

STEP
1



FAFSA Dependency Status Questions

Answer the following questions to determine if parental data is needed on your FAFSA.

If you answer “no” to every question, you are dependent and must provide parental information on the FAFSA.

If you answer “yes” to any question, you are independent and should not include parental information on the FAFSA.

Were you born before January 1, 2002? Yes No

As of today, are you married? Yes No

At the beginning of the 2025-26 school year, will you be working on a master’s or doctorate program? Yes No

Are you currently serving on active duty in the U.S. armed forces for purposes other than training? Yes No

Are you a veteran of the U.S. armed forces? Yes No

Do you have children or other people (excluding your spouse) who live with you and who receive more than half of their support from you now and between July 1, 2025, and June 30, 2026? Yes No

At any time since you turned age 13, were both your parents deceased, were you in foster care, or were you a dependent or ward of the court? Yes No

Are you or were you a legally emancipated minor, as determined by a court in your state of residence? Yes No

Are you or were you in a legal guardianship with someone other than your parent or stepparent, as determined by a court in your state of residence? Yes No

At any time on or after July 1, 2024, were you unaccompanied and either (1) homeless or (2) self-supporting and at risk of being homeless? Yes No

STEP 2 If you’re dependent, which parent(s) need an FSA ID?


If parents are married...

... and file taxes together, only one parent will need an FSA ID.

...but don’t file taxes together, both parents will need an FSA ID.

If parents unmarried living together...

...both parents will need an FSA ID.


The FAFSA considers the student’s parent to be their legal (biological or adoptive) parent.

If parents are divorced or separated not living together...

...the parent who provided more financial support in the last 12 months will need an FSA ID.
If support equal, then parent with highest income/assets.

If remarried, and parent and stepparent didn’t file taxes together, both parent and stepparent will need FSA IDs.

FAFSA Checklist

Complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) at studentaid.gov to apply for federal, state, and college-based financial aid. Dependent students must include both student and parent data on the FAFSA.

REQUIRED INFORMATION-If applicable

WHERE TO FIND IT

Student and parent 2023 Federal Income Tax Forms and all schedules

Personal records or visit irs.gov/transcript

Student and parent FSA ID usernames and passwords

Create student and parent FSA IDs at studentaid.gov - allow five days for the Social Security Administration to verify the FSA IDs

Student and parent email addresses

Student: _____
Parent: _____

Student and parent Social Security numbers

Personal records or call the Social Security Administration at 800-772-1213

Student and parent dates of birth

Student: / /
 Month Day Year
Parent 1: / / Parent 2: / /
 Month Day Year Month Day Year

Student and parent savings/checking account balances

Student: \$ _____ Parent: \$ _____

Student and parent investments (ie. stocks, bonds, mutual funds, 529 plans, rental properties) excluding home and retirement

Student: \$ _____ Parent: \$ _____

Current net worth of all businesses

\$ _____ from financial statements, valuation professionals or accountant

Current net worth of all farms

\$ _____ from financial statements, valuation professionals or accountant

Child support received from the LAST complete calendar year

\$ _____ from personal records or court orders or child support state agency

Student Alien Registration Number/USCIS Number for eligible non-citizens

Personal records or contact U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services at uscis.gov