

FAFSA FAQ

1 What is the FSA ID and why do I need it?

The FSA ID is a username and password you create to complete the FAFSA. It also serves as your legal electronic signature when you complete the FAFSA. The student and 1 parent need to have an FSA ID.

2 FAFSA says I am a dependent. Why do I need my parents tax information?

As a dependent student, you're assumed to have parental support, so your parents' information has to be assessed along with yours to get a full picture of your family's financial strength.

3 The FAFSA says I am a dependent, but I live on my own and my parents don't support me. Do I still need to provide their information?

Yes. You need to provide your parents information even if you don't live with your parents, are not claimed by your parents on their tax forms, or are paying for your own bills and educational expenses.

4 Who's my parent(s) when I fill out the FAFSA form?

Parent's Marital Status	Provide Information for
Never married	The parent you lived with most during the last 12 months.
Unmarried and both legal parents living together	Both your legal parents
Married	Both of your parents
Remarried (after being widowed or divorced)	Parent and Stepparent that you lived with most during the past 12 months
Divorced or Separated	The parent you lived with most during the last 12 months.

No one else can be your parent on the FAFSA. Even if you live with a grandparent, aunt/uncle or other relative.

5 What does the cost of attendance (COA) mean?

The cost of attendance (COA) is the total cost to attend school for a year. COA varies from school to school. COA includes tuition and fees, room and board, books/supplies, transportation, childcare and personal expenses.

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What is the Expected Family Contribution (EFC)?

Your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is the reasonable amount that families can pay for higher education in the FAFSA's eyes. It is not the amount you are expected to pay.

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How is the EFC used?

The EFC is one number used by colleges, scholarships and other institutions to determine student eligibility for federal programs.

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What is the IRS Data Retrieval Tool?

The IRS Data Retrieval Tool can easily transfer parent and student tax information directly from the IRS website. To increase your chances of success, enter your name and address exactly as it appears on your 2021 tax return.

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I filed the FAFSA, now what happens?

Your information will be shared with the Oregon Opportunity Grant and all of the colleges you listed on the FAFSA. You will receive an email regarding the processing of your FAFSA and if any additional information is needed.

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What do I do if I have a special circumstance? (Parents refuse to provide information, Foster Care, Living with someone other than parents, Reduced Income, etc.)

Complete the FAFSA, then contact the Financial Aid Office at the college(s) you are considering. They will be able to determine if more information is needed. They may request documentation to verify your situation.

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Who can I contact for help?

For help completing the FAFSA, contact the Financial Aid Office at the school you are considering. There are also a lot of resources on the Studentaid.gov