

FAFSA

Free
Application for
Federal
Student
Aid

Tip\$heet

Completing the FAFSA makes you eligible for financial aid.

Go to fafsa.ed.gov to complete your financial aid application now!

What is the FAFSA?

The FAFSA is the free application for federal student aid. You must complete the FAFSA in order to be eligible for federal aid, most state and local aid, as well as private grants and scholarships.

Why complete the FAFSA?

When you complete the FAFSA, you become eligible for financial aid to help you pay for college. The US Department of Education uses information from your FAFSA to determine how much federal loan and grant money you qualify for. The State of Michigan also requires you to complete the FAFSA for many of its scholarship opportunities. Colleges will also use information from your FAFSA to calculate how much additional financial aid they are able to give you.

What is the deadline to complete the FAFSA?

You should complete the FAFSA as soon as possible after October 1st. If you are planning on going to college during the 2019-2020 school year, you should complete the FAFSA as soon as you can after October 1st, 2018.

You must file a new FAFSA every year!

Which taxes do I use to complete the FAFSA?

If you are planning to go to college during the 2019-2020 school year, you will need to use tax information from 2017. Be sure you are filling out the 2019-2020 FAFSA.

Next year, you will need to fill out the 2020-2021 FAFSA using tax information from 2018.

Whose Information Goes on the FAFSA?

Most students are required to complete the FAFSA with their own information as well as with their parent(s)' information. Few students, however, qualify to complete the FAFSA independently. The FAFSA form will help you determine whether or not you need to report your parents' information.. You can also ask your guidance counselor and/or college adviser for help!

What do I need to file my FAFSA on fafsa.gov?

- Social Security Numbers
- Driver's License Number (if you have one)
- Alien Registration Number (if you are not a US citizen)
- W2 forms
- Federal Income Tax Return (e.g. 1040, 1040A, 1040EZ) from the prior-prior year
- Other untaxed income amounts (e.g. child support, workers' compensation, payments to tax deferred pension, savings plans, etc.)
- Knowledge of your current cash, checking, and savings amounts, as well as the value of other investments such as bonds or rental properties that you own.

Steps to complete the FAFSA

1. Make an FSA ID for yourself and have one of your legal parents make an FSA ID as well. The FSA ID acts as a username/password to the FAFSA as well as your signature on the FAFSA. You can make an FSA ID at fsaid.ed.gov
2. Complete the FAFSA at fafsa.ed.gov