financial support from a parent.
- If parents provide provide equal support - 50/50 - then the parent of record is the one with the higher income and assets



# **\*\* New Process \*\*** Parent Invite

**FAFSA**<sup>®</sup> FORM 2026–27  Student Alex Tran Save FAFSA Menu

✓

Personal Circumstances

✓

Demographics

✓

Financials

✓

Colleges

5

Contributor Invite

6


Signature

## Invite Your Parent to This FAFSA<sup>®</sup> Form

To determine your federal student aid eligibility, we need more information on your household financial situation. You'll need to invite a contributor to provide this information.


*As a dependent student, you need to invite a legal parent as a contributor. You only need to invite one parent.*


Who counts as a parent on the FAFSA form?

 Parent

### Invite a Parent Contributor

Email

599887939test@testcod.edu 

 Send Invite



# **\*\* New Process \*\*** Parent Invite

**FAFSA**<sup>®</sup> FORM 2026–27 Student Alex Tran Save FAFSA Menu

✓ Personal Circumstances

✓ Demographics

✓ Financials

✓ Colleges

**5** Contributor Invite

6 Signature

## Parent Contributor

Once your parent accepts the invitation, they can complete the parent section of this FAFSA form.

*They may be asked to invite their spouse as a contributor too. You can check the status of contributor invitations from the "My Activity" page.*

Parent

599887939test@testcod.edu

☒ Invite Sent

Other Ways to Send the Invite ^


Copy and Send the Invite Link ⓘ

[www.fafsa.gov/invite/7NDNUKA](http://www.fafsa.gov/invite/7NDNUKA) Copy Link

You can also have them go to [www.fafsa.gov/invite](http://www.fafsa.gov/invite) and enter code:

7NDNUKA

Cancel Invite





## Continue To Sign Your Form

Here's a summary of the information you provided on the FAFSA® form. Continue once you're ready to submit.



### Scroll To Continue

After reviewing your answers, scroll to the bottom of the page and select "Continue." Then, sign your section of the FAFSA form.

#### Student Sections

Expand All ▾



Introduction  
Personal Identifiers



Section 1  
Personal Circumstances



Section 2  
Demographics



Section 3  
Financials



Section 4  
Colleges



#### Contributor Section

This Section is Shared with 1 Contributor(s)

[Manage Contributor Information](#)

Contributor(s)	Role	Invite Code	Status
599887939test@testcod.edu	Parent	7NCHKA	<a href="#">Invite Sent</a>



[Previous](#)

[Continue](#)

The review page displays the responses that the student has provided in the FAFSA® form.

The student can view all responses by selecting "Expand All" or expand each section individually.

To edit a response, the student can select the question's hyperlink to be taken to the corresponding page

This page will also show the status of the contributor - whether the invite has been sent and/or section is complete



1  
Student Section2  
Parent Section

## Pending Submission



Check With Your Contributor



Parent Contributors

## Requirements for Dependent Students

Your FAFSA<sup>®</sup> form can't be submitted until your contributor(s) fill out their section of the form and sign it. The last contributor to sign will be able to submit the form for processing.

Contributor(s)	Role	Invite Code	Status
 599887939test@testcod.edu	Parent	7NDNUKA	 Invite Sent

[Manage Invitations](#)Track and Manage Your FAFSA<sup>®</sup> Form and Contributors

Your application has been added to the "My Activity" page in your StudentAid.gov account. Visit this page to keep track of your FAFSA status; review, edit, or delete information on your form; and monitor the status of your contributor(s).

[View Status](#)

# Student Section Completed

**NOTE:** Application is not considered complete until all contributors have completed their sections



# Parent Log in @ studentaid.gov

**Federal Student Aid**  
BY OFFICE OF U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[FAFSA® Form](#) ▾ [Grants and Loans](#) ▾ [Loan Repayment](#) ▾ [Loan Forgiveness](#) ▾

[Log In](#) | [Create Account](#)

## Log In

Email, Phone, or Username

[Forgot email, phone, or username?](#)

**Federal Student Aid**  
BY OFFICE OF U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[FAFSA® Form](#) ▾ [Grants and Loans](#) ▾ [Loan Repayment](#) ▾ [Loan Forgiveness](#) ▾

[Log In](#) | [Create Account](#)

## Log In

← 599887939test@testcod.edu

Password

 [Show Password](#)

[Forgot password?](#)

[Log In](#)

[Create an Account](#)



# Parent Log in @ studentaid.gov

- After logging in, the parent is taken to the "Accept 2026–27 FAFSA® Invitation" page.
- The invitation code from the parent's email automatically fills in the text box if the parent used the link from the email.

## Accept 2026–27 FAFSA® Invitation

Enter the code you received for the FAFSA form.

Invitation Code

s5df1w9

Submit

**Need to accept an Invitation for a different year?**

Go to [My Activity](#) where you can find any existing invitations for an earlier year FAFSA form.

**Don't have an Invitation code?**

Speak with the person who invited you to the form and ensure they have sent it to your email. Check your inbox for your invitation code.



# Parent Log in @ studentaid.gov

← FAFSA Home Page

## Accept 2026–27 FAFSA® Invitation

Enter the code you received for the FAFSA form.

Invitation Code

7NDNUKA

Submit

Need to accept for a different year?

Go to "My Account" to view invitations for other years.

**By Accepting This Invitation to Alex T's FAFSA Form You Agree To Share Your Information**

We will need to use some personal information we already have on file about you in order to fill out the necessary steps in this FAFSA® form.

Decline Accept

When the parent selects "Submit," a pop-up window appears, confirming the student's name and reminding the parent that their personal information is needed to fill out the student's FAFSA® form.

The parent selects "**Accept**" to agree to sharing their information and enters the FAFSA form.



# **\*\*Required\*\* Consent**

## Provide Consent and Approval or You Won't Be Eligible for Federal Student Aid ⓘ

### Summary

Your consent and approval are needed to retrieve and disclose federal tax information. With your consent and approval, we can obtain tax return information automatically from the IRS to help you complete the FAFSA<sup>®</sup> form. If you don't provide consent and approval, you will not be eligible for federal student aid, including grants and loans. You must provide consent and approval even if you didn't file a U.S. federal tax return or any tax return.

→ Get your 2024 tax return information for the 2026–27 FAFSA form.

→ Federal tax information is used to determine your eligibility for federal student aid.

→ Tax return information is required to complete the FAFSA form.

By accepting below, I consent to the disclosure of information about me, and affirmatively approve of

- the receipt and use of my federal tax information, and
- the redisclosure of my federal tax information by the U.S. Department of Education (ED), as described herein.

By accepting below, I consent to and affirmatively approve of, as applicable, the following:

1. ED may disclose my Social Security number/Individual Taxpayer Identification Number, last name, date of birth, unique identifier, the tax year for which federal tax information is required, and the date and timestamp of my approval for the use of my federal tax information in determining eligibility by ED for which approval is provided to the U.S. Department of the Treasury, Internal Revenue Service (IRS). I understand that in response to such a request from ED, the IRS shall then disclose my federal tax information to "authorized persons" (i.e., specifically designated officers and employees of ED and its contractors [as defined in 26 U.S.C. § 6103(l)(13)(E)]) for the purpose of determining eligibility for and the amount of federal student aid under a program authorized under subpart 1 of part A, part C, or part D of Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, for myself or an applicant for federal student aid who has requested that I share my federal tax information on their *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA<sup>®</sup>) form.

By accepting below, I consent electronically to the use of my StudentAid.gov account username and password (FSA ID) as my signature and certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America, that the foregoing is true and correct. I understand that any falsification of this statement is punishable under the provisions of 18 U.S.C. § 1001 by a fine, imprisonment of not more than five years, or both, and that the knowing and willful request for or acquisition of records pertaining to an individual under false pretenses is a criminal offense under the *Privacy Act of 1974*, subject to a fine of not more than \$5,000 fine (5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(1)(3)). By accepting and submitting my part of the FAFSA form, my execution (including date and time) of consent and approval will be logged in ED's Person Authentication Service System of Record (18-11-12).

### Frequently Asked Questions

Who should provide consent and approval? ⓘ

If I'm married and didn't file a joint tax return with my current spouse, does my spouse have to provide consent and approval for you to access their tax information? ⓘ

What happens after I provide consent and approval? ⓘ

What happens if I decline consent and approval? ⓘ

Select "Approve" to provide consent and approval for the use of your federal tax information to determine your eligibility for federal student aid. If you select "Decline," you will not be eligible for federal student aid.

Previous

Decline


Approve




# Family Size

FAFSA<sup>®</sup>

FORM 2026–27

 Parent of Alex Tran

 Save

1


2

3

DemographicsFinancialsSignature

## Family Size

Based on answers to previous questions, we've made some assumptions about the parent's family. The student and the student's parent (and parent's spouse, if married) are always included in the family size. The box below shows the parent's family size based on our assumptions and the number of children or other dependents you report.



The parent's family size is 5.


Parent: 1   Parent Spouse or Partner: 1   Student: 1   Parent's Children and Other Dependents: 2

Enter the number of children or other dependents who live with the parent and will receive more than half of their support from the parent between July 1, 2026, and June 30, 2027.

Include dependent children who meet these criteria, even if they live apart because of college enrollment.

Do not include the student applicant.

2



Previous

Continue


**Family Size** - Based on number of number of individuals claimed on Federal Tax Return.

Cannot include unborn children

This can be updated if family size is now different



# Number in College

**FAFSA**<sup>®</sup> FORM 2026–27  Parent of Alex Tran Save FAFSA Menu

✓

2

3

Demographics

Financials

Signature

## Number in College

Out of the 5 people in the parent's family, how many will be in college between July 1, 2026, and June 30, 2027?

*Never include the student's parent(s). Always include the student applicant. Also include the parent's other children or dependents if they will also be in college during this time.*

ⓘ

Previous

Continue

**Number in College** - Question is still asked but number in college will no longer affect a student's eligibility for financial aid funds



Demographics

Financials

Signature

### Annual Child Support Received

Enter the total amount of child support the parent received for the last complete calendar year.

\$  .00 ⓘ

### Parent Assets

#### Current Total of Cash, Savings, and Checking Accounts

Don't include student aid, retirement accounts, or investments.

\$  .00 ⓘ

#### Current Net Worth of Investments, Including Real Estate

Don't include the home the parent lives in. Net worth is the value of the investments minus any debts owed against them.

\$  .00 ⓘ

#### Current Net Worth of Businesses and Farms

Enter the net worth of the parent's businesses and income-producing farms. Net worth is the value of the businesses and farms minus any debts owed against them. Don't include a family business with 100 or fewer full-time employees, farms where the family resides, or a commercial fishing business and related expenses.

\$  .00 ⓘ

[Previous](#)[Continue](#)

**Child Support** - Total amount received for the last completed **calendar year**

### Example 1:

If completing FAFSA October 2025, then report child support for 2024

### Example 2:

If completing FAFSA January 2026, then report child support for 2025



# Investments/Assets

- Cash, saving, checking, time deposits, and money market funds
- New worth of investments, including real estate, rental property (includes a unit within a family home that has its own entrance, kitchen, and bath rented to someone other than a family member),
  - Trust funds, UGMA and UTMA accounts, money market funds, mutual funds, certificates of deposit, stocks, stock options, bonds, other securities, installment and land sale contracts (including mortgages held), commodities, etc.
  - Qualified educational benefits or education savings accounts (e.g., Coverdell savings accounts, 529 college savings plans and the refund value of 529 prepaid tuition plans).
    - Parents should not report the value of education savings accounts for other children
  - Bitcoin
- Net worth of business and/or farm
  - **Except family farm, family-owned small business (less than 100 employees), family-owned commercial fisheries**





# Add Spouse Information

- The parent is asked to provide information about their spouse or partner.
- **In this example**, the other parent does not need to contribute to the student's FAFSA® form because the parents filed taxes jointly.
- After providing the other parent's date of birth, all required parent information will be complete.

The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2026-27 form for the parent of Alex Tran. The form is titled "FAFSA® FORM 2026-27" and "Parent of Alex Tran". It features a progress bar with three steps: 1. Demographics (completed), 2. Financials (current step), and 3. Signature. The "Parent Spouse Information" section is active, displaying a message: "Based on your responses, we need to know your spouse's date of birth. We need to know their age to determine the student's eligibility for federal student aid." Below this message are three input fields for the spouse's date of birth: "Month" (05), "Day" (04), and "Year" (1982). At the bottom of the form are two buttons: "Previous" and "Continue".

FAFSA® FORM 2026-27 Parent of Alex Tran Save FAFSA Menu

Demographics Financials Signature

### Parent Spouse Information

Based on your responses, we need to know your spouse's date of birth.  
*We need to know their age to determine the student's eligibility for federal student aid.*

Month Day Year

05 04 1982

Previous Continue



# Inviting Spouse

- The parent is asked to invite their spouse or partner as a contributor.
- **In this example**, either the parents filed separate tax returns, or did not file tax returns, or filed a tax return with someone other than their current spouse. The other parent will need to provide their information.



The image shows a screenshot of the FAFSA 2026-27 web form. At the top left, it says 'FAFSA FORM 2026-27' and 'Student Robert Smith'. At the top right, there are 'Save' and 'FAFSA Menu' buttons. A progress bar in the center shows six steps: Personal Circumstances, Demographics, Financials, Colleges, Contributor Invite (which is the current step, marked with a '5' in a blue circle), and Signature (marked with a '6' in a grey circle). Below the progress bar, the title 'Invite Spouse as a Contributor' is displayed. To the left of the title, there is a light blue box containing the following text: 'A contributor is anyone who's required to provide information on your FAFSA form. You need to invite your spouse as a contributor. This will help us get a better understanding of your eligibility for federal financial aid. You'll need to provide your spouse's email address to invite them to your form.' To the right of the text box is an illustration of a man and a woman sitting on a bench; the man is standing and the woman is sitting and using a laptop. At the bottom of the screen, there are two buttons: 'Previous' on the left and 'Continue' on the right.



# Inviting Spouse

**FAFSA**<sup>®</sup> FORM 2026–27 Student Robert Smith Save FAFSA Menu

Personal Circumstances

Demographics

Financials

Colleges

Contributor Invite

Signature

## Invite Your Spouse to This FAFSA<sup>®</sup> Form

To determine your federal student aid eligibility, we need more information on your household financial situation. You'll need to invite a contributor to provide this information.

*Because you are married, you need to invite your spouse as a contributor.*

Spouse

### Invite Your Spouse

Email

Send Invite

Previous

**FAFSA**<sup>®</sup> FORM 2026–27 Student Robert Smith Save FAFSA Menu

Personal Circumstances

Demographics

Financials

Colleges

Contributor Invite

Signature

## Invite Your Spouse to This FAFSA<sup>®</sup> Form

To determine your federal student aid eligibility, we need more information on your household financial situation. You'll need to invite a contributor to provide this information.

*Because you are married, you need to invite your spouse as a contributor.*

Spouse

### Send Invite to emma.mitchell@test.com?

We'll send an invitation link and an access code to this email address.

Go Back Send Invite

Previous Continue





## Spouse Contributor

Once your spouse accepts the invitation, they can complete the spouse section of this FAFSA form.

You can check the status of contributor invitations from the "My Activity" page.



Spouse

emma.mitchell@test.com

Invite Sent

Other ways to send the invite ^

Copy and Send the Invite Link ⓘ

[www.fafsa.gov/invite/7GTJ6EP](http://www.fafsa.gov/invite/7GTJ6EP) Copy Link

You can also have them go to [www.fafsa.gov/invite](http://www.fafsa.gov/invite) and enter code:

7GTJ6EP

Cancel Invite

Previous

Continue



# Parent Section

**FAFSA**<sup>®</sup>  
FORM  
2024–25


Parent of Raya Tran

Save

FAFSA Menu

Take a moment to review before signing

Expand the sections below to review and edit the information you've entered before you sign your portion of the form.



Parent Contributor Sections

Expand All

✓ Introduction

Personal Identifiers

✓ Section 1

Demographics

✓ Section 2

Financials

Section 3

Signature

Previous


Continue

When completed - parents will only see their information.

Parents will not be able to view the student section/answers



**Congratulations,**  
the FAFSA<sup>®</sup> Form Is Complete!

 Alex Tran

Completion Date  
07/17/2025

## What Happens Next



### Email Sent

Confirm that the student received an email version of this page.



### The Student Can Track the Status of Their Form

In one to three days, the student's FAFSA form will be processed and made available to their schools.



### The Student Will Receive School Communications

We use the information collected on the student's FAFSA form to calculate their Student Aid Index (SAI). The SAI lets schools determine how much aid the student is eligible to receive. Schools will reach out to the student if they need more information. They will also contact the student with financial aid offers. Once received, the student can contact their financial aid offices directly to ask questions about their student aid packages.

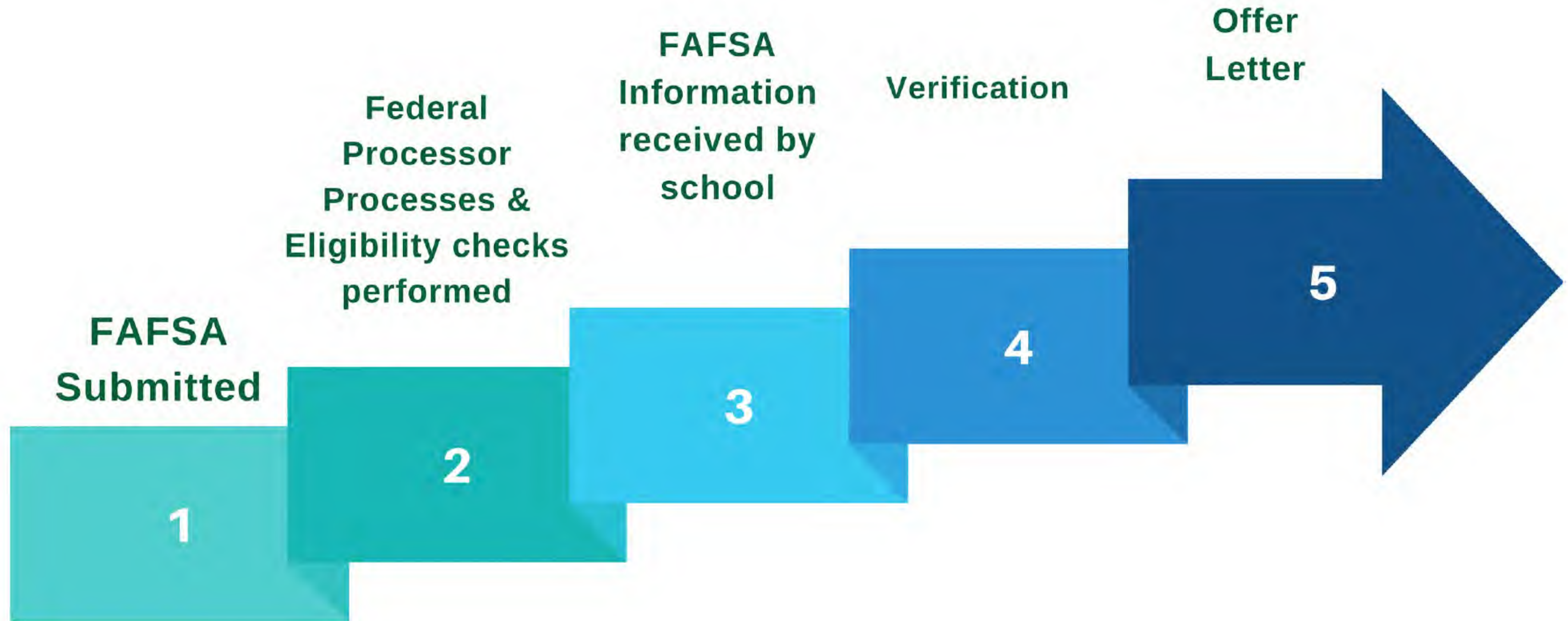
## Track and Manage the Student's FAFSA<sup>®</sup> Form

You can check the status of the student's application in the "My Activity" section of your account Dashboard. We will let you know if we need anything more from you.

[View Status](#)



# FINANCIAL AID PROCESS





# CSS Profile Form

The CSS Profile, or College Scholarship Service Profile, is an online application used by colleges and scholarship programs to award non-federal institutional aid. It's used by around 400 institutions in the United States.

- The CSS Profile is more detailed than the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and allows schools to ask customized questions about a student's financial situation.
- The CSS Profile can help students access institutional grants and scholarships, and can account for a variety of factors that might not be considered by the FAFSA
- Some schools may also require divorced or separated parents to complete separate applications.
- Check your colleges' information to determine whether they require the CSS Profile.

For more information visit [\*\*cssprofile.collegeboard.org/about\*\*](https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/about)



# Verification

Some students may need to submit additional verification documents as determined by their FAFSA. Items may include, but not limited to:

- Federal Tax/Income information
- Marital Status
- Family Size
- Identity
- Citizenship

Verification must be completed **AND** all conflicting information must be resolved before an offer letter is made available to the student





# **Type of Financial Aid & Financial Offer Letter**



# Types of Financial Aid – Grants

- **Federal Pell Grant**
  - Award amount is based on financial need
  - Max Pell, Min Pell or Calculated Pell
  - 2026-2027 Pell Grant range is \$7,395 to \$740
- **Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)**
  - Award amount is based on financial need
  - Award amount may vary from school to school
  - Funds are limited
- **Federal TEACH Grant**
- **Illinois Monetary Award Program (MAP)**
  - Award amount is based on financial need
  - Available only at Illinois schools
  - If Dependent - parent must be an Illinois Resident
  - If Independent - student must be an Illinois Resident

***\*\* Eligibility for the grants is based on financial need. Not all students will qualify and amounts may vary \*\****





# Types of Financial Aid – Scholarships

## Scholarship Criteria

- Financial Need
- Academics
- Ethnicity / First Generation
- Volunteering

## Eligibility requirements

- Some are renewable if you meet the GPA requirements
- Some may require an additional essay and/or letter of recommendation
- Some may require the FAFSA to be filed

## Where to find scholarships

- Foster Youth in Illinois Scholarship Programs
- FastWeb
- Colleges
- High School
- College of DuPage
  - Apply online at [cod.academicworks.com](http://cod.academicworks.com)





# Types of Financial Aid - Federal Work Study



- Student Employment
- Amount varies from school to school
- Application process varies from school to school



# Types of Financial Aid – Loans

## Subsidized & Unsubsidized Direct Loan

- Student is the borrower
- No Cosigner/No Credit Check
- Interest rate is 6.39% (7/1/25– 6/30/26)
- Loan Fee of 1.057%
- Repayment begins 6 months after student graduates and/or drops below half-time enrollment
- **Sub Loan**
  - Government pays interest while student is enrolled in at least 6 credit hours, and
  - During a period of deferment (a postponement of loan payments), and
  - For the first six months after you leave school (referred to as a grace period\*)
- **Unsub Loan** - Student is responsible for all interest

## Private / Alternative Loans

- Not guaranteed by Department of Education
- Credit Check
  - Interest rate based on credit
- Cosigner may be required
- Check with your University/College of more information





# Federal PLUS Loans

- **PARENT** is the borrower
- Credit Check
- Interest rate is 8.94% (7/1/25 – 6/30/26)
- Loan Fee of 4.228%
- Not based on financial need
- Borrow up to Cost of Attendance minus financial aid
- Repayment begins once loan is full disbursed **OR** can request a deferment so payment begins 6 months after student is no longer enrolled in 6 credit hours





# How is your financial aid need is determined

$$\text{Cost of Attendance (COA)} - \text{Student Aid Index (SAI)} = \text{Financial Need}$$

\*COA is the **estimate** of what it will cost a student to attend college for an academic year\*

- Tuition and Fees
- Living Expenses, including food and housing
- Transportation
- Books, course materials, supplies and equipment
- Miscellaneous personal expenses

\*Calculated by the Federal Processor based on information submitted on your FAFSA. Used as an index number to determine your financial need

\*The difference between the cost of attendance (COA) at a school and your Student Aid Index (SAI), determines how much Gift Aid you **may be** eligible to receive



# How is your financial aid need is determined

**Cost of Attendance (COA) — Student Aid Index (SAI) = Financial Need**

College A = \$16,000

SAI = 2000

College A = **\$14,000**

College B = \$30,000

SAI = 2000

College B = **\$28,000**

College C = \$87,000

SAI = 2000

College C = **\$85,000**



# How is your financial aid need is determined

**Cost of Attendance (COA) — Student Aid Index (SAI) = Financial Need**

College A = \$16,000

SAI = 18000

College A = **\$0**

College B = \$30,000

SAI = 18000

College B = **\$12,000**

College C = \$87,000

SAI = 18000

College C = **\$69,000**



# What if things have changed since filing the FAFSA....

Professional Judgment refers to the school's authority to make adjustments, on a case-by-case basis, to information reported on the FAFSA so that the Department of Education can recalculate the Student Aid Index (SAI). The SAI is the number that the school uses to determine if a student is eligible for need-based financial aid.

- Significant changes to your financial situation, such as loss of employment or pay cuts,
- Tuition expenses at an elementary or secondary school,
- High amounts of medical or dental expenses not covered by insurance,
- A family member who recently became unemployed,
- Other changes in income or assets that may affect your eligibility for federal student aid

**You will contact the financial aid office at the university/college you will be attending of the change. The financial aid office may take these special circumstances into account and adjust your FAFSA information. Your school may ask you to document your special financial circumstances so that they can consider making an adjustment to your FAFSA information.**



# Resources

## [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov)

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid, FAFSA
- Creating your FSA ID

## [isac.org](https://isac.org)

- Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid

## [studentaid.gov/aid-estimator](https://studentaid.gov/aid-estimator)

- Federal Student Aid Estimator



## [youtube.com/@FSAOutreach](https://youtube.com/@FSAOutreach)

- Navigating the 2025-2026 FAFSA
- FAFSA Submission Summary & Financial Aid Offer letters





# Questions

