

# FAFSA®



FREE APPLICATION  
FOR FEDERAL  
STUDENT AID

# Tipsheet

## The basics on filing the FAFSA & getting financial aid

Visit [FAFSA.gov](http://FAFSA.gov) to complete & submit your application for financial aid.

### WHAT IS THE FAFSA?

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) is the most important application you must complete in order to qualify for almost all types of financial aid including federal, state, local, and private grants and scholarships.

### WHY COMPLETE A FAFSA?

The U.S. Department of Education uses the information provided on your FAFSA to determine your eligibility for aid from federal student financial assistance programs. In Pennsylvania, the FAFSA is used to determine State Grant eligibility. Schools also use FAFSA data to award their own financial aid.

### WHAT ARE THE DEADLINES?

See Chart Below. Financial aid deadlines vary by school, state, program of study, and more. To ensure that you are considered for all financial aid programs, the FAFSA should be filed by the earliest application deadline date for each school you are considering attending. Check with your school for details.

**YOU MUST COMPLETE A NEW FAFSA APPLICATION EACH YEAR.**

### FOR PENNSYLVANIA STATE GRANT APPLICANTS, THE FAFSA DEADLINES ARE:

- **MAY 1** – For students attending colleges, universities and college-transferable programs (excluding community colleges) and for all renewal students
- **AUGUST 1** – If you plan to enroll in a community college, a business, trade, or technical school, a hospital school of nursing, an “Open-Admission” institution (visit [PHEAA.org](http://PHEAA.org) for a list of these schools), or a non-transferable 2-year program

### WHAT DO I NEED TO FILE MY FAFSA ON FAFSA.GOV?

- Your Social Security Number
- Your driver’s license number, if you have one (optional)
- Your alien registration number, if you are not a U.S. citizen
- Your W-2 forms
- Records of other untaxed income received, including workers’ compensation, child support, payments to tax-deferred pension and savings plans, etc.
- Your federal income tax return – (1040, 1040A, or 1040EZ) from the prior-prior year, for example, if completing the 2018-19 FAFSA application, use 2016 income tax return information.
- Your current bank statements and records of stocks, bonds and other investments

#### If you are a dependent student, you will also need:

- Your parent’s Social Security Number(s)
- Your parent’s income and financial records (as listed above)

### FSA ID

The FSA ID is a username and password that you will use to log into certain U.S. Department of Education websites, and electronically sign the FAFSA. Students interested in receiving federal student aid should create a FSA ID at [fsaid.ed.gov](http://fsaid.ed.gov). You and any parent electronically signing the FAFSA will need their own separate FSA ID.

### IRS DATA RETRIEVAL TOOL

If you complete your FAFSA online, you have the option of retrieving your income and tax data from the Internal Revenue Service and having it automatically transferred into your FAFSA.

### WHICH TAXES DO I USE ON THE FAFSA?

| IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND COLLEGE FROM  | YOU CAN SUBMIT THE FAFSA FROM          | USING TAX INFORMATION FROM |
|-------------------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018        | October 1, 2016 – June 30, 2018        | 2015                       |
| <b>July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019</b> | <b>October 1, 2017 – June 30, 2019</b> | <b>2016</b>                |
| July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020        | October 1, 2018 - June 30, 2020        | 2017                       |

continued ►

## SCHOOLS I HAVE APPLIED TO:

| School Name | Code |
|-------------|------|
| 1.          |      |
| 2.          |      |
| 3.          |      |
| 4.          |      |
| 5.          |      |
| 6.          |      |
| 7.          |      |
| 8.          |      |
| 9.          |      |
| 10.         |      |

**TO CHANGE THE SCHOOLS LISTED ON THE FAFSA:**

Log on to [FAFSA.gov](https://fafsa.gov) to add or delete a school code. Or call the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 800.4.FED.AID (800.433.3243) / TTY (Hearing Impaired) 800.730.8913.

## ONCE YOUR FAFSA IS PROCESSED:

You will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR), which summarizes all the information you provided on your FAFSA. Check your SAR for any errors. Receiving a SAR does not mean that you are eligible for financial aid.

If you don't have any changes to make to the information listed on your SAR, just keep it for your records. If you review your SAR and find a mistake, you will need to make necessary corrections using one of the following methods:

- Online (fastest method) at [FAFSA.gov](https://fafsa.gov)
- U.S. Mail
- Telephone 800.4.FED.AID (800.433.3243) / TTY (Hearing Impaired) 800.730.8913

Changes to financial information are permitted only if you provided incorrect and/or estimated information when you submitted the FAFSA. If a Social Security Number is reported incorrectly, a new FAFSA must be submitted.

Your processed FAFSA results will be shared with the school(s) you listed on the FAFSA, as well as with the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) for purposes of determining PA State Grant eligibility. Look for your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) near the top right corner of the SAR. The EFC is determined based on the information on your FAFSA. Schools use the EFC to determine your eligibility for financial aid. To learn more about the financial aid process visit [PHEAA.org](https://pheaa.org).

These materials have been developed and paid for by the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) for informational purposes. Although the information contained in this document is believed to be accurate at the time of printing, PHEAA does not guarantee its accuracy. You should independently verify that this information is correct.