

# How to Execute FAFSA Simplification at Your College

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# Agenda

- Quick overview
- 2024-25 FAFSA & Dept of Education FAFSA Simplification Resources
- Noteworthy Items
- Special & Unusual Circumstances
- Preparing Others on Campus for FAFSA Simplification
- NASFAA Resources

# Quick Overview

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# 2024-25 FAFSA Concepts

## Applicant experience changes from current form

- Roles and contributors (e.g., Student, Parent, Spouse)
  - Parent Wizard
- Communications/invitations/workflows
- Consent/approval
- FSA ID login requirement
- Grouping/numbering of FAFSA data elements
- Question order based on key decision points

# FSA ID Process & The 2024-25 FAFSA

- Every student and contributor will need to create an FSA ID to complete the 2024-25 FAFSA online
  - FSA IDs will still take around 3 days to be verified and created
  - Schools should be encouraging students to create them well in advance of FAFSA filing
- FSA is still working on a process to allow individuals without SSNs to create an FSA ID

# FAFSA Federal Tax Information (FTI) Approval

- An applicant and contributor (if applicable) must provide approval once each year
- If no approval, no Title IV aid eligibility

# 2024-25 FAFSA and Department of Education FAFSA Simplification Resources

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# Draft 2024-25 FAFSA

- First draft: March, 2023
  - New look and significant reorganization
  - Contains several new questions required by the FAFSA Simplification Act
- Second draft: September 15, 2023

Draft 2023-03-02 Do not submit

**FAFSA<sup>®</sup> Form** July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025  
Free Application for Federal Student Aid Federal Student Aid  
AN OFFICE OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Use this form to apply free for federal and state student grants, work-study, and loans. Or apply free online at [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov).

**Apply by the Deadlines**

For federal aid, submit your application as early as possible, but no earlier than **December XX, 2023**. We must receive your application no later than **June 30, 2025**. Your college must have your correct, complete information by your last day of enrollment in the 2024–25 school year.

For state or college aid, the deadline may be as early as December 2023, and you may need to complete additional forms. Check with your high school counselor or a financial aid administrator at your college. See the state deadlines on page 2. If you are applying close to a deadline, we recommend you submit your FAFSA form online at [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov).

**Fill Out the FAFSA<sup>®</sup> Form**

The FAFSA form has five sections: Student, Student Spouse, Parent, Other Parent, and Preparer. To determine who needs to provide their information, consult "Who must provide information on the FAFSA form?", on page 19.

You may fill the answer fields electronically and then print the form, or print the form first and complete it by hand. If you complete the form by hand, use dark ink and write clearly, as shown below. A computer will process this form; therefore:

- Fill in both circle and square answer fields completely: **Correct** ● ■ **Incorrect** ⊗ ⊕ ⊘ ⊙
- For circle answer fields, choose only one response; for square answer fields, choose all that apply: ○ ● ○ ■ □ ■
- Print in BLOCK CAPITAL letters and skip a box between words; for multi-line responses, wrap any incomplete words onto next line:  
1 4 1 6 P L U M S Continue on next line.  
T A P T 4
- Report dollar amounts such as \$12,356.41 without cents; if negative, completely fill the circle (⊖) after the answer box: \$ 1 2 3 5 6 ⊖

Refer to the notes on pages 19–21 as instructed.

For help in filling out the FAFSA form, go to [StudentAid.gov/completefafsa](https://StudentAid.gov/completefafsa) or call 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243).

**Special Circumstances?**

If you or your family experienced significant changes to your financial situation (such as loss of employment or pay cuts), or other special circumstances (such as tuition expenses at an elementary or secondary school or high unreimbursed medical or dental expenses), complete and submit this form as instructed. Once you submit the form, discuss your special circumstances with the financial aid office at the college(s) you applied to or plan to attend.

**Mail Your FAFSA<sup>®</sup> Form**

After you complete this application, make a copy of pages 5 through 18 for your records. Then mail the original of pages 5 through 18 to:  
**Federal Student Aid Programs, P.O. Box XXXX, City, ST XXXX-XXXX.**

After your application is processed, you will receive a summary of your information in your *FAFSA Submission Summary*. If you provide an email address, your summary will be sent by email within three to five days. If you do not provide an email address, your summary will be mailed to you within three weeks. If you would like to check the status of your application, go to [StudentAid.gov](https://StudentAid.gov) or call 1-800-433-3243.

2024-25 FAFSA<sup>®</sup> Form



# Second Draft FAFSA: Notable Changes

- Language changes
  - Other Parent is now Parent Spouse or Partner
  - Consent to Retrieve/Disclose FTI is now FTI Consent and Approval
- More reorganization
- NASFAA wins
  - Clarification that schools can't see gender and race/ethnicity answers
  - Better options for identifying first-generation status
- Comments due October 16
  - Send your thoughts to [policy@nasfaa.org](mailto:policy@nasfaa.org)

# Outstanding FAFSA Issues

- 2024-2025 online FAFSA Release Date
  - Still anticipated December 2023
- FAFSA prototype
- Federal Student Aid Estimator is live
  - <https://studentaid.gov/aid-estimator/>
- FSAID process for individuals without SSNs
  - Still expected before FAFSA release date

# 2024-25 FAFSA Specifications Guide

- All FAFSA-related processing information and guidance now in a single, multi-volume guide
- Replaces the following stand-alone documents:
  - Summary of Changes for the Application Processing System
  - EDE Technical Reference
  - Application Processing System Specifications for Software Developers
  - The ISIR Guide
  - SAR Comment Codes and Text
  - CPS Test System User Guide

# 2024-25 Draft Student Aid Index and Pell Grant Eligibility Guide

## Resources Include:

- 2024-25 Draft SAI and Pell Grant Eligibility Guide
- 2024-25 Draft SAI and Pell Grant Eligibility Guide Supplement - EFC to SAI Crosswalk
- 2024-25 Draft SAI and Pell Grant Eligibility Guide Supplement - EFC to SAI Scenarios
- 2024-25 Draft SAI and Pell Grant Eligibility Guide Supplement - Eligibility for Max or Min Pell Grant Resource
- 2024-25 Draft SAI and Pell Grant Eligibility Guide Supplement - Pell Formulas and Enrollment Intensity

Final versions of the guide and its supplements will be published prior to the start of the 2024-25 processing cycle.

# Key Terms, Definitions, and Systems Related to FAFSA Simplification and FUTURE Acts

- GEN-23-11: August 4, 2023
  - DCL: <https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/dear-colleague-letters/2023-08-04/fafsa-simplification-act-changes-implementation-2024-25>
  - Q&A: <https://www2.ed.gov/policy/highered/reg/hearulemaking/2009/fafsa-q-and-a.html>
- Includes new information, clarifications, and operational guidance

# Especially Noteworthy

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# Enrollment Intensity and Duration

## Less than full-time

Pell Grant annual award is the scheduled award adjusted for the enrollment intensity

Scheduled award multiplied by the intensity percentage equals the annual award

Enrollment intensity cannot exceed 100%

## Less than 9-mo

No alternate SAI

The calculated SAI will be used in all packaging

Periods other than 9-months =  
COA for that period, less  
Full calculated SAI

# Family Size for 2024-25

- **Family Size** will replace the term “household size” on the FAFSA
- Uses the IRS definition to capture the appropriate number of family members and dependents in the applicant’s household
- Unborn children at the time of filing, cannot be included



# Parent Contributors for 2024-25

- **Contributing parents** are those who provide the majority of financial support in the previous 12 months (not base tax year)
- No parent support in past 12 months, contributing parent is the individual providing the majority of financial support in the most recent 12 months applicable
- Equal support in all preceding time periods, the contributing parent is the one with greater income or assets
- Child support is attributable to the parent that **paid it** (so if majority of financial support, that parent will be the contributor)

# Consent

Required whether using FA-DDX or manually entering income

Required for student to receive Title IV aid

Consent required for all and gives approval for the attempt to obtain FTI via FA-DDX

Consent does not require any obligation to contribute to costs

# Reporting Assets

- Education savings accounts (529s, etc) will only be counted as a parent asset if the account is designated for the student
  - Education savings accounts designated for other dependent children will NOT be counted
- Simple Needs Test - Eliminated
- Some applicants will be **exempt** from reporting assets using other criteria based on income, tax filing status, and receipt of a benefit from a federal means-tested benefit program.

# Foreign Income and Exclusions

- Foreign Income and assets manually entered (not on U.S. Taxes)
- One question with six options to figure out steps
  
- If foreign income exclusion is reported and the max Pell flag is present, comment code will appear on the ISIR
  - Documented income can be added back to AGI to determine ineligibility for Maximum Pell Grant
  - PJ determination

# Emergency Aid

No longer considered other financial assistance

Must still be a cost of attendance item

Must still be an unexpected expense

Otherwise not considered when determining need level



Not a way to get around reporting other forms of support from the institution



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# Income Earned from Work

Changes impact within need analysis

The payroll tax allowance replaces the Social Security Tax allowance in the EFC formula

Two steps:

- Medicare Hospital Insurance (HI)

- Old-Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance (OASDI)

Only applies to U.S. tax filers

# Special/Unusual Circumstances

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# The Road to 2024-25 Goes Through 2023-24



- Easily accessible **details** and instructions
- Supporting documentation **requirements**
- Highlight the process and **timeline**
- Must inform within 60 days of enrollment or receipt of request
- Provide students with a final determination of their dependency status and financial aid offer as soon as practicable after reviewing all requested documentation





# Determination of Unaccompanied Youth

- Definitions
  - Unaccompanied
  - Homeless
  - At-risk of homelessness
  - Self-supporting
- Determination by eligible authority
  - Educational homeless liaison, Emergency shelter designee, FAA at other inst
- Determination in absence of eligible authority
  - FAA receives written statement or conducts documented interview

# Preparing Others on Campus

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# Who Are You Sharing With?

- Senior leadership
  - Finance
  - Admission
  - Specialty Services Offices
  - Institutional Research
  - Information Technology - software
  - Information Technology - Chief Information and Security Officer
- 
- Must protect Federal Tax Information (FTI) and handle Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) as defined by law

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# Resources to Help You

- School Implementation Checklist (updated)
  - Comprehensive
  - Direct links to source of record
  - General knowledge, Budgeting, COA, Technology, Data loss solutions, Policy and Procedures, Stakeholder engagement, Communications and Outreach, Training
- PowerPoint Template for Campus Partners
- Communication templates with parents, current students, prospective students and community partners
- Community Sharing - member submitted

# NASFAA Resources

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# Comment Codes Crosswalk

- Comment Codes for 2024-25 will undergo significant renumbering from the previous year.
- In response to member concerns about needing to update financial aid systems and communications NASFAA has begun work to develop a crosswalk.
- We expect to have this resource available in October.

# AskRegs Articles

- AskRegs articles that concern topics that span multiple award years are marked by the aid year that they pertain to if that award year has different rules

Add To Favorites

## Who Is the Parent Of Record On the FAFSA Starting In 2024-25?

Award Year: 2024-25

KA-36530

Helpfulness Rating ⓘ ★★★★★

3,304 page views

This guidance is specific to the 2024-25 award year and later.

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# NASFAA's SAI Modeling Tool

- Updated September 20th for 2023-24 data input
- Estimated SAI vs EFC
- Estimated Pell Grant Amount
- Assistance for underresourced schools:  
[www.nasfaa.org/sai\\_modeling\\_tool\\_assistance](http://www.nasfaa.org/sai_modeling_tool_assistance)

Open to the public (NEW):  
[www.nasfaa.org/sai\\_modeling\\_tool](http://www.nasfaa.org/sai_modeling_tool)



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# NASFAA's FAFSA Simplification Web Center

- SAI formula/Pell eligibility flowchart
- Charts summarizing changes
- Implementation Timeline
- School checklist
- Community resource library: communication samples
- **Updated** Monograph: Developing the Cost of Attendance, Practical Information for Student Aid Professionals
- **Updated** Monograph: Professional Judgment in Eligibility Determination and Need Analysis

[www.nasfaa.org/fafsa\\_simplification](http://www.nasfaa.org/fafsa_simplification)

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# Questions?

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