HOW TO CREATE YOUR STUDENTAID.GOV ACCOUNT

STUDENTS AND PARENTS SHOULD CREATE A STUDENTAID.GOV ACCOUNT. SAVE YOUR LOGIN INFO TO BE ABLE TO APPLY FOR THE 2025-2026 FAFSA/CADAA APPLICATION STARTING DECEMBER 1ST.

STEP 1: GO TO CALIFORNIACOLLEGES.EDU AND SIGN IN WITH SCHOOL ACCOUNT. (RESET PASSWORD IF FORGOTTEN)

STEP 2: CLICK LAUNCH FAFSA AND CREATE AN ACCOUNT (SAVE THIS INFORMATION)

STEP 3: ENTER YOUR NAME, DATE OF BIRTH, AND SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

STEP 4: ENTER YOUR PERSONAL EMAIL, PHONE NUMBER, AND MAILING ADDRESS

STEP 5: SELECT YOUR CHALLENGE QUESTIONS AND INPUT YOUR ANSWERS

STEP 6: REVIEW AND CONFIRM YOUR INFORMATION IS CORRECT

STEP 7: VERIFY YOUR PHONE NUMBER AND EMAIL, IF AVAILABLE, AND SAVE THE BACKUP CODE PROVIDED.

STEP 8: YOUR STUDENTAID.GOV ACCOUNT HAS BEEN CREATED!

SAVE YOUR INFORMATION! YOU NEED IT TO START YOUR FAFSA APPLICATION EVERY YEAR YOU RETURN TO COLLEGE AND APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID.

Need asssistance? 1-800-433-3243 or visit https://studentaid.gov/help-center/contact

FAFSA ONLINE STEP-BY-STEP

1.) GO TO HTTPS://STUDENTAID.GOV/ AND "CREATE ACCOUNT"

2.) CREATE AN FSA ID, CLICK ON "GET STARTED,* AND COMPLETE STEPS 1-7

DOCUMENTS NEEDED - SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER/CARD *NOTE: USE PERSONAL EMAIL • NAME AND NUMBER ON SOCIAL SECURITY CARD MUST MATCH THE INFORMATION ENTERED

3.) VERIFY EMAIL/PHONE NUMBER.

4.) START THE FAFSA APPLICATION- GO TO LOGIN - FAFSA ON THE WEB - FEDERAL STUDENT AID *CLICK "I AM THE STUDENT"

5.) ENTER YOUR FSA ID (USERNAME) AND PASSWORD

6.) SELECT THE 2025-2026 APPLICATION IF YOU WILL ATTEND COLLEGE BETWEEN JUNE 1, 2025 AND JULY 30,
2025. *IF YOU ARE STARTING IN THE SUMMER AFTER GRADUATION, YOU WILL NEED TO FILL OUT BOTH 2024-
2025 AND 2025-2026 APPLICATIONS.

7) THE FAFSA ITSELF IS BROKEN INTO SEVEN SECTIONS: STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS, SCHOOL SELECTION, DEPENDENCY STATUS, PARENT DEMOGRAPHICS, FINANCIAL INFORMATION, SIGN AND SUBMIT, AND CONFIRMATION.

→ COMPLETE EACH OF THESE SECTIONS CAREFULLY, MAKING SURE THAT THE INFORMATION IS ACCURATE

*NOTE: PARENTS/GUARDIANS WILL NEED TO CREATE THEIR OWN FSA ID (SAME STEP AS ABOVE), BUT ONLY THE STUDENT COMPLETES THE FAFSA APPLICATION.

→ IRS DATA RETRIEVAL TOOL (IRS DRT) ALLOWS STUDENTS AND PARENTS WHO FILED A U.S. TAX RETURN WITH THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE (IRS) TO ACCESS THE IRS TAX RETURN INFORMATION NEEDED TO COMPLETE THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA*) FORM AND TO TRANSFER THE DATA DIRECTLY INTO THEIR FAFSA FORM.

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studentaid.gov/help-center/answers/landing

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FAFSA CHECKLIST

Follow these steps to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student
Aid (FAFSA) each year to apply for most types of financial aid.

1 Determine if you are an independent or dependent student

Independent: only report information about yourself and not your parent(s)

Dependent: report information about yourself and your parent(s) — most common

You are an **independent** student if at least **one** of the following is true about you:

- You will be 24 years of age or older as of Jan 2025 • You
have a child or other dependent for whom you
    provide the majority of financial support
- You have a court-ordered legal guardian who is not
    your biological or adoptive parent
- You were in foster care at any point after age 13

- You were a ward of the court at any point after age 13
- You are married (but not separated or divorced)
- You are homeless or at risk of being homeless
- Your parents are incarcerated or deceased
- You are currently on active duty or are a veteran
    of the U.S. armed forces

If none of the above apply, you're a **dependent** student. If special circumstances prevent
you from providing parental information, contact your college financial aid office.

2 All students need to collect the following information

Gather as many items on the list as you can, even if you're unable to collect them all.

- [ ] Student FSA ID username and password
- [ ] Picture or copy of your social security card (if applicable)
- [ ] Picture or copy of your green card (if applicable)
- [ ] Your 2023 federal tax forms (if applicable)
- [ ] Total current amount in your checking and savings accounts: $
- [ ] Net worth of your investments: $
- [ ] List of colleges you will apply to or current college you will continue attending

3

If you're a dependent student, collect this info for your parent(s). If your parents are divorced/separated, include info about the parent who provides the majority of your financial support. If that parent is remarried, include your stepparent.

General Information

Parent's current marital status: ☐ Single   ☐ Married/Remarried   ☐ Divorced/Separated
☐ Unmarried & living together   ☐ Widowed

FSA ID for one or both parents

	PARENT 1	**PARENT 2**
Full name (same as FSA ID):		
Date of birth:		
Social Security number or ITIN:		
Email address:		
Parent's move date to current state:		

Tax Information

2023 federal tax forms (1040 and all schedules)

If 2023 taxes were not filed, what was the reason?

Financial Information

Total current amount in checking and savings account(s): $

Net worth (value minus debt) of current stocks, bonds, mutual funds, 529 plans, etc.: $

Net worth of investment/rental property/rented portion of your home: $

Net worth of parent-owned business(es) and/or family farm(s): $

Amount of child support received in the past year for all children: $

Federal benefits (SNAP, WIC, TANF, etc.) received in 2023/2024:

Certain situations may impact how you report information on the FAFSA. Contact your college(s) if:

- Your family's income has significantly changed since 2023 or after submitting your FAFSA
- You and your family are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless
- Your parent's marital status has changed since 2023
- You have concerns about your or your parents' citizenship status
- Other major life/financial changes have occurred recently

Click/scan for tax form examples and other resources