

FAFSA Checklist

You are considered a dependent unless you can answer yes to one of these: were born before 01/01/1996, are married as of today, at the beginning of 2019-2020 will be working on a master's or doctorate program, are a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces, you have children or dependents that receive more than half of their support from you, your parents are deceased, you were in foster care or a dependent of the court since turning 13 as determined by a court you were an emancipated minor or someone other than your parent or step-parent have legal guardianship, or any time after 07/01/2018 you were determined by your school district homeless liaison, director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program to be self-supporting and at risk of being homeless.

Here's what you'll need:

- Your Social Security card and driver's license, and/or alien registration card if you are not a US citizen.
- Your most recent federal income tax returns (you don't have to wait – you can use the most recent returns you have from last year), W-2s, and other records of money earned. (Note: You may be able to transfer your federal tax return information into your FAFSA using the [IRS Data Retrieval Tool](#).)
- Your parents' income tax returns, W-2 forms and 1040 forms if you are a dependent (and you are unless declared otherwise).
- Records and documentation of other nontaxable income received such as welfare benefits, Social Security income, veteran's benefits, military or clergy allowances (if applicable).
- Any additional applicable financial information, such as taxable work-study, assistant-ships, fellowships, grants and scholarship aid reported to the IRS, combat pay or special combat pay and cooperative education program earnings.
- Records of any additional nontaxable income: Examples include: child support received, veterans' non-education benefits, money received or paid on your behalf, etc.
- Current bank and brokerage account statements, including records of stocks, bonds, mutual funds and other investments (if applicable).
- Business or investment farm records (if applicable).
- Records relating to any unusual family financial circumstances, such as anything that changed from last year or anything that distinguishes the family from the typical family. Examples include: high non-reimbursed medical and/or dental expenses, unusually high dependent care costs (e.g., for a special needs child or an elderly parent), death, divorce, salary reductions, job loss and private K-12 tuition.
- When filling out and submitting your FAFSA electronically, you'll need a [FASFA ID](#) to sign the form. If you don't have one, you can [create a FASFA ID online](#). If you are applying as a dependent- again, you are unless declared otherwise-one parent is required to sign as well. To electronically fill out your FAFSA online, your parent should also apply for a FAFSA ID at the same site. **You will need to know your e-mail address and your parent's e-mail address.**
- If you are a man, 25 years or younger, you must be registered with Selective Service. According to the [Selective Service System website](#), "men, born after December 31, 1960, who aren't registered with Selective Service won't qualify for Federal student loans or grant programs.

*Other questions to ask your parents, if possible, in order to complete the form:

Some schools offer aid based on the level of schooling your parents completed. Know the highest level completed by each parent (Middle/Jr. High, High School, College, or Other/Unknown).

Marital status and date your parents were married, remarried, separated, divorced, or widowed.

Which, if any, of the following do your parents or anyone in the household receive: Medicaid, SSI, SNAP, Free or Reduced Lunch, TANF or WIC