

FAFSA Checklist

Don't leave money on the table! More than \$24 billion of financial aid goes unclaimed each year.* Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and find out what federal and state financial aid you may be eligible for to help pay for your college education.

*National College Access Network

STEP 1: Create your FSA ID

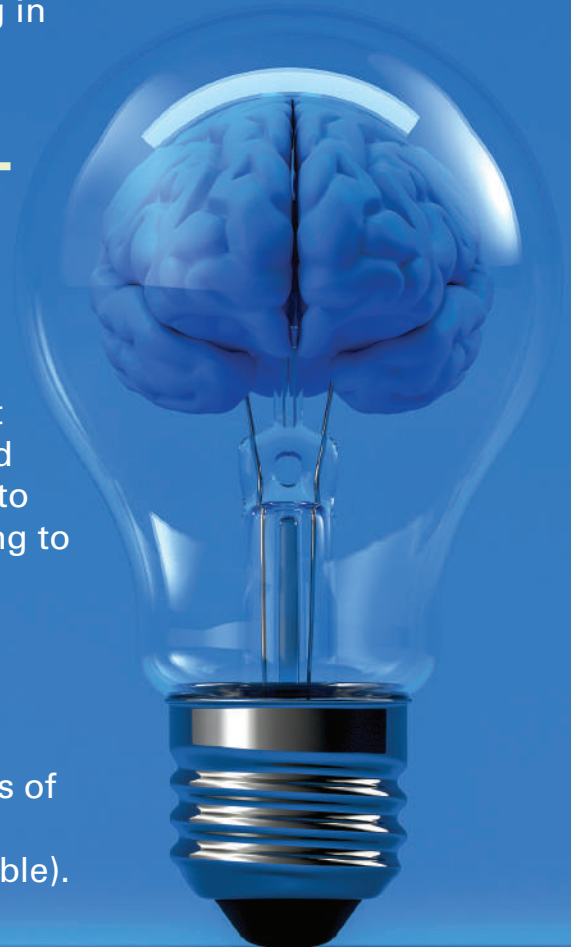
- Go to studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch to create your FSA ID.
- Create a username and password, then enter your email address and cell phone number. (Note: Use an email address you check regularly and will have access to over the next few years.)
- Enter your name, date of birth, Social Security number, contact information, and challenge questions and answers.
- Review your information and read and accept the terms and conditions.
- Confirm your email address using the secure code, which will be sent to the email address you entered when you created your FSA ID. Once you verify your email address, you can use it instead of your username to log in to complete your FAFSA.

STEP 2: Need Help?

Find a FAFSA Completion Event

Check with your school counselor about financial aid nights or FAFSA completion events at your school or in your community. Each year, GSFC partners with schools, colleges and community organizations to host these FREE events across the state to help students and their families complete the FAFSA. Visit GAfutures.org to find a FAFSA completion event near you. Before heading to an event, you'll need to bring:

- Your Social Security Number.
- Your Alien Registration Number (if you are not a U.S. citizen).
- Your (parent's) 2020 tax returns, W-2s and other records of money earned.
- Bank statements and records of investments (if applicable).
- Records of untaxed income (if applicable).
- You and your parent's FSA ID to sign electronically.



STEP 3: Filling out the FAFSA

Below are the basic steps for completing the FAFSA. Remember, the application is available October 1 for the following academic year. The earlier you submit it, the more opportunity you have to receive financial aid to help pay for your education after high school.

1. Go to fafsa.gov and login using your FSA ID.

Applying online is quicker, easier and ensures your information will be saved for next year. Don't forget, you will need to fill out a FAFSA every school year to be eligible for federal funds.

2. Enter personal information.

Make sure everything you enter is exactly how it appears on official government documents. Student and/or parent must have FSA ID in order to use IRS Data Retrieval Tool.

3. Choose up to 10 schools.

Be sure to include schools you are seriously considering, whether you've applied or have been accepted yet. You will get an estimate of your financial aid eligibility.

4. Enter your financial information.

The IRS Data Retrieval Tool can transfer your tax data to your application automatically.

5. Think you're finished? Double check.

You can check the status immediately after submitting your FAFSA online. Make sure you receive a confirmation page indicating your FAFSA has been submitted. If you provided an email address on your FAFSA form, you'll receive an email with a link to an online copy of your Student Aid Report (SAR) from noreply@fafsa.gov within three weeks. The email will be sent to the email address provided on the FAFSA. If an email address was not provided, you will receive your SAR via mail. Check your SAR to make sure there are no mistakes.



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Free means **FREE!**