

PREPARING TO APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID



Helpful information to prepare for the **2026-2027** Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) process.



Create an FSA ID | studentaid.gov

Click "Create Account" then "Get Started"
Enter your Name, Date of Birth, and Social Security Number.
Use personal email; applicant (student) and contributor (parent) emails must be unique to the individual.

Note: If contributor (parent) has an existing FSA ID, there is no need to create a new one. Password may need to be updated.
Please allow 1-3 business days for processing of the FSA ID.

Helpful Videos from Federal Student Aid: [Preparing for the FAFSA](#), [Creating Your FSA ID](#)



Keep all Username and Password Information Together

Be sure to have all information readily available, when needed.
The FSA ID will remain the same, but passwords will need to be updated annually and/or if forgotten.



Information Needed | All Contributors

2024 Federal Tax Return and Schedules; 2024 Untaxed Income information; 2024 W-2 Forms; Net worth of businesses and farms.

You will be required to provide consent and approval to transfer data directly from the IRS to the application.

Helpful Videos from Federal Student Aid: [Gathering Information for the FAFSA](#), [What Does it Mean to Provide Consent and Approval](#)



Completing the Application | studentaid.gov

To complete the application in one session, it is important that the applicant and contributor be available with their FSA ID to complete individual sections.

A contributor must be invited to submit their information on the application via email.



What Happens Next

Check your email regularly to respond to any requests for additional information.
Maintain communication with financial aid offices.
Discuss any extenuating circumstances directly with institutions.

If you have challenges with the FSA ID or FAFSA, please first contact Federal Student Aid at 1-800-433-3243.