

FAFSA FAQ

Common

1. How do I correct my FAFSA or send to another school?
 - a. On the FAFSA website you will log in and then select “Make FAFSA Corrections”.
2. Do I have to fill out my FAFSA every year?
 - a. You will need to fill out the FAFSA every academic year. Each academic year includes Fall, Spring, and Summer. For example, academic year 2022-2023 includes Fall 2022 through Summer 2023.
3. What is an EFC?
 - a. EFC stands for Expected Family Contribution. This number is calculated from the information that is reported on your FAFSA. It takes into account specific tax information and family income and is used by our office to determine the type of aid each student is eligible to receive.
 - b. Even if you don’t plan on taking out student loans, you may be eligible to take advantage of Federal Work Study funds!
4. What tax year information will I need to provide?
 - a. You will need provide the tax information from 2 years prior to the start of the academic year. For example, the 2022-2023 FAFSA form asks for 2020 tax information.
5. How can I make sure my FAFSA is processed quickly?
 - a. Make sure you know *your* social security number and are using it to both sign up for an FSA ID and filling out the FAFSA.
 - b. Read the steps! Each question on the FAFSA has a help feature to explain what information the question is asking for.
 - c. All of the information on the FAFSA must be submitted as the student. Make sure you are not answering questions using parent info unless designated. Always remember this is the student’s application for aid!
6. How quickly will I receive my award letter after my FAFSA is submitted?
 - a. PBA will receive your FAFSA within 3-5 business days after you have submitted it. As long as everything was processed with no errors or delays, you will be packaged within one week of our having received the FAFSA. Students will be sent an alert to review the award package via email as well as a letter mailed to your home address on file.
7. If I don’t submit the FAFSA, do I still get financial aid?
 - a. Yes! You will still be able to receive institutional or state aid, if you are eligible.

Special Topics

1. I'm starting school in the spring semester, what year FAFSA do I need to fill out?
 - a. You will need to file the FAFSA for the academic school year in which you are applying for. For example, if you are starting school in Spring 2023 you will want to complete the 2022-2023 FAFSA.
2. Who do I list on the FAFSA if my parents are separated OR divorced?
 - a. This will depend on whether or not your parents live together.
 - i. If your parents are divorced and live together, you will mark their marital status as "Unmarried and both legal parents living together" and you will answer questions about both of your parents on the FAFSA.
 - ii. If your parents are separated and live together, you will mark their marital status as "Married or remarried" and you will answer questions about both of your parents on the FAFSA.
 - iii. If your parents are divorced and DO NOT live together, you will answer the questions about the parent with whom you lived more with during the past 12 months. If the time was evenly split, provide answers about the parent who provided more than half of your financial support during the past 12 months.
3. What tax information do I provide if I financially support myself?
 - a. Only students who meet one of the following criteria are independent, even if you pay for all of your expenses. If you do not meet any of these criteria don't answer the question as if you do. This will delay the processing of your FAFSA and our ability to package you.
 - i. At least 24 years old
 - ii. Military service member or veteran
 - iii. Married
 - iv. Supports children or other dependents

Issues

1. I can't link my FAFSA to the IRS. What do I do?
 - a. It's ok! Some students and parents are ineligible to use the Data Retrieval Tool to link their tax information to the FAFSA. In this case you will need to manually enter the tax information the application asks for.
2. I can't remember my FSA ID and/or password? What do I do?
 - a. You will want to reset your FSA ID and/password. You will click on "Forgot My Username" and/or "Forgot My Password".
3. I filed the FAFSA with the wrong SSN. What do I do?
 - a. We strongly recommend that you submit a new FAFSA form. In most cases this is the fastest and quickest way to correct this error.