

## What is the FAFSA?

The FAFSA is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and is the first step in the financial aid process. A FAFSA is used to apply for state and federal financial aid programs. In addition, some colleges use it to award institutional aid. The application is available at no fee.

Parents and students can complete the FAFSA as early as October 1<sup>st</sup> and use their previous year's tax information.

The FAFSA will be available online at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov)

## What Information Do I Need to Complete My FAFSA?

- **Social Security Number**, for yourself and your parent(s) \*
- **Records of income**, such as income earned from work and business, child support paid or received and any other untaxed income. If available, refer to the W-2 forms or Federal Tax Return IRS 1040, 1040A or 1040EZ.
- **Information about assets**, such as savings, certificates of deposit, stock options, bonds, 529 plans and other college saving programs; and investment real estate, business and farm.
- **Driver's license number**, if you have one.
- **Alien Registration Number**, if you are not a U.S. citizen.

### Notes

- Parent information is required unless you are at least 24 years of age, or meet the criteria for filing as an independent student as described on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Refer to [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov)
- You must report income and assets for yourself and for your parents(if you are a dependent student) or your spouse(if you are married)

## Getting a PIN

### Getting a FSA ID

In order to complete the FAFSA online you (students AND parents) will need to get a FSA ID for an electronic signature. To receive your FSA ID visit [fsaid.ed.gov](http://fsaid.ed.gov) . This FSA ID will be used to fill out the FAFSA; however, it expires after 18 months, so you will need to create a new one after 18 months. Parent FSA IDs can be used on multiple students if more than one student is attending college.