



# FAFSA CHECKLIST

You must complete the FAFSA every year you attend college to qualify for most federal and state financial aid and some college-based financial aid. Requested information may change from year to year. Be aware of the different national, state, and college financial aid deadlines for completing the FAFSA. If you are an independent student, you will only need to provide personal information for yourself and, if married, your spouse. If you are considered a dependent student, you will need to provide information for yourself and your legal parent(s).

**Are you independent or dependent? If you answer “yes” to any of the questions below, you may be considered an independent student:**

- ☐ Y ☐ N Are you 24 years old or older?
- ☐ Y ☐ N Are you married as of the day you file your FAFSA?
- ☐ Y ☐ N Will you be working on a master’s degree or doctoral degree at the beginning of the next school year?
- ☐ Y ☐ N Are you a veteran or active duty member of the U.S. Armed Forces?
- ☐ Y ☐ N Do you have children who will be receiving more than half of their support from you during the next school year?
- ☐ Y ☐ N Do you have any dependents (other than a child or spouse) who live with you and who receive more than half of their support from you now and through June of next year?
- ☐ Y ☐ N At any time since you turned age 13, were both your parents deceased, were you in foster care, or were you a dependent or ward of the court?
- ☐ Y ☐ N Have you been declared an emancipated minor by a court in the state where you have your legal residence?
- ☐ Y ☐ N Have you been placed in legal guardianship by a court in the state where you have your legal residence?
- ☐ Y ☐ N Has your school district homeless liaison, the director of a runaway or homeless youth center, or the director of a transitional program determined that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?\*

\*For more information, visit [journeytocollege.mo.gov/plan/foster-and-homeless-youth](https://journeytocollege.mo.gov/plan/foster-and-homeless-youth).

**The following information is required from parent(s) if you are considered a dependent student:**

- ☐ Social Security numbers for the student and parents. If you do not have a Social Security Number, you can create an account without one.
- ☐ Birth dates.
- ☐ Student Alien Registration Number for eligible noncitizens. If you need one, visit the Citizenship and Immigration Services website at [uscis.gov](https://uscis.gov).
- ☐ Your StudentAid.gov Account(username and password) if you are submitting the FAFSA online. You can create an account at [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov).
- ☐ All federal income tax forms from two years prior (ex. 2026-2027 FAFSA will require 2024 tax information).
- ☐ All the required year’s W-2 forms and, if applicable, workers’ compensation benefits and Unemployment Form 1099-G. If you do not have copies, contact your employer or call the IRS at 800-829-1040.
- ☐ Date parents were married, separated, divorced or widowed.
- ☐ Current cash/checking/savings account balances.
- ☐ Current investment values (stocks, savings bonds, mutual funds, CDs) excluding parent’s home and retirement plans.
- ☐ Current business value, if applicable.
- ☐ Current investment farm value.
- ☐ Child support paid or received of the required tax year. If you did not keep records, you can contact your local child support office or call 800-443-1576.
- ☐ Housing/food/living allowance for military and clergy of the required tax year. This information is on the Leave and Earnings Statement for military personnel and on the W-2 form for members of the clergy.
- ☐ Veterans noneducation benefits. If you did not keep records, call the Department of Veterans Affairs at 800-827-1000 or visit [va.gov](https://va.gov).

\*For the most up-to-date information, please visit [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov).

**Journey to College**

**FAFSA Frenzy**