Next Steps in the FAFSA Process

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PRESENTED BY

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**FAFSA Completion
and Processing Update**

FAFSA Completion Update

- **FAFSA was "soft-launched" on December 30th**

  - The first 10 days were rough!

- What have been **some common FAFSA completion issues**?

  - FAFSAs have been submitted without required signatures

  - Parent information not provided

    - These issues result in an **SAI is not being calculated and follow up will be required.**

- Increased **FSA ID issues** since the launch

  - Many more people having to call to get assistance to resolution

The good news….

- **Many students** are successfully filing the FAFSA and reporting that it is much easier than anticipated.

- Independent students - often filing in less than 15 minutes

- Dependent students - student and parent sections typically take less than 20 minutes each

FAFSA Processing Update

FAFSA processing has begun!!

- Initially FAFSAs were to be processed in late January

- Processing delayed announced on January 30

- Delay due to updating of tables used to calculate the SAI

- Income protection tables were updated by 18% to reflect inflation

- Update will result in **lower SAIs** (and more Pell Grant eligibility) for many students

FAFSA Processing Update

Up to now, all submitted FAFSAs have been showing as **"In-Review."**

Here's what we know about FAFSA processing:

- Two small batches of FAFSA records have been processed (processing "first in, first out)!

- FAFSA records (ISIRs) for those individuals have been sent to the applicable schools and state agencies.

- FAFSA processing will "ramp up" in the coming days.

- Once fully "ramped up" FSA is estimating it will take **two weeks** to clear the backlog.

- **New applications** submitted while backlog is being processed will be **added to the end of the queue**.

FAFSA Processing Update

What does this mean for students and parents?

- Once their FAFSA is processed, individual students will see that their FAFSA has been processed by logging into StudentAid.gov and checking their dashboard.

FAFSA Processing Update

What to Expect:

- Once a FAFSA has been processed, the **FAFSA Submission Summary (FSS)** will be available.

- Student will be able to view the answers provided on the FAFSA (except FTI information will not be visible).

- Estimated SAIs will be recalculated using updated tables.

- Emails will be sent in the coming weeks to let them know their FAFSA has been processed.

- **No corrections can be made** until the backlog of FAFSAs has been processed.

Identified Issues:

- Applicants who are not eligible for a Pell Grant don't see messaging on their FSS that they are not eligible.
  - They do see the messaging that they're not eligible on their confirmation page so this could cause confusion.
- Pell Grant eligibility is not displaying for **provisionally independent students** on their FSS.
- If a student has missing family size information, their SAI is not calculated. Currently, the **FSS doesn't say why** the SAI has not been calculated in this scenario.
- No firm timeline for resolution of these issues.

FAFSA Processing Update

Identified Issues:

- On certain internet browsers, the "My Activity" section of the website does not load when a FAFSA already exists.
  - Use one of the **recommended browsers**: Mozilla Firefox, Apple Safari, and Google Chrome
- **Every time** someone logs into StudentAid.gov they receive this email.

Federal **Student Aid**

Important – Your FSA ID Information Was Changed

Mila,

This email is to alert you that your FSA ID information was recently changed.

What to Expect:

- **Once the backlog has been cleared**, corrections will be able to be made including:
  - adding missing signatures
  - correction answers to questions
  - adding additional schools
- Stay tuned for additional information on the FAFSA correction process!

What to Expect from Colleges:

- **Once FAFSAs have been processed, schools will receive FAFSA records** (referred to as ISIRs).

- Schools will need to **load and test records** and finalize award parameters.

- Schools will then be able to:
    - request additional information
    - make corrections
    - generate financial aid offers

- Official financial aid offers will **be delayed until sometime in April** (or even later).

Mixed-Status Families Update:

- Previously, mixed-status families were unable to successfully file a FAFSA.

- Technical fixes have **resolved this issue**! Yay!!

- However, fixes have revealed two additional issues:

  - IRS match for anyone without SSN is not working.
    - No timeline on fix; **contributors will need to manually enter tax return related data**.

  - If the student enters slightly incorrect information when inviting contributor, system is having trouble finding the contributor so can't send an invitation.
    - Resolution is in the works and should come in the coming days.

- **Good news** related to FSA ID creation: an email will automatically be generated if the individual's identity can't be verified.

The following issues have been resolved:

- Students Unable to Save or Submit A FAFSA Form When Entering an Alien Registration Number That Ends in Zero

- Some Students with A Date of Birth of 2000 Are Looped to Unusual Circumstances Page

- Customers who Change Their Citizenship Status from Eligible Non-Citizen Are Unable to Submit an Application

- Updates can be found here:

  - [2024–25 FAFSA Updates | Knowledge Center](https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/topics/fafsa-simplification-information/2024-25-fafsa-updates) - fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/topics/fafsa-simplification-information/2024-25-fafsa-updates

Things for Students and Families to Keep in Mind:

- Contact the school's financial aid office if still unable to file a FAFSA or missed a deadline due to challenges.
- Special Circumstance review can be requested.
  - Parent SAI is no longer divided by the number in college, but families should reach out if **financially impacted** by the number in college.
  - Families should contact school if there has been a **change in income** or other circumstances not reflect on the FAFSA.

- **Admission acceptance/deposit deadline**
  - Has deadline changed?
  - Does the family need an extension?

FAFSA Filing Update

- FAFSA filing is **down by about 20%** for high school seniors.

- Please encourage students who haven't filed a FAFSA to file now!

- **FAME FAFSA Portal** won't be available until after the backlog of FAFSA have been processed.

- Stay tuned for updates!

FAFSA Filing

and Corrections

Tips

Federal Student Aid Account (FSA ID)

- Accounts are created at **StudentAid.gov**.

- When an account is created, individuals set up a **username and password (referred to as an FSA ID)**.

- An FSA ID is required to access the FAFSA and all Federal Student Aid processes and serves as legal signature.

- All students and contributors must have their own FSA ID.

- Create FSA IDs **at least three days prior** to filing a FAFSA.

Determining Parent Contributors

- **If parents are married and filed a 2022 joint tax return**, information for both parents will be required but only **one parent** will need an FSA ID.

- **If parents are married and filed 2022 taxes separately, or if parents live together but aren't married**, information for both parents will be required and **both parents** will need their own FSA ID.

Determining Parent Contributors

- **If parents are divorced, separated, or never married and don't live in the same household**, the parent who provides the **most financial support** will be required to provide information on the FAFSA and will need an FSA ID.

- **If that parent is remarried on the day the FAFSA is filed,** information for their spouse will also be required and their **spouse will need their own FSA ID unless** they filed a 2022 joint tax return.

StudentAid.gov

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Either the Student or the Parent can start the FAFSA!

Go to **StudentAid.gov** to log in.

Log In

Email, Phone, or FSA ID Username

Password

Show Password

Log In

Forgot My Username | Forgot My Password

Create an Account

Help Me Log In to My Account

Click on the role of the person who logged in with their FSA ID.

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2024-25 FAFSA is a *Roles-Based* form

Student Section
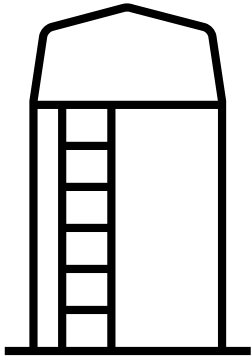
Parent Section

Either student or parent can start the FAFSA and they will **"invite"** the other to complete the FAFSA.

The invite is what connects the student and parent sections of the FAFSA.
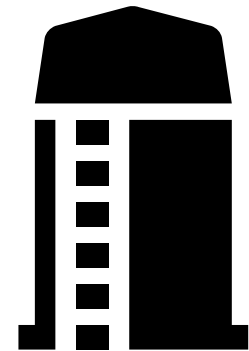
Whoever Start the FAFSA....

Regardless of who starts the FAFSA, the other party will receive email with link or can go directly to **StudentAid.gov.**

Things to Keep in Mind

Consent and Approval

- Contributors **must** provide consent and click on approval. If an individual doesn't not "Approve," the student will be ineligible for federal student aid.

- If consent is provided, federal tax information will be transferred automatically!

Provide Consent and Approval or Be Ineligible for Federal Student Aid ⓘ

Summary

Your consent and approval is needed to retrieve and disclose federal tax information. With your consent and approval, we can obtain tax return information automatically from the IRS to help you complete the FAFSA® form. If you don't provide consent and approval, you will not be eligible for federal student aid, including grants and loans. You must provide consent and approval even if you didn't file a U.S. federal tax return or any tax return at all.

→ Get your 2022 tax return information for the 2024–25 FAFSA form.

→ Federal tax information is used to determine your eligibility for federal student aid.

→ Tax return information is required to complete the FAFSA form.

—— **Frequently Asked Questions** ——

Who should provide consent and approval?

If I'm married and didn't file a joint tax return with my current spouse, does my spouse have to provide consent and approval for you to access their tax information

What happens after I provide consent and approval?

What happens if I decline consent and approval?

Select "Approve" to consent and approve to using your federal tax information to determine your student aid. If you select "Decline," you will not be eligible for [...] aid.

Previous   Decline   Approve

Things to Keep in Mind
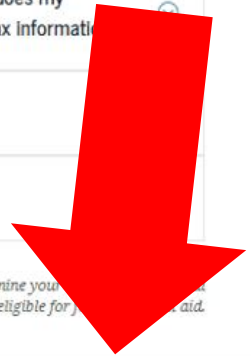
For dependent students to be considered for all types of aid, parents must be willing to provide information so answer **"No"** to this question.

Things to Keep in Mind

If Student Starts the FAFSA..

Student invites the parent to fill out the parent section.

- List **one parent** (one who has an FSA ID).

- If parents are married, contact info for the other parent will be added later.

On the Family Size page (in Parent Financials) check **"Yes"** to double check answer to make sure it is correct.

Things to Keep in Mind

- Expand all to review all responses or expand each section individually.

- Click on question hyperlink to be taken to that page.

- **Signature** is on the next page after slicking on **"Continue."**

- When parent submits the FAFSA, they will see a congratulations page with limited information.

- **Student** will see a congratulations page and receive an email confirmation with estimated SAI.

Things to Keep in Mind

- Student (only) receives an email when FAFSA has been submitted.

- Email is from the **U.S. Department of Education** with a subject line of **"We Received Your FAFSA Form"**

We received your *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) form.

Submission date: **January 09, 2024**

Date Release Number (DRN): **9525**

Note: Keep your DRN private. Read about the Data Release Number for more information.

Estimated Student Aid Index (SAI) = 13108

The SAI is **not** a measure of how much student aid you'll receive or how much you'll pay for college. Schools use your SAI to determine your federal student aid eligibility.

Based on the eligibility criteria, you don't appear to be eligible for a Federal Pell Grant. However, you may be eligible for other federal, state, or institutional grants; scholarships; and/or work study

Questions?

Thank you for joining us today!

Find more FREE resources and information at
FAMEmaine.com/education.

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