



FAFSA Checklist 2015–2016

TO APPLY ONLINE: FAFSA.GOV

800.4FEDAID

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is used to apply for federal, state and college-based financial aid. You should file a FAFSA as soon as possible after Jan. 1, 2015. Awards are income-based, so applying early does not guarantee you will get an award. If you or your parents have not completed your 2014 tax return, you can file your FAFSA using estimated tax information but you must correct that information after you file your return.

(Note: You may be able to transfer your federal tax return info into your FAFSA using the IRS Data Retrieval Tool. See page 4)

What you will need:

- Your Social Security number
- Your Alien Registration Number (if you are not a U.S. citizen)
- Your most recent federal income tax returns, W-2s, and other records of money earned.
- Bank statements and records of investments (if applicable)
- Records of untaxed income (if applicable)
- A Federal Student Aid PIN to sign electronically. (If you do not already have one, visit www.pin.ed.gov to obtain one.)

If you are a dependent student, you will also need most of the above information for your parent(s).

How long will it take?



Initial Application:

30 minutes

Renewal Application:

20 minutes

FAFSA Corrections:

10 minutes

Are you dependent or independent?

If you answer "Yes" to any question below, you are considered an independent student.

- Were you born before January 1, 1992?
- Are you married?
- At the beginning of the 2015-2016 school year, will you be working on a master's or doctoral program (such as an MA, MBA, MD, JD, PhD, EdD, or graduate certificate, etc.)?
- Are you on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces for purposes other than training?
- Are you a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces?
- Do you have or will you have children who will receive more than half of their support from you?
- Do you have dependents (other than your children or spouse) who live with you and who will receive more than half of their support from you, through June 30, 2016?
- At any time since you turned age 13, were both your parents deceased, were you in foster care or were you a dependent or ward of the court?
- Have you been declared an emancipated minor by a court in your state of legal residence?
- Have you been placed in a legal guardianship by a court in your state of legal residence?
- At any time on or after July 1, 2014, did your high school or school district homeless liaison determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?
- At any time on or after July 1, 2014, did the director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?
- At any time on or after July 1, 2014, did the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?