

What's New for the 2017–18 FAFSA?

Basics for Parents
and College Students

Topics

- What's Changing
- Benefits to Students
- FAQs About Timing & Reporting Information
- Getting FAFSA Info & Help

What's Changing for 2017–18

Change #1: Earlier FAFSA® Launch

- 2017–18 FAFSA available Oct. 1, 2016, at fafsa.gov
- Change to October 1 launch will be permanent

Change #2: Earlier Income Info Required

- 2015 tax/income information required
- (Normally would have been 2016)

What's Changing for 2017–18

CHANGES TO THE FAFSA® PROCESS FOR 2017–18

SUBMIT A FAFSA EARLIER: Students will be able to submit a 2017–18 FAFSA as early as Oct. 1, 2016, rather than beginning on Jan. 1, 2017. The earlier submission date will be a permanent change, enabling students to complete and submit their FAFSAs as early as October 1 every year. (There is NO CHANGE to the 2016–17 schedule. The 2016–17 FAFSA became available Jan. 1, 2016.)

USE EARLIER INCOME AND TAX INFORMATION: Beginning with the 2017–18 FAFSA, students will report income and tax information from an earlier tax year. For example, on the 2017–18 FAFSA, students (and parents, as appropriate) will report their 2015 income and tax information, rather than their 2016 income and tax information.

Here's a summary of key dates for submitting the FAFSA depending on when you plan to go to school:

IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND COLLEGE FROM	YOU WILL SUBMIT THIS FAFSA	YOU CAN SUBMIT THE FAFSA FROM	USING INCOME AND TAX INFORMATION FROM
July 1, 2015–June 30, 2016	2015–16	January 1, 2015–June 30, 2016	2014
July 1, 2016–June 30, 2017	2016–17	January 1, 2016–June 30, 2017	2015
July 1, 2017–June 30, 2018	2017–18	October 1, 2016–June 30, 2018	2015
July 1, 2018–June 30, 2019	2018–19	October 1, 2017–June 30, 2019	2016

Benefits to Students

- **Benefit #1: Alignment**
 - Many college admissions application deadlines occur in the fall
 - Financial aid application done at same time = less confusion
- **Benefit #2: Certainty**
 - No need to estimate tax info
 - IRS Data Retrieval Tool available immediately
 - Expected Family Contribution known earlier (helps with assessing net costs)
- **Benefit #3: Less Pressure**
 - More time before (most) state and school deadlines
 - More time to compare schools before College Signing Day

FAQs About Timing & Reporting Info

Will deadlines be earlier?

- Most state and school deadlines won't change
- Note: several states will change from “as soon as possible after January 1” to “as soon as possible after October 1” (for their first-come, first-served state aid)
- State deadlines: fafsa.gov
- School deadlines: see schools' websites

FAQs About Timing & Reporting Info

Will 2016–17 FAFSA info be carried over to Renewal FAFSA?

- No; too much could have changed
- IRS Data Retrieval Tool: easily import your tax data to keep process quick

FAQs About Timing & Reporting Info

Can a student choose to report 2016 information?

- No; you do not have a choice of which year to report
- Must report info re the year the FAFSA asks for
- Talk to college if big change in financial circumstances
- Remember: Certain items on FAFSA are “as of today,” so you must read each question and fill out accordingly

FAQs About Timing & Reporting Info

Will students receive aid offers earlier if they apply earlier?

- Not necessarily; some schools will make offers earlier; others won't
- collegescorecard.ed.gov allows for cost comparison of schools based on averages
- Remember: early aid offers will likely be estimates (Pell maximum not announced until early 2017)

Getting FAFSA Info & Help

StudentAid.gov

The screenshot shows the StudentAid.gov website. At the top, there are links for 'ABOUT US', 'ENGLISH | ESPAÑOL', and a 'LOG IN' button. The main header features the 'Federal Student Aid' logo, which is an office of the U.S. Department of Education, and a 'PROUD SPONSOR of the AMERICAN MIND' logo. A search bar is located on the right side of the header. Below the header is a navigation menu with five items: 'Prepare for College', 'Types of Aid', 'Who Gets Aid', 'FAFSA: Applying for Aid', and 'How to Repay Your Loans'. The main content area has a banner with the text: 'Minds can achieve anything. We make sure they get to college. At Federal Student Aid, we make it easier to get money for higher education.' Below the banner are five columns, each with a profile picture of a student and a question: 'HOW DO I PREPARE FOR COLLEGE?', 'WHAT TYPES OF AID CAN I GET?', 'DO I QUALIFY FOR AID?', 'HOW DO I APPLY FOR AID?', and 'HOW DO I MANAGE MY LOANS?'. Each column has a short paragraph of text. At the bottom, there is an 'ANNOUNCEMENTS' section with a link to 'CFPB ACTION TO SHUT DOWN STUDENT DEBT RELIEF SCHEME'. The footer contains a grid of links for each of the five main navigation categories and a 'More Info' section with links for 'About Us', 'Contact Us', and 'Leave Us Feedback'.

ABOUT US | ENGLISH | ESPAÑOL | LOG IN

Federal Student Aid
An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

PROUD SPONSOR of
the AMERICAN MIND®

Search StudentAid.gov

Prepare for College | Types of Aid | Who Gets Aid | FAFSA: Applying for Aid | How to Repay Your Loans

Minds can achieve anything. We make sure they get to college.
At Federal Student Aid, we make it easier to get money for higher education.

HOW DO I PREPARE FOR COLLEGE?
Learn about exploring careers, choosing and applying to schools, and taking required tests. Use checklists to help get ready.

WHAT TYPES OF AID CAN I GET?
Read about the types of financial aid available from the government and other sources: grants, scholarships, loans, and work-study.

DO I QUALIFY FOR AID?
Most people are eligible for financial aid. Find out who gets aid, how to stay eligible, and how to get eligibility back if you've lost it.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR AID?
Learn how to submit your *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®), how aid is calculated, and how you'll get your aid.

HOW DO I MANAGE MY LOANS?
Choose a repayment plan, pay on time, avoid default, and get help with problems.

ANNOUNCEMENTS | [CFPB ACTION TO SHUT DOWN STUDENT DEBT RELIEF SCHEME](#)

Prepare for College Explore Careers Career Search Checklists to Get Ready	Types of Aid Grants and Scholarships Loans Work-Study Jobs	Who Gets Aid Basic Eligibility Criteria Non-U.S. Citizens Staying Eligible	FAFSA: Applying for Aid Estimate Your Aid Filling Out the FAFSA Dependency Status	How to Repay Your Loans Making a Payment Repayment Plans Loan Consolidation	More Info About Us Contact Us Leave Us Feedback
---	--	--	---	---	---

Getting FAFSA Info & Help

FAFSA info section: StudentAid.gov/fafsa

The screenshot displays the Federal Student Aid website interface. At the top, the logo for Federal Student Aid is visible, along with the text "PROUD SPONSOR of the AMERICAN MIND®" and "An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION". A search bar is located in the top right corner.

The main navigation bar includes the following categories: Prepare for College, Types of Aid, Who Gets Aid, FAFSA: Applying for Aid (selected), and How to Repay Your Loans. The "FAFSA: Applying for Aid" dropdown menu is open, showing options such as "Estimate Your Aid", "Filing Out the FAFSA", "Next Steps", "Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)", and "Ready to fill out the FAFSA? Go to the FAFSA website".

The main content area features a prominent call to action: "If you're ready to fill out the FAFSA now, go for it!" with a "Fill Out the FAFSA" button. Below this, it states: "If you'd like more information first, we can help." The text explains that completing and submitting the FAFSA is free and quick, providing access to the largest source of financial aid. It also notes that many states and colleges use FAFSA data to determine eligibility for state and school aid, and some private financial aid providers may use FAFSA information to determine whether you qualify for their aid.

On the right side, there is a "Resources" section with links to "2016-17 Completing the FAFSA VIEW FILE >", "Myths About Financial Aid VIEW FILE >", and "2016-17 FAFSA on the Web Worksheet VIEW FILE >".

The URL at the bottom of the page is <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/filing-out>.

Getting FAFSA Info & Help

Fact sheets, videos, graphics, etc.:
StudentAid.gov/resources#fafsa

Fact Sheets		
What's an FSA ID and Why Do I Need One?	PDF	PDF
Am I Dependent or Independent?	PDF	PDF
Who Is My "Parent" When I Fill Out the FAFSA?	PDF	PDF
College Students and Parents: What You Need to Know About the 2017-18 FAFSA®	PDF	Coming spring 2016
Myths About Financial Aid	PDF	PDF

Getting FAFSA Info & Help

Changes for 2017–18: StudentAid.gov/fafsa-changes

FAFSA® Changes for 2017–18

On Sept. 14, 2015, President Obama announced significant changes to the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) process that will impact millions of students. Starting with the 2017–18 application cycle, the following changes will be put in place:

- **Students will be able to submit a FAFSA® earlier.** Students will be able to file a 2017–18 FAFSA as early as Oct. 1, 2016, rather than beginning on Jan. 1, 2017. The earlier submission date will be a permanent change, enabling students to complete and submit a FAFSA as early as October 1 every year. (There is **NO CHANGE** to the 2016–17 schedule. The FAFSA became available January 1 as in previous years.)
- **Students will use earlier income information.** Beginning with the 2017–18 FAFSA, students will be required to report income information from an earlier tax year. For example, on the 2017–18 FAFSA, students (and parents, as appropriate) will report their 2015 income information, rather than their 2016 income information.

The following table provides a summary of key dates as we transition to using the early FAFSA submission timeframe and earlier tax information.

CHANGES TO THE FAFSA® PROCESS FOR 2017–18

SUBMIT A FAFSA EARLIER: Students will be able to submit a 2017–18 FAFSA as early as Oct. 1, 2016, rather than beginning on Jan. 1, 2017. The earlier submission date will be a permanent change, enabling students to complete and submit their FAFSAs as early as October 1 every year. (There is **NO CHANGE** to the 2016–17 schedule. The 2016–17 FAFSA became available Jan. 1, 2016.)

USE EARLIER INCOME AND TAX INFORMATION: Beginning with the 2017–18 FAFSA, students will report income and tax information from an earlier tax year. For example, on the 2017–18 FAFSA, students (and parents, as appropriate) will report their 2015 income and tax information, rather than their 2016 income and tax information.

Here's a summary of key dates for submitting the FAFSA depending on when you plan to go to school:


IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND COLLEGE FROM	YOU WILL SUBMIT THIS FAFSA	YOU CAN SUBMIT THE FAFSA FROM	USING INCOME AND TAX INFORMATION FROM
July 1, 2015–June 30, 2016	2015–16	January 1, 2015–June 30, 2016	2014
July 1, 2016–June 30, 2017	2016–17	January 1, 2016–June 30, 2017	2015
July 1, 2017–June 30, 2018	2017–18	October 1, 2016–June 30, 2018	2015

Getting FAFSA Info & Help

Social Media

- [Twitter.com/FAFSA](https://twitter.com/FAFSA)
- [Facebook.com/FederalStudentAid](https://facebook.com/FederalStudentAid)
- YouTube.com/FederalStudentAid

Federal Student Aid's YouTube Page



Federal Student Aid

Home Videos Playlists Channels Discussion About

How Do I Create an FSA ID?

42,476 views • 4 months ago

The first step to applying for federal student aid is completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (or the FAFSA®). Before you fill out your FAFSA watch this video to learn how to create an FSA ID—a username and password—that replaced the Federal Student Aid PIN.






You will need an FSA ID to electronically sign and submit your FAFSA, as well as to make any needed corrections later. And if you are a dependent student, your parent will need his or her own FSA ID, too.

Do not allow someone to create your FSA ID for you, and you should not create one

[Read more](#)

FAFSA: Apply for Aid

Are you ready to apply for financial aid for college or career school? Check out this playlist that describes the process of filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). For more information:

 <p>How to Create an FSA ID by Federal Student Aid 42,476 views • 4 months ago</p>	 <p>FAFSA and FSA ID Tips for Parents by Federal Student Aid 3,544 views • 2 weeks ago</p>	 <p>Overview of the Financial Aid Process by Federal Student Aid 401,900 views • 3 years ago</p>	 <p>FAFSA Overview by Federal Student Aid 306,618 views • 3 years ago</p>	 <p>How to Fill Out the FAFSA by Federal Student Aid 13,743 views • 3 months ago</p>
---	--	--	---	--

Types of Aid

Can't tell grants from loans? No clue what work-study means? Here's a playlist to help you navigate the various types of federal student aid. For more information on the various types of financial aid, visit

Getting FAFSA[®] Info and Help

Where to Get Help

- fafsa.gov (help screens; online chat)
- 1-800-4-FED-AID
- studentaid@ed.gov