FAFSA® Resources and Updates from Federal Student Aid

Florida College Access Network Summit

- Breaking Down Barriers to FAFSA® Completion

- FSA Resources

- Reporting Parent Information and Dependency Status

- FSA ID

- FAFSA® Enhancements

Breaking Down Barriers to FAFSA® Completion

What are some of the barriers to the financial aid and/or FAFSA® process for students and parents?

Common Barriers

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1. **Parents do not want to complete the FAFSA** (mistrust or misunderstanding of the FAFSA)

2. **Student is homeless, in foster care, or does not have contact or live with parents** (independent student or special circumstance)

3. **Student or parents are undocumented** (student is not eligible for federal aid and/or parent thinks they cannot complete the form, international parents, DACA students, eligible noncitizens, etc.)

4. **Student or parents have a complicated family or financial situation** (divorced or separated parents, parents live aboard, don't file taxes, unable to use IRS DRT, etc.)

5. **Student is selected for verification** (randomly or due to factors such as, missing/inaccurate info, family/financial/dependency situation)

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Parents do not want to complete the FAFSA®

[Explain](#) that the information reported on the FAFSA is only used to determine their student's eligibility for financial aid, by completing the FAFSA they are not obligated to pay their student's expenses, and if they don't complete it their dependent student is only eligible for unsubsidized loans from FSA.

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Benefits of using the FAFSA4caster:

- Gives you an early estimate of your eligibility for federal student aid

- Can be used if you're not ready to submit a FAFSA® form yet

- Estimates provided can help you plan ahead for college

Student is homeless, in foster care, or does not have contact or live with parents

A student is not required to provide parent information if they are considered an [independent student](). There is also guidance on our website to help students in [special circumstances]() get the support they need to get through the FAFSA process and work with the financial aid office.

Resource: Facebook

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Student or parents are undocumented

- [Undocumented students](), including DACA recipients, are not eligible for federal student aid but may still be eligible for state or college aid, in addition to private scholarships.

- Students should check with their high school counselor or financial aid office to see whether completing the FAFSA form is the way to apply for aid and to see what aid they may be eligible for.

- Check studentaid.gov for list of eligible noncitizens such as U.S. permeant residents with a green card.

- [A parent's citizenship]() or immigration status does **not** affect a student's eligibility for federal student aid. The FAFSA doesn't even ask about parents' status.

- The parent **cannot** get an FSA ID without a SSN or use the mobile app to complete the FAFSA without a FSA ID, but they can still complete the FAFSA at fafsa.gov by using 000-00-0000 in place of the SSN, printing the signature page, and mailing it to the address on the form.

Resource: Fact Sheet

Financial Aid and Undocumented Students

Questions and Answers

The questions and answers that follow provide information about student financial aid for undocumented students as well as guidance for a specific group of undocumented students who have received Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). We have grouped the questions and answers into two categories: "Eligibility for Financial Aid" and "Completing the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) Form."

Eligibility for Financial Aid

1. **As an undocumented student or DACA student, am I eligible for federal student aid?**

   No. Undocumented students, including DACA students, are not eligible for federal student aid. However, you may be eligible for state or college financial aid, in addition to private scholarships.

2. **As an undocumented student or DACA student, am I eligible for in-state tuition?**

   It depends. In some states, undocumented students, or specifically DACA students, are eligible to receive in-state tuition. Please check with your high school or your college or career school's financial aid office.

Completing the FAFSA® Form

1. **How do I apply for state and college financial aid?**

   Most states and colleges use information collected on the FAFSA form to determine whether you're eligible for aid. However, we first recommend that you check with your high school counselor or your college or career school's financial aid office to see what types of financial aid you may be eligible to receive and whether completing the FAFSA form is the way to apply for that aid.

2. **To complete the FAFSA® form, do I need a Social Security number (SSN)?**

   Yes. An SSN is necessary to complete the FAFSA form. If you are completing a FAFSA form online at fafsa.gov or through the myStudentAid mobile app, an SSN is also required to create a username and password called the FSA ID, which can be used to electronically sign the FAFSA form and to access the myStudentAid mobile app.

   Most undocumented students aren't eligible for an SSN; thus, they cannot complete the FAFSA form. However, DACA students with SSNs can complete the FAFSA form. For information about obtaining an SSN, visit ssa.gov/pubs/deferred_action.pdf.

   If your FAFSA form is rejected due to an issue with your SSN, contact the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY for the deaf or hard of hearing 1-800-325-0778).

Note: The remainder of the questions and answers in this document focus on completing the FAFSA® form, so the guidance applies only to DACA students with SSNs—not to all undocumented students.

3. **Does my parents' citizenship status affect my eligibility for federal student aid?**
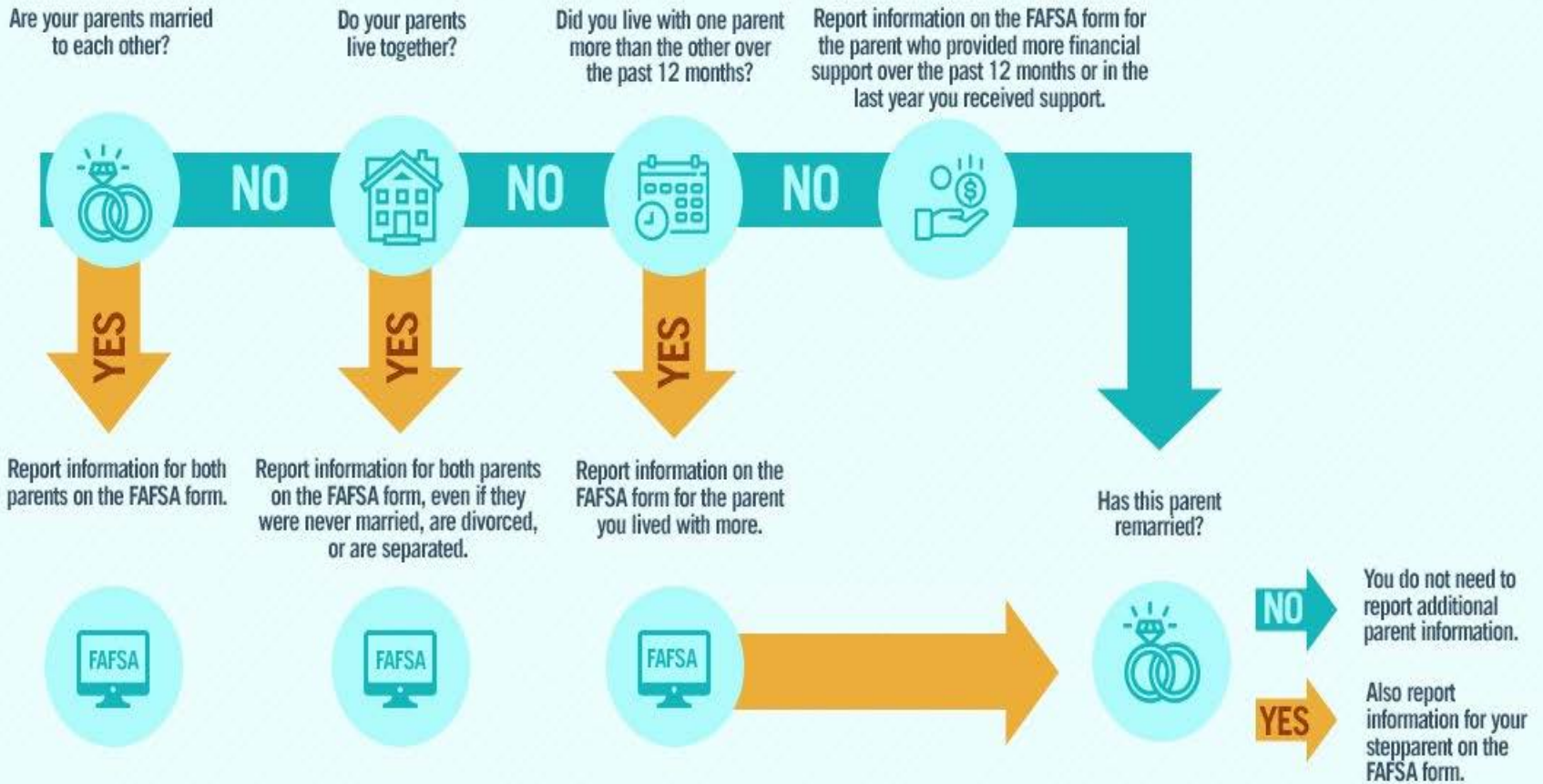
   No. Your parents' citizenship status doesn't affect your eligibility for federal student aid. In fact, the FAFSA form doesn't even ask about your parents' status.

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Student or parents have a complicated family or financial situation

There are many resources that help families determine who the [reporting parent(s) is on the FAFSA](#) and how to report financial and tax information for [parents living abroad](#) and other circumstances. Also, students and parents are [not required to file taxes or use the IRS DRT](#) in order to complete the FAFSA. Call 1-800-4-FEDAID to get help with difficult situations.

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WHO'S MY PARENT WHEN I FILL OUT THE FAFSA FORM?

Use this guide to figure out which parent's information to include (depending on your family situation).

Are your parents married to each other?

Do your parents live together?

Did you live with one parent more than the other over the past 12 months?

Report information on the FAFSA form for the parent who provided more financial support over the past 12 months or in the last year you received support.

NO

NO

NO

YES

YES

YES

Report information for both parents on the FAFSA form.

Report information for both parents on the FAFSA form, even if they were never married, are divorced, or are separated.

Report information on the FAFSA form for the parent you lived with more.

Has this parent remarried?

FAFSA

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NO — You do not need to report additional parent information.

YES — Also report information for your stepparent on the FAFSA form.

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Student is selected for verification

Remind them that verification does not mean they are in trouble and to provide the financial aid office with requested info by the school's deadline.

Have students and parents prepare for possible verification even before selection by making sure they have any letters and/or court documents to prove dependency/residency/family status and/or IRS tax transcripts from irs.gov/transcript or a signed copy of income tax return if unable to use IRS DRT.

FSA Resources

Login into fafsademo.test.ed.gov

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Welcome to Federal Student Aid's *CPS Web Applications Demo System*

This Web site is a demonstration version of Federal Student Aid's 2019-2020 and 2018-2019 *FAFSA on the Web* and *FAA Access to CPS Online* sites, including *Return of Title IV Funds on the Web* (R2T4). The site provides a way for financial aid administrators to show students and parents, as well as financial aid office staff, how to use *FAFSA on the Web* and *FAA Access to CPS Online*. It offers most of the features of the production versions of the *FAFSA on the Web* and *FAA Access to CPS Online* Web sites, except that no data is processed.

Note: The following information applies to this Web site:

- We authenticate users when they log into *FAA Access to CPS Online*. We ask users to provide a Federal Student Aid User ID (FSA User ID) and Password to access federal student aid information through the Internet. Since this is a demonstration Web site and user authentication is not required to access test data, the authentication step is skipped.
- Saved data and submitted data **are cleared** from the database each evening.
- Actual personal identifying information should **never** be used on this Demo site.
- Unlike the production site, an estimated EFC is **not** calculated after an application is submitted. The EFC value is always all 9s for any test case on the Demo site.
- Printed signature pages include a 'test sample' watermark and should not be mailed to the processor. The demo signature page will **not** be accepted or processed.
- If another user saves a renewal or correction application in *FAFSA on the Web*, other users will not know the save key and will have to start a new transaction.
- Unlike the production site, the "CPS Web Applications Demo System" page is considered the FAFSA "Home" page. When a user selects "Exit" or "Home" from the Demo site, they will be directed to the "CPS Web Applications Demo System" page.
- The Demo site includes all *FAFSA on the Web* application, renewal, and correction entry pages beginning with the "Login" page.

Pre-loaded test data is provided for applications that depend on historical data such as renewal applications, corrections, print SAR, application status check, student inquiry, and electronic signatures. Multiple transactions exist for test cases where the highest transaction number is greater than 01. FAA login information is also provided for *FAA Access to CPS Online* applications on the Demo site, including *Return of Title IV Funds on the Web* (R2T4).

The student IDs and FSA IDs to access the test data for each available cycle are given below.
2019-2020
2018-2019

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FINANCIAL AID TOOLKIT

WHO IS IT FOR?

- Counselors
- College access professionals
- Nonprofit mentors
- Other advisors

WHAT DOES IT PROVIDE?

- Resources such as PowerPoint presentations, sample newsletters, emails, and more.
- Outreach tools and ideas.
- Searchable database with downloadable content.

FinancialAidToolkit.ed.gov

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Financial Aid Toolkit
for COUNSELORS

| Learn About Financial Aid ⌄ | Conduct Outreach ⌄ | Get Training ⌄ | Search Financial Aid Tools and Resources |

Help students and parents prepare for college or career school.

The Financial Aid Toolkit provides federal student aid information and outreach tools for counselors, college access professionals, nonprofit mentors, and other advisors.

LEARN ABOUT FINANCIAL AID

CONDUCT OUTREACH
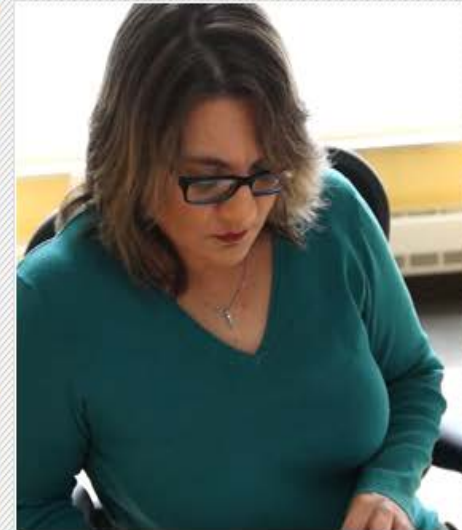
GET TRAINING

SEARCH TOOLS AND RESOURCES

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Financial Aid Toolkit
for COUNSELORS

| Learn About Financial Aid ∨ | Conduct Outreach ∨ | Get Training ∨ | Search Financial Aid Tools and Resources |

Home » Search Financial Aid Tools and Resources

Search for tools and resources to help you or your students learn about financial aid for college.

Filter resources by file type, audience, and topic.

Use the search tool below to filter our Financial Aid Toolkit resources to find just what you need. You can select one or more options in each dropdown box. If you don't select any options from a dropdown box, that box will default to all options being selected.

You may need certain plug-ins or viewers, such as Adobe Reader, to view some resources.

Would you like to know each time we add a resource to the site? Subscribe to our RSS feed by clicking on the orange and white icon below. (Using Chrome? You may want to install the RSS Feed Reader for easier viewing of the feed.)

Want to browse our Financial Aid Toolkit resources rather than searching for something specific? View all financial aid tools and resources.

I AM LOOKING FOR	TO HELP	LEARN ABOUT	
Resource Type ▼	Audience Type ▼	Topic ▼	GET RESOURCES ›
			or Clear Selection

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Digital Outreach Resources

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Financial Aid Toolkit
for COUNSELORS

| Learn About Financial Aid ∨ | Conduct Outreach ∧ | Get Training ∨ | Search Financial Aid Tools and Resources |

Help students and parents p[...] [...]ool.

The Financial Aid Toolkit provides f[...] professionals, nonprofit mentors, an[...]

reach tools for counselors, college access

- Host an Event ›
- Make a Presentation
- Ordering Publications
- Targeting Your Outreach ›
- Digital Outreach ‹
- Articles and Emails
- Public Service Announcements
- Federal Student Aid Partner Spotlight ›
- Get tips on hosting events; sample financial

Digital Outreach

LEARN ABOUT FINANCIAL AID

https://financialaidtoolkit.ed.gov/tk/outreach/social-media.jsp

Tweets About the FAFSA® Process

Quick and easy! No need to copy and paste—click the Retweet button and share information with your networks.

2018–19 FAFSA® NOW AVAILABLE

Federal Student Aid ✔ @FAFSA 🐦

🔆BREAKING NEWS🔆 The 2018–19 FAFSA is now available! Fill it out ASAP to get as much financial aid as possible: fafsa.gov

2:00 AM - Oct 1, 2017

♡ 2,951 ○ 4,417 people are talking about this

12 COMMON FAFSA® MISTAKES

Federal Student Aid ✔ @FAFSA 🐦

⚠ Don't make these 12 costly FAFSA mistakes (especially #3): bit.ly/2hHu6ep

5:00 PM - Oct 1, 2017

♡ 159 ○ 231 people are talking about this

Do The FAFSA® THE EARLIER THE BETTER

Federal Student Aid ✔ @FAFSA 🐦

The sooner you fill it out, the sooner you can relax. Start now: bit.ly/2wwsV3N

8:00 AM - Oct 4, 2017

♡ 395 ○ 555 people are talking about this

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Facebook.com/FederalStudentAid

Search
"Federal
Student Aid"

Twitter.com/FAFSA

"Follow" @FAFSA to see our tweets. Currently, FSA has 138k followers.

YouTube.com/FederalStudentAid

Subscribe to our YouTube Channel

Connect With Us!

Social Media

StudentAid.gov

1-800-4FED-AID

E-mail Us
You can email us anytime.

Chat with Us
Ask a live agent your questions via a web chat.

Call Us
1-800-4FED-AID
(1-800-433-3243)
International Caller? Can't make a toll-free call?
1-334-523-2691

Hours of Operation

Monday–Friday
8 a.m.–11 p.m. Eastern time (ET)

Saturday–Sunday
11 a.m.–5 p.m. Eastern time (ET)

We are closed on federal holidays, the day after Thanksgiving and on December 24th.

We are open on New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday, and Washington's Birthday from 11 a.m.–5 p.m. ET.

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TTY calls only.
1-800-730-8913

Ed.gov/Blog

HomeRoom Blog

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The Five "Qs" of Public Service Loan Forgiveness

The Five "Qs" of
**Public Service
Loan Forgiveness**

1. Work in "Qualifying Employment"
2. "Qualifying Employment Status"
3. Have a "Qualifying Loan"
4. Have a "Qualifying Repayment Plan"
5. Make 120 "Qualifying Payments"

#StudentLoanForgiveness. It's a hashtag now, so you'll all pay attention, right? Everyone wants their student loans forgiven. The perception is that very few qualify for any forgiveness programs. But did you know that there is one broad, employment-based forgiveness program for federal student loans? Most people don't, or misunderstand how it works. Let me break down some key points of the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program to help you figure out if you could qualify.

ED.gov

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Email Address | Subscribe

Latest Posts RSS

Search This Blog

Search ...

#AskArne

Federal Student Aid

College Completion

Early Learning

ConnectED

ESEA Reauthorization

View our blogs by visiting www.ed.gov/blog

In the sidebar, click on "Federal Student Aid."

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THE COLLEGE NAVIGATOR TOOL CAN HELP FIND THE RIGHT COLLEGE FOR YOU

- Refine your search.
- Build a list of schools with side-by-side comparisons.
- Pinpoint school locations with an interactive map.
- Export search results into a spreadsheet.

Net Price Calculator

U.S. Department of Education
Net Price Calculator Center

← Back to CATC

Q. Do you want to know how much it will cost for you to attend college?

A. Enter the name of a college to find its net price calculator.

What does Net Price mean?

Net Price is the amount that a student pays to attend an institution in a single academic year AFTER subtracting scholarships and grants the student receives. Scholarships and grants are forms of financial aid that a student does not have to pay back.

What is a Net Price Calculator?

Net price calculators are available on a college's or university's website and allow prospective students to enter information about themselves to find out what students like them paid to attend the institution in the previous year, after taking grants and scholarship aid into account.

How do other students describe net price?

Click on one of the student video challenge winners to find out...

Net Price Calculator - Typography Video
by Brian S.

Justin,Remo,Bilyana Net Price Calculator Video
by Michael K., Remo K., John R., Bilyana P.

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Reporting Parent Information and Dependency Status

Who's my parent when I fill out
THE FAFSA FORM?

- Dependent students are required to report parent information.

- On your FAFSA form, "PARENT" means your legal (biological or adoptive) parent or stepparent, or a person that the state has determined to be your legal parent.

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Parents' Marital Status:	Provide Information for:
Married	Both of your parents
Remarried (after being widowed or divorced)	Parent and Stepparent
Unmarried and both legal parents living together	Both of your legal parents
Never Married	The parent that you **lived with most** during the last 12 months. If you did not live with one parent more than the other, provide information about the parent who **provided more financial support** during the last 12 months, or during the most recent year that you actually received support from a parent.
Divorced or Separated	The parent that you **lived with most** during the last 12 months. If you did not live with one parent more than the other, provide information about the parent who **provided more financial support** during the last 12 months, or during the most recent year that you actually received support from a parent.
Widowed	Your parent

FAFSA® Dependency Status

If any of the following criteria applies, the student is considered **independen**t:

✓ 24 years or older

✓ Married

✓ Pursuing a Master's or Doctorate Program

✓ Children and you provide ½ support

✓ In foster care since turning the age of 13

✓ Emancipated minor

✓ Currently or was in legal guardianship

✓ Homeless or self supporting and at risk of being homeless

✓ Veteran or serving active duty in U.S. Armed Forces

Special Circumstances

- Some examples of special circumstances are:

  - Parents are incarcerated or deceased

  - Student left home due to an abusive family environment

  - Unsure of parents whereabouts or no contact with parents

- Circumstances must be well documented

- **Financial aid office determines dependency status**

Student Scenarios

Scenarios

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My parent does not have a Social Security number but they file taxes with the IRS. Can they use their Taxpayer Identification Number in place of the SSN?

Answer: No. Do NOT enter a Taxpayer Identification Number in the SSN field. If your parent does not have a Social Security number (SSN), you should enter all zeroes for them on the FAFSA form where it asks for that information.

I am the grandmother and legal guardian of a student. Can I fill out the FAFSA form in place of the parent?

Answer: No. Only legal parents (biological, adoptive, as determined by the state) should report parental information on the FAFSA form. Also, being in legal guardianship determined by the court makes this student an independent student who is **not** required to provide parental information on the FAFSA form.

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My parents do not want to provide their information on the FAFSA form and are not going to contribute to my college expenses. Is this considered a special circumstance?

Answer: No. However, in situations where your parent refuses to provide their information on the FAFSA and refuses to provide you with any financial support, there is an exception that allows a student to submit the FAFSA without parental information and receive an Unsubsidized Loan only.

FSA ID

FSA ID

Username

NAME 123

Password

●●●●●●●●●●

The FSA ID is a username and password combination. You use it to log into to our websites and to electronically sign our forms.

Frequently Asked FSA ID Questions

- **Do I need an email to create an FSA ID?**
  - No, an email is not required to create an FSA ID, but it is highly recommended.

- **What if I try to sign my FAFSA with an FSA ID and I get an error message?**
  - Your name must be typed exactly how it appears on your social security card on your FSA ID profile and FAFSA. Verify your name is spelled the exact same way in each place and make sure your DOB and SSN are correct as well.

- **Do I need a SSN to create an FSA ID?**
  - Yes, and your SSN, name, and DOB must all match with what the Social Security Administration has on file.

- **Can I still sign the FAFSA form without an FSA ID?**
  - Yes, you can print the signature page and mail it in.

FAFSA® Enhancements

There two ways to complete the FAFSA® form: the myStudentAid app and a redesigned, mobile-friendly version of fafsa.gov.
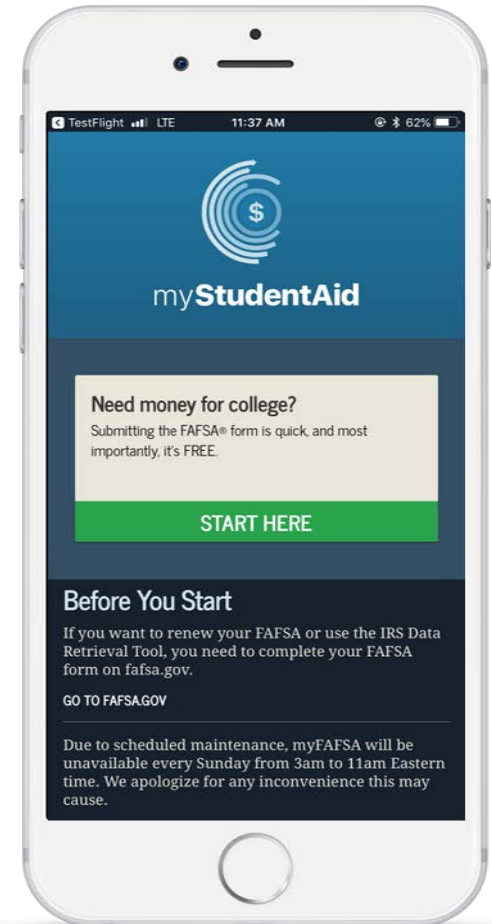
Redesigned fafsa.gov

- The fafsa.gov website was redesigned so that the site pages will fit the screen size and shape of devices such as smartphones or tablets.

- Students and parents can complete the FAFSA form on a mobile device with the same ease as on a desktop or laptop computer.

- The questions are displayed in a more user-friendly way, with some now grouped in a different order to ease navigation through the site.

- StudentAid.gov continues to be the primary resource for information on federal financial aid.
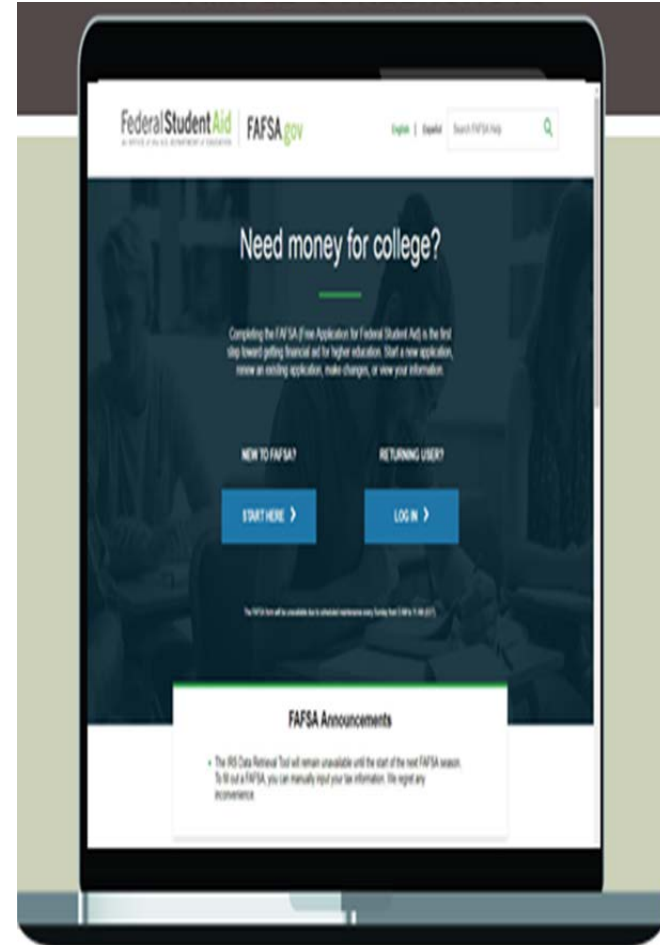
myStudentAid App

myStudentAid Mobile App

Students and parents can complete the 2019–20 FAFSA using the myStudentAid app. Students and parents may download the myStudentAid app in both the Apple App Store (iOS) and Google Play (Android). The myFAFSA component—which is used to complete the FAFSA form—is the app's featured function. The following are key features of myFAFSA:

- Students and parents may begin, complete, and submit a new or renewal FAFSA form for the 2019–20 FAFSA processing cycle.
- Users will be offered a customized experience based on their role (student, parent, or preparer). The app provides guidance on how to complete the FAFSA questions, making the overall process more positive, engaging, and user-friendly.
- Users will have a secure experience with the same data protections as completing the FAFSA form through fafsa.gov.
- Students and parents may use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool (IRS DRT) to electronically transfer federal tax return information into a FAFSA form.
- Students and parents may be eligible to transfer their FAFSA information into their state aid application. Participating states include Iowa, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Vermont.
- Students will be able to view additional information about the schools they selected on their FAFSA form for easy comparison of schools.
- Parents will be able to automatically transfer their information from a completed FAFSA form for one of their children into a new FAFSA form for another child.
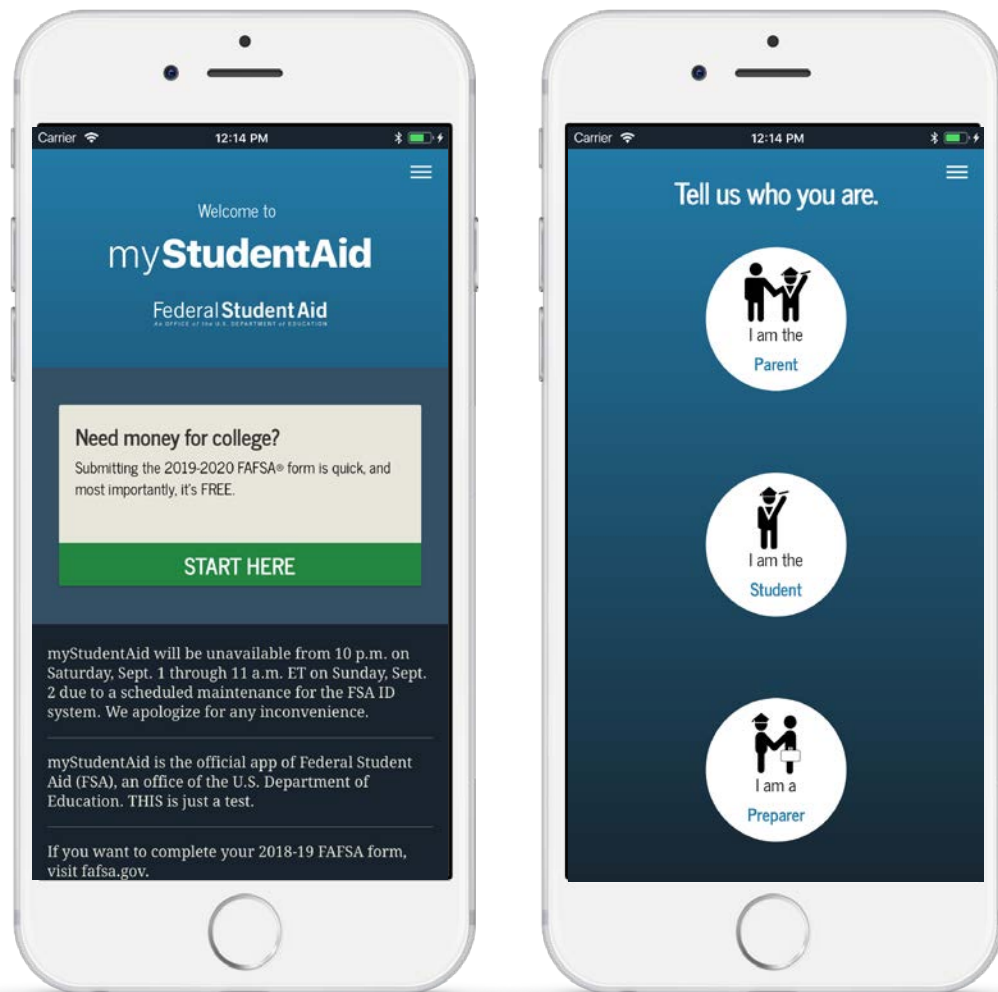
myStudentAid Mobile App: Additional Features

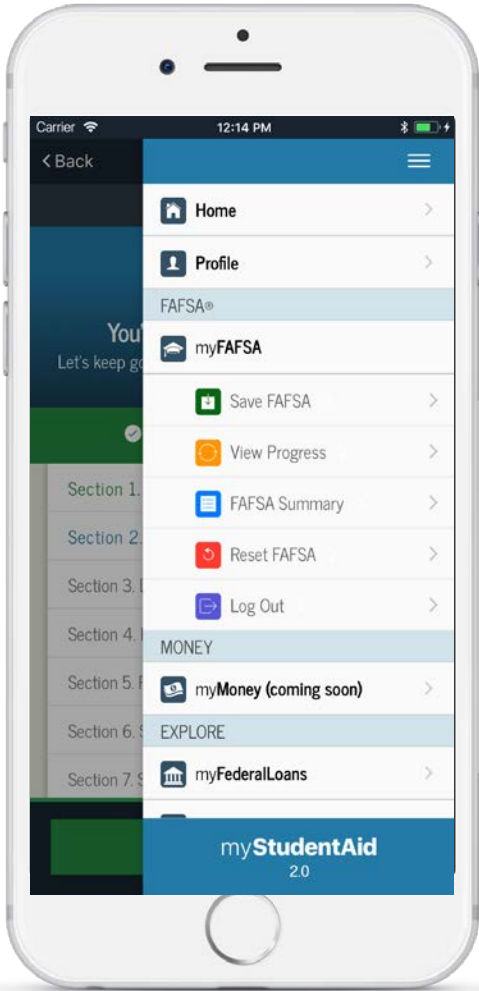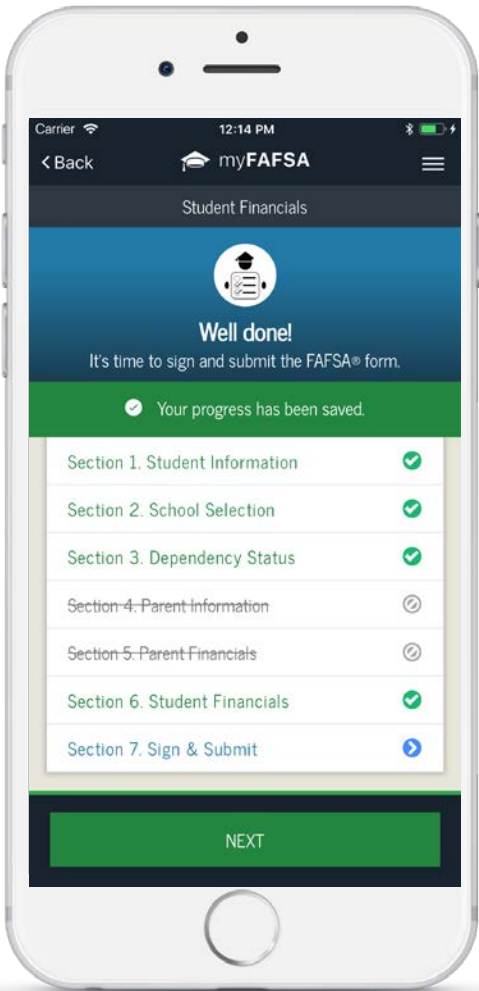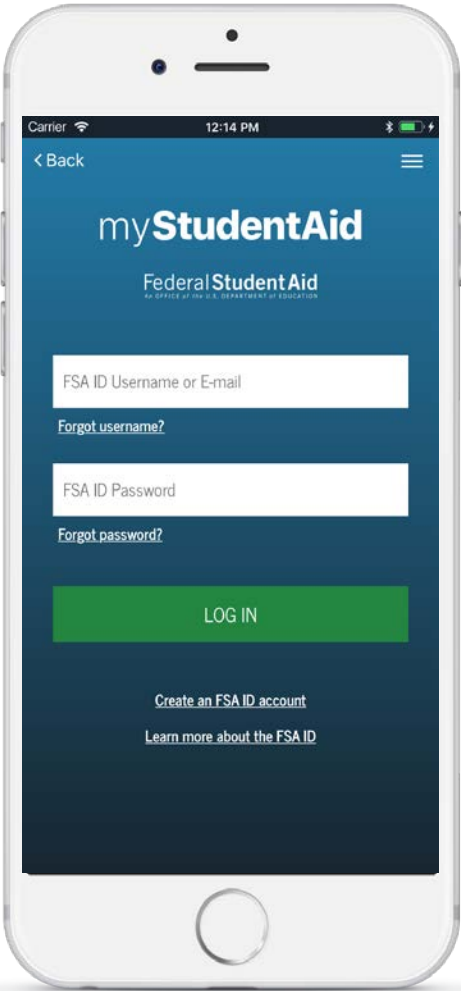In addition, the myStudentAid mobile app provides links to the following services:

- Profile: manage username and password (FSA ID)
- myFederalLoans: view federal student aid history
- myCollegeScorecard: view and compare information about schools
- Contact Us: get in touch with Federal Student Aid contact centers to have your questions answered
- StudentAid.gov: access Federal Student Aid's key source of information about the federal student aid programs, application process, and loan repayment options
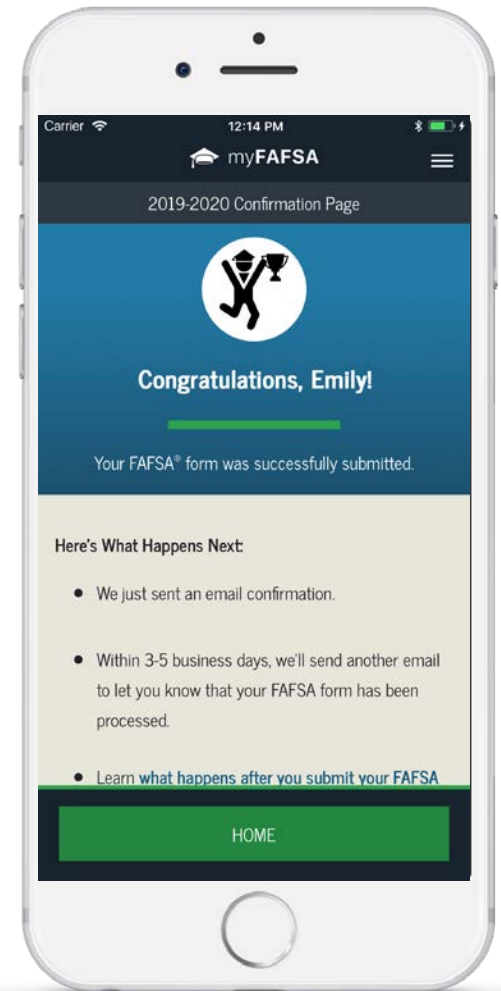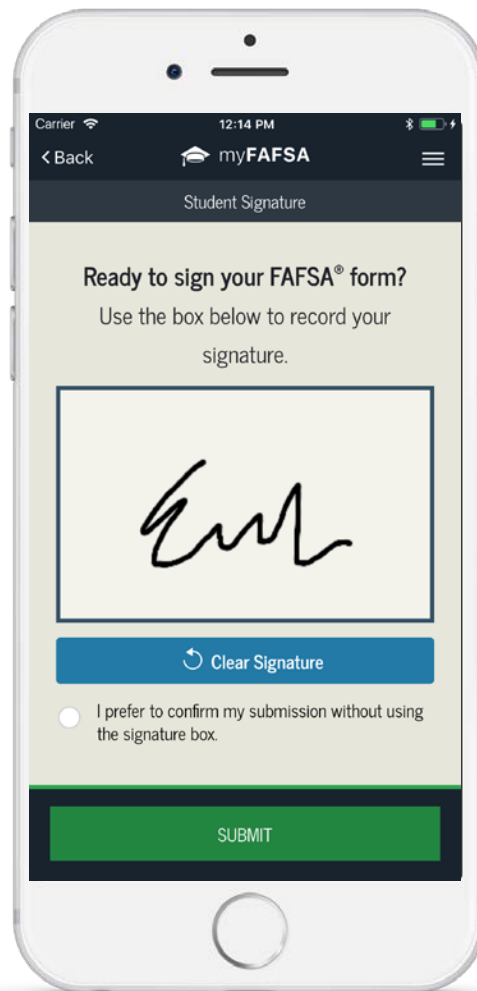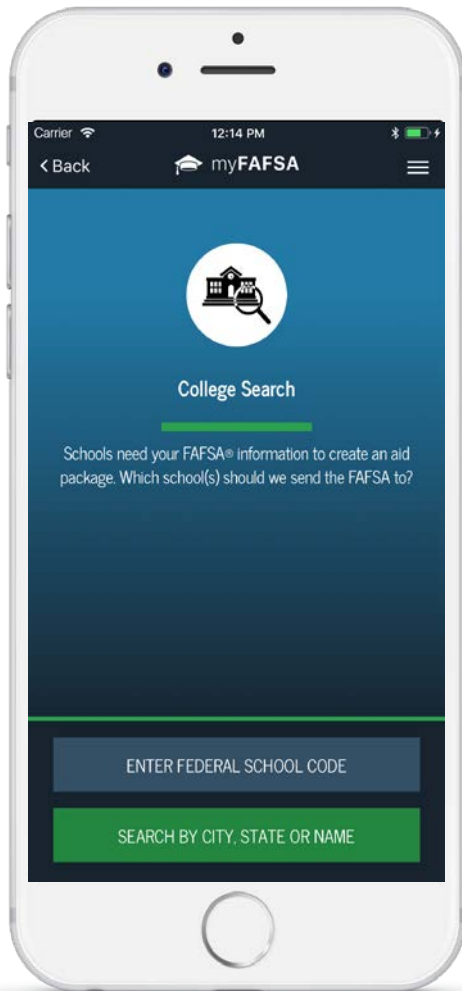
myFAFSA

- Making the FAFSA form accessible through a mobile device provides students and their parents with improved options for completing the form.

- myFAFSA's ability to customize the experience based on a specific role also makes it easier for students and parents to understand and complete the form.

- In addition, students and parents have the ability to complete the FAFSA form on any device that they prefer.

Log In

Complete, Sign and Submit