

FAFSA FACTS

Before You Begin

The fastest way to sign your application and have it processed is to create an FSA ID. The FSA ID allows a student and parent to identify themselves electronically to access FSA websites. An FSA ID is also the only way to access or correct your information online.

If you have an FSA ID but forget your username or password, attempt to log in on the FAFSA home page and click on **forgot username** or **forgot password**.

Dependency

If you are a dependent student, you will report your and your parent's information. If you are an independent student, you will report your information (and, if you are married, your spouse's). For clarification on your status, please visit: www.studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/filling-out/dependency.

Reporting Parent Information

There are numerous scenarios a student may encounter when reporting parent information on the FAFSA. The answers to questions regarding parent information may differ based on your parent's marital status and living situation. If you have a question regarding your unique situation, you can visit www.studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/filling-out/parent-info for a breakdown of multiple scenarios. You can also contact the financial aid office of the college you plan to attend to ask specific questions.

Making Corrections to FAFSA

Log into FAFSA on the Web using your FSA ID and password, and click **Make FAFSA Corrections**.

When correcting your FAFSA, you can:

- Add or remove colleges from your application;
- Change your email or mailing address; and/or
- Correct any field in your FAFSA other than your Social Security number.

Any corrections you make to your application using FAFSA on the Web will be processed in three to five days. Changes must be submitted, not just saved, to be processed. You will receive a revised Student Aid Report (SAR) reflecting the corrections that you made to your application. All of the schools you listed on your FAFSA will have access to the revised information one day after it is processed.

IRS Data Retrieval Tool

The IRS Data Retrieval Tool allows students and parents to access the IRS tax return information needed to complete the FAFSA and easily transfer the data directly and accurately into the FAFSA from the IRS website.

In the finances section of your FAFSA, click **Proceed to IRS** and log in with the IRS to retrieve your tax information. On the IRS website, you must enter the requested information exactly as it appears on your tax return. Click the **Transfer My Tax Information into the FAFSA** box and then review to ensure your information has been transferred into the appropriate data fields. Questions populated with tax information will be marked with **Transferred from the IRS**. Some data may not be visible in order to protect your information.

Note: There are several scenarios in which you might not be given the option to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool. Filing your taxes electronically or by mail will determine how quickly you can use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool. Usually the tool is available three weeks after tax returns are filed electronically or seven to eleven weeks after tax returns are filed by mail. If the IRS Data Retrieval Tool is not available to you, you can manually fill out the fields from your 2020 tax returns.