



Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

The 2026-2027 FAFSA form officially launches on October 1, 2025.

Term Explanations:

- **CONTRIBUTOR** - anyone who is required to provide information on a student's FAFSA form, including the student, the student's spouse, a biological or adopted parent, or the parent's spouse. **Being a contributor does not imply responsibility for a student's college costs.**
- Student needs the name, date of birth, Social Security number (SSN), and email address to invite **contributor(s)** to complete their portion of FAFSA.
- Contributor(s) need to provide personal and financial information on their section of FAFSA.
- If your parents are divorced or separated, the contributing parent(s) is the parent (and their spouse, if remarried) **who provided the greater portion of financial support during the 12 months immediately prior to filing the FAFSA.** It is **NOT** automatically the parent the student primarily lived with for the past 12 months.
- **MUST PROVIDE CONSENT** - all contributor(s) - student, student's spouse (if married), and student's parent(s) **must give consent for tax data to be transferred directly from the IRS to FAFSA.**
- If consent is **NOT** provided by all parties, the student is not eligible for financial aid. Previously, IRS data transferring was optional, but now it is required.
- The **Student Aid Index (SAI)** will determine financial aid eligibility. The SAI may be a negative number.
- Businesses (with over 100 employees) and farms (income-producing) are considered assets.
- The **FAFSA Submission Summary** is emailed to the student once they complete the FAFSA.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ):

- **What is the cost to complete the FAFSA? It's FREE!**
- **Who is considered a "contributor"?** The student, the student's spouse, a biological or adopted parent, or the parent's spouse. Grandparents, foster parents, legal guardians, widowed stepparents, aunts & uncles, are not considered contributors unless they have **legally adopted** the student.



What to do AHEAD of time:

The student AND contributor(s) (i.e., parent(s), if married, spouse) will each need their own Federal Student Aid (FSA) ID to complete their section of the FAFSA.

- **First, register today for your FSA ID at studentaid.gov/fsa-id**
 - Student and parent must [create](#) own FSA ID
 - Real-time identity verification planned for 26/27
- **Second, complete the FAFSA form online by logging in at studentaid.gov/FAFSA**

What information is needed to file the FAFSA:

- Social Security Number(s) (SSN)
- Cash, Savings, & checking accounts as of today
- Alien Registration Number (if not U.S. citizen)
- Current value of investments including real estate (not the home you live in)
- 2024 Federal Tax Return Information & 2024 W-2(s)
- Current net worth of business and investment farms
- 2024 Child Support Received
- Date of Birth for contributor(s)
- 2024 Interest Income (1099 statement)
- Email address for contributor(s)

For help contact **Federal Student Aid at 1-800-433-3243**

Questions?

Contact our UMD Financial Aid Educator by phone 218-726-6733, or email at FinAidEd@d.umn.edu, or by Zoom appointment at z.umn.edu/FinAidAppt | UMD school code: 002388