STUDENT GUIDE

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2027–2028 FAFSA

FAFSA Filing Kit

Everything You Need to Complete the 2027–2028 FAFSA

The FAFSA is the free application for federal grants, work-study, and loans. States, colleges, and some private aid providers may also use FAFSA information when awarding aid.

Before You Start

1. **Create separate StudentAid.gov accounts**
The student and each required contributor need their own account. Each account must use a unique email address and phone number. A contributor without an SSN can still create an account.

2. **Know who your contributors are**
The form will identify whether a parent or stepparent must participate. Use the Who's My FAFSA Parent? tool if you are unsure. A contributor is not agreeing to pay for college.

3. **Have contributor information ready**
Gather each contributor's legal name, date of birth, SSN if they have one, email address, and mailing address. Enter information exactly as it appears on the contributor's account.

4. **Keep tax information nearby**
Each person must consent to transfer federal tax information from the IRS, even if they did not file a return. Keep the required federal tax return available for any additional questions.

5. **Gather current financial records**
Have records of child support received, plus current cash, checking, savings, investments, and other assets if asked. Report balances as of the day you sign.

6. **Build your school list**
List up to 20 colleges, career schools, or trade schools, even if you have not applied or been accepted. Check whether your state requires a specific order.

Complete and Follow Up

1. **Start the correct form at fafsa.gov**
Choose the 2027–28 FAFSA and begin as the student. Review the student's identity information, and correct the StudentAid.gov account first if anything is wrong.

2. **Invite contributors and collect signatures**
Use the email, link, or invite code provided by the form. Each contributor must complete and sign their own section. The form is not complete until everyone required has signed.

3. **Review before you sign**
Check every answer, the school list, and contributor status. Follow the on-screen directions for questions that do not apply, and do not guess when you are unsure.

4. **Meet the earliest deadline**
Check deadlines for your state and every college on your list. Some state and college aid is limited and may be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, so submit as early as you can.

5. **Track the form after submission**
Watch for confirmation, check the form's status, and review the FAFSA Submission Summary when it is available. Make corrections or complete requested follow-up promptly.

6. **Ask for help when circumstances change**
If family finances changed, submit the FAFSA as instructed, then ask a college financial aid office about an aid adjustment. If you cannot contact a parent or have unusual circumstances, ask a counselor or financial aid office for guidance.

Ready to file? Start at fafsa.gov and find more help at **appily.com/fafsa**.
The FAFSA is free, and submitting it does not require you to accept student loans.