

New Mainer FAQ

Am I eligible to receive federal student aid?

To be eligible to receive federal student aid, you must be a U.S. citizen and eligible noncitizen.

Who is an eligible noncitizen?

Generally, you are an eligible noncitizen if you are one of the following:

- A U.S. permanent resident with a Permanent Resident Card (formerly known as an Alien Registration Receipt Card or "Green Card")
- A Conditional permanent resident (I-551C)
- Other eligible noncitizens with an Arrival-Departure Record (I-94) from the Department of Homeland Security showing any one of the following designations: "Refugee," "Asylum Granted," "Indefinite Parole," "Humanitarian Parole," or "Cuban-Haitian Entrant"
- A citizen of the Republic of Palau (PW), the Republic of the Marshall Islands (MH), or the Federated States of Micronesia (FM).

As an eligible noncitizen, is there any additional information I need to provide when completing the FAFSA?

You must enter your eight- or nine-digit Alien Registration Number (ARN) on the FAFSA.

Who is NOT eligible for federal student aid?

- Individuals granted DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals)
- Individuals with nonimmigrant visas, including those with work visas, students, visitors, and foreign government officials. Someone with a nonimmigrant visa isn't eligible for federal student aid funds unless s/he has a Form I-94 with one of the endorsements given in the eligible document section. Nonimmigrant visas include the F-1, F-2, or M-1 Student Visa, B-1 or B-2 Visitor Visa; J-1 or J-2 Exchange Visitors Visa, H series or L series Visa (which allow temporary employment in the U.S.); or a G series Visa (pertaining to international organizations). Someone who has only a "Notice of Approval to Apply for Permanent Residence (I-171 or I-464)" cannot receive federal student aid funds.
- Individuals with Family Unity status have been granted relief from deportation under the Family Unity Program. They may present an approved Form I-817, Application for Family Unity Benefits. Previously they were eligible for federal student aid funds, but they are no longer eligible.
- Temporary Residents are allowed to live and work in the U.S. under the Legalization or Special Agricultural Worker program. Previously they were eligible for federal student aid funds, but they are no longer eligible.
- Established by the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (IRCA), the Legalization Program (also called Amnesty Program) provides illegal aliens with documentation that allows them to work. These individuals were given documentation that allowed them to work while their

application for permanent resident status is being processed. These individuals are not eligible for federal student aid unless their application has been approved.. Documents they might have in the interim are the Employment Authorization Card (Form I-688A), Employment Authorization Documents (Form I-688B or the I-766), or the Temporary Resident Card (Form I-688). None of these documents qualifies a student for federal student aid.

- Students with “Temporary Protected Status” stamped on their I-94 forms. Temporary Protected Status is granted to persons who are from countries that are in upheaval, but it differs significantly from refugee or asylee status because it provides no conversion to permanent resident status. These students are not eligible for federal student aid funds.
- Aliens, solely because they are employment authorized in the United States. Employment authorization doesn’t make the student eligible for federal student aid funds. Unless an eligible status is also indicated on the employment authorization document or the student can provide other documentation that can be confirmed by the USCIS, the student isn’t eligible for federal student aid.
- Aliens who are not employment authorized in the United States. Students with this status are not eligible for aid. Citizenship and Immigration Services will initial and stamp the front of the G-845 in the signature block.
- Aliens who have a pending application for a new immigration status or change of immigration status. A pending application for immigration status does not make the student eligible for federal student aid.

As an undocumented student or DACA student, can I file the FAFSA?

Undocumented students, including DACA students and Dreamers, are not eligible for federal student aid. However, you may be eligible for state and/or college financial aid. Most states and colleges use information collected on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid to determine whether you are eligible for aid. If you have a Social Security number, you may complete the FAFSA. Check with your high school counselor or your college or career school financial aid office to identify the type(s) of financial aid you may be eligible to receive and determine if the FAFSA is the application form for that aid.

As an eligible noncitizen what will I need to complete the FAFSA?

If you are a dependent student:

- Social Security numbers (SSN) for both you and your parent(s)
- Your alien registration or permanent resident card (if not a U.S. citizen)
- W-2 forms and other records of money earned for both you and your parents
- Federal income tax returns for both you and your parent(s)
- Current bank statements for you and your parent(s)
- If applicable, you will also need:
- Untaxed income records for you and your parent(s)
- Current business and investment mortgage information, business and farm records, and stock, bond and other investment records for you and your parent(s)

If you are NOT a dependent student, you will need:

- Your Social Security number (SSN)
- Your alien registration or permanent resident card (if not a U.S. citizen)
- Your W-2 forms and other records of money earned
- Your (and if married, your spouse's) federal income tax return
- Your current bank statements
- If applicable, you will also need:
 - Your untaxed income records
 - Your current business and investment mortgage information, business and farm records, and stock, bond and other investment records

One or both of my parents live outside of the United States. Do I need to include their financial information?

Typically, you will need to provide parent(s) information if you are considered a dependent student. Your parent(s)'s specific situation will determine whose information is required so review the below carefully:

- If your parents are married and one parent lives outside of U.S., both parents' information will be needed. Parents will indicate that they are "Married filing separately." The U.S. residing parent will include their requested tax information. The international parent will provide his/her income and asset information, converted into U.S. Dollars and indicate "Foreign Country" and "Foreign Tax Return" where appropriate.
- If your parents are not legally married or are divorced, information will be required only for the parent you reside within the U.S.
- If both of your parents reside outside of the U.S. but continue to provide most of your financial support, you will provide information for both parents. Your parents will indicate "Foreign Country" and "Foreign Tax Return" where appropriate.

If your parent does not have a Social Security Number, enter all zeros (e.g. 000000000).

How do you represent income from a foreign tax return?

If you (and your spouse) or your parents filed a foreign tax return, use the information from the foreign tax return to complete the federal student aid forms. Convert all monetary units to U.S. dollars using the published exchange rate in effect for the date nearest to the date you complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Go to www.federalreserve.gov/releases/h10/current to view the daily exchange rates.