

FAFSA CHANGES to know for 2023...

#1: THE FAFSA WILL BE SHORTER

The FAFSA was 108 questions long prior to 2023, which was a barrier for some in completing the application.

New laws passed in 2021 will cut the maximum number of questions to an estimated total of 36 questions, cutting down the amount of time needed to complete the FAFSA.

Income information will be imported directly to the FAFSA from tax returns (before you had to access the data yourself using the IRS Data Retrieval Tool). This change will reduce the number of questions required for families to self-report income.

Students will no longer have to answer whether they have had any drug-related convictions, meaning drug offenses will no longer keep students from getting federal financial aid.



#2: NAME CHANGES

The "Expected Family Contribution," or EFC will be replaced by the "Student Aid Index," or SAI. The SAI is a number that colleges will use as an indicator of financial need to determine how much financial aid you can receive. The SAI can be a negative number (up to -\$1,500), making it easier for a college to identify students with the most financial need.

The number of people in your family enrolled in college will not factor into the SAI.

The "Student Aid Report," or SAR will be replaced by the "FAFSA Submission Summary," or FSS.



#3: PARENT CHANGES

The parent who provides the most financial support will complete the parent section of the FAFSA.

Parents and students must log in separately to complete their respective sections. The student and parent will each provide their legal name, SSN, date of birth, and email of the student/parent required to contribute after completing their section. If the parent doesn't have a SSN, they must provide their mailing address. A notification is then sent to the student or parent to complete their section.

#4: FSA IDs

Federal Student Aid IDs will be verified by the Social Security Administration before completing the FAFSA. This could take up to 3 days.

Students AND parent(s) accessing the FAFSA must have an FSA ID. Even parents who do not have a social security number must create an FSA ID. All accounts will use two-step verification for logging in to the FAFSA.



#5: PELL ELIGIBILITY EXPANDED

More students will now be eligible for federal Pell Grants. You will also be able to know sooner whether you qualify and how much of the grant you will receive (up to \$7,395 for the 2023-2024 school year; this amount typically increases each year).

Under the new guidelines, student family size and adjusted gross income will determine Pell eligibility (not EFC, which is how Pell Grant eligibility is currently determined).

Also, the following students can now qualify for a Pell Grant in 2023-24: incarcerated students participating in prison education programs and students with drug convictions, among others.



#6: LIFETIME LIMITS ELIMINATED

You can now get subsidized loans for as long as it takes to complete your education. Before, you would have only been able to take out loans for 150% of the length of your education program (for a 4-year program, the maximum length of time you could take out loans was 6 years). Now you can take out loans for the full length that it takes to finish college.



#7: Assets and Untaxed Income

Business and farm net worth will be included as an asset on the FAFSA (in the past, small businesses and family farms were excluded). Child support received will be included as an asset.

Untaxed income will no longer be listed, including payments to tax-deferred retirement, worker's compensation, & housing allowances.

#8: PROFESSIONAL JUDGEMENT

When there are unusual situations or circumstances that impact your federal student aid eligibility, federal regulations give a financial aid administrator discretion, or professional judgment on a case-by-case basis (with adequate documentation) to make adjustments to the data elements on the FAFSA that impact your Student Aid Index (SAI) to gain a more accurate assessment of your family's ability to contribute to your cost of education. The Department of Education does not have the authority to override or impact a school's professional judgment decision.



#9: MISCELLANEOUS CHANGES

Students and parents will need consent to have tax information transferred from the IRS. This includes filers and non-filers.

Students can list up to 20 colleges on the FAFSA.

Demographic questions will include expanded ethnicity and race options. The FAFSA will only be available in English and Spanish.



#10: "UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES"

If you are a dependent student but cannot contact your parent(s) or contacting them causes risk to you, you may be considered a **provisional independent student**. You will be able to submit the FAFSA without parental info, but your college will follow up to gather documentation.

Helpful Websites & Resources:

Federal Student Aid: studentaid.gov/

Free Application for Federal Student Aid: studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa

Create a Federal Student Aid ID (FSA ID): fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm

How Financial Aid Works: studentaid.gov/h/understand-aid/how-aid-works

Types of Financial Aid: studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types

Managing Student Loans: studentaid.gov/h/manage-loans

