



Key Changes

- The FAFSA will be **available in December 2023** instead of Oct. 1 this year.
- The FAFSA will be streamlined and more user-friendly with fewer questions.
- The [Student Aid Index \(SAI\)](#) will replace the Expected Family Contribution (EFC).
- Federal aid eligibility will be extended to more students.
- IRS Direct Data Exchange (DDX) makes entering tax information easier and will be required for students, spouses, and parents to transfer their 2022 tax information or non-filing status.
- The number of family members in college will no longer factor into the FAFSA calculation.
- Untaxed items such as payments to tax-deferred retirement or pension plans, veteran's non-educational benefits, and worker's compensation will no longer be required.
- Parent assets will now include net worth of all businesses and net worth of a family farm, if applicable.
- For divorced or separated parents: The parent who provided the most financial support to the student will need to provide their information. Previously, the parent who the student lived with the most provided their information.
- Everyone contributing to the FAFSA form online must have their own account on the [Federal Student Aid \(FSA\) website](#). Each contributor, including the student, will access their account with their own FSA ID (account username and password).

Terms to Know

- **Student Aid Index (SAI):** Calculated by FAFSA data and will determine student aid eligibility. This replaces the EFC that was used in previous years.
- **Cost of Attendance (COA):** [COA](#) includes tuition and fees, food and housing, books and supplies (including course materials and equipment), miscellaneous expenses, and transportation.
- **Contributor:** A parent, step-parent, student, or spouse of the student who is providing information to the FAFSA.
- **Consent:** Required from all contributors in order for the IRS to share tax data directly to the FAFSA. If any contributor does not provide consent, the student will automatically be ineligible for aid.
- **Direct Data Exchange (DDX):** Previously known as IRS Data Retrieval; this tool imports tax data directly from the IRS to your FAFSA.
- **FAFSA Submission Summary (FSS):** A summary of your completed FAFSA information. This replaces the Student Aid Report (SAR) that was used in previous years.

Ways to Prepare

- **Apply for your FSA ID.** A Federal Student Aid (FSA) ID is required for all contributors including the student.
- **Determine who your contributors are.** The FAFSA will also help when filing. Students, parents, step-parents, and a student's spouse may be considered contributors.
- **Gather 2022 Federal Tax Information and W-2s.** All contributors will need this information, if applicable.

FAQ

When will the 2024-25 FAFSA become available?



The U.S. Department of Education has not determined an exact date but announced that it will become available sometime in December 2023.

What semesters are covered by my 2024-25 FAFSA?

Summer, 2024, Fall 2024, and Spring 2025

When is the 2024-25 Suggested Filing Date for LSU?

February 1st. The suggested filing date is not a deadline. It is set to encourage students to complete their aid applications as soon as possible so that we can provide preliminary financial aid information sooner.

Is a contributor required to have an FSA ID?

Yes, all contributors must have an FSA ID.

My parents are divorced or separated. Which parent is a contributor for my FAFSA?

The parent who provides the most financial support to the student should be the contributor on the FAFSA.

Do the invitations to contributors to provide federal tax information and consent expire?

Yes. Invitations to be a contributor will be deleted when they have been inactive for 45 days. Any previously entered information will be deleted and the process will need to start over.

How can I be considered an independent student?

An independent student is one of the following: born before Jan. 1, 2001, married (and not separated), a graduate or professional student, a veteran, a member of the armed forces, an orphan, a ward of the court, a person with legal dependents other than a spouse, an emancipated minor, a person who is unaccompanied and homeless or self-supporting and at risk of being homeless.

What is the *FAFSA Simplification Act*?

The *FAFSA Simplification Act* is a law that represents a significant overhaul of the processes and systems used to award federal student aid starting with the 2024–25 award year, including changes to the FAFSA. [Learn more about the law.](#)

Contact us at financialaid@lsu.edu. if you have any additional questions. You can also find answers to your questions about the FAFSA in general on the [Federal Student Aid website](#).