

# THE BETTER FAFSA

## What Students and Their Families Need to Know

### Higher Education Opens Doors to Opportunity

The U.S. Department of Education is making transformational changes to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA<sup>®</sup>) form. The FAFSA form is an application that students and families need to complete to apply for federal student aid, such as federal grants, work-study funds, and loans. Completing and submitting the FAFSA form is free, and it gives students access to the largest source of financial aid to help pay for higher education.



## The Better FAFSA is:

- » Simple and streamlined
- » Easier to fill out—many people complete it in under 15 minutes.

**7.3 MILLION**

total students expected to be eligible for Pell Grants

**845,000 more students**  
will receive Federal Pell Grants.

Over **2.1 million more students**  
will receive the maximum Pell Grant.

**All students** will be able to  
access the maximum financial aid  
for which they are eligible

## Better FAFSA Timeline for the 2024-25 Award Year

### NOW

- Students and families should complete and submit the 2024-25 FAFSA form

### MARCH

- The Department begins transmitting FAFSA information to schools and state agencies for processing

### STARTING IN APRIL

- Colleges review FAFSA information for students who applied for admission
- Colleges start sending aid packages to students

### JULY 1

- FAFSA award year starts

Note: Students and families should check critical deadlines for their institutions and states regarding scholarships and enrollment commitments.



# CHECKLIST FOR STUDENTS



To access and fill out the 2024-25 FAFSA, create a StudentAid.gov account.

- You'll need your Social Security Number, unless you are a citizen of the Freely Associated States.



Make sure your contributors create their own StudentAid.gov account, too.

- "Contributor" refers to anyone required to provide information on the form, such as your parent(s) or spouse.



Invite contributors to your FAFSA form. You will be asked to provide their:

- First and last name
- Social Security Number  
Contributors who do not have a Social Security Number can still create a StudentAid.gov account to complete their section of the FAFSA form.
- Date of birth
- Email address (and mailing address, if contributors don't have a Social Security Number)



Have your documents ready and be prepared to complete the form in one session. Necessary forms could include:

- 2022 Tax returns\*
- Records of child support received
- Current balances of cash, savings, and checking accounts
- Net worth of investments, businesses, and assets



After submitting your FAFSA, you'll receive financial aid offer letters from the colleges you selected later this spring

Starting with the 2024-25 form, students can provide consent and approval so most financial information will be imported directly from the IRS. But you should keep your tax return handy for additional questions.

More information and resources are available at [ed.gov/BetterFAFSA](https://ed.gov/BetterFAFSA)

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