

5 Finish the FAFSA in STEPS



1. CREATE A STUDENTAID.GOV ACCOUNT

- ▶ Create your own StudentAid.gov account to apply for, receive, and manage your federal student aid.
- ▶ Go to StudentAid.gov to sign up. Click “Create Account” to get started.
- ▶ Save your account username and password to access and electronically sign your FAFSA and student loan applications, make corrections to your FAFSA and more.
- ▶ If you’re a dependent student, review the Who Needs a StudentAid.gov Account? flyer to determine which parent(s) should also create an account.

2. GATHER MATERIALS

- ▶ Social Security or Permanent Resident card.
- ▶ W-2 forms and tax returns specified on the FAFSA.
- ▶ Current balance of cash, checking and savings accounts.
- ▶ If you’re a dependent student, your parents will need to provide their financial information.

3. FILL IT OUT

- ▶ Apply online at FAFSA.gov.
- ▶ Choose up to 20 different college campuses to receive your FAFSA results.
- ▶ Enter parent email to invite them to contribute to FAFSA.
- ▶ Contributors must consent to have their tax information transferred to the FAFSA through the IRS.

4. SIGN & SUBMIT

- ▶ Check your application for errors and make any needed corrections.
- ▶ Sign the student section.
- ▶ Check with your parent(s) to make sure they completed their portion and submitted.

5. FOLLOW UP

- ▶ Watch your email for a FAFSA Submission Summary. Check the summary and next steps to make any necessary corrections.
- ▶ Provide any other necessary documentation required by your institution, such as your accepted financial aid offer, and follow up with your college financial aid office if you have additional questions.

RESOURCES

FAFSA.gov

Complete and submit the FAFSA.

StudentAid.gov

Create a StudentAid.gov Account prior to starting your online FAFSA. Parent(s) of dependent students will also need an account to access and sign the FAFSA.

FAFSA FACTS



A college education is an investment in your future, and financial aid is available to help manage the cost. One of the most important steps you can take to find grants, scholarships and low-cost student loans is completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). We have some handy tips that will help you complete the FAFSA and start down the road to success!

- ▶ Complete the FAFSA as soon as it's available every year to meet college and state deadlines. The FAFSA will be available Oct. 1.
- ▶ Never pay to complete the FAFSA — the first letter in FAFSA stands for FREE!
- ▶ Set up your StudentAid.gov account at StudentAid.gov before you complete the FAFSA. Use the Who Needs a StudentAid.gov Account? flyer and StudentAid.gov Account worksheet to keep track of your information. Find them at UCanGo2.org.
- ▶ Visit FAFSA.gov to complete the application online when it becomes available and receive step-by-step instructions.
- ▶ Hit the “Save” button often. Always use the “Next” and “Previous” buttons on the site. Never use the “Back” button on your browser or you may lose your information.
- ▶ If you have a question while completing the FAFSA online, you can click on “Hi! I need Help” for detailed information on each item. Look for this icon:
- ▶ All contributors (parents or spouses) who provide information on the FAFSA must consent to have their federal tax information transferred to the FAFSA through the IRS, even if they have not filed taxes.
- ▶ Dependent students will have their parents enter their income and asset information when completing the FAFSA. If you have a special situation, you should contact your campus financial aid office.
- ▶ You should receive a copy of the FAFSA Submission Summary after submitting your FAFSA. Remember to review the summary for accuracy.
- ▶ Even if you think you won't qualify for aid, fill out the FAFSA anyway! Income is only one of the factors considered and nearly everyone qualifies for some type of financial aid.
- ▶ Because StudentAid.gov is a secure site, your information is encrypted for privacy.
- ▶ Hang on to your FAFSA Submission Summary. Your counselor may need a copy to confirm you've completed the FAFSA.

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) must be completed every year you need financial aid for college. The FAFSA should be completed as soon as it becomes available for the upcoming academic year. Don't wait! Although you may qualify for several types of aid, if you wait too long, some funds may be exhausted.

NEED HELP COMPLETING YOUR FAFSA? CONTACT YOUR GEAR UP STAFF.



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Oklahoma GEAR UP ♦ okgearup.org ♦

Oklahoma GEAR UP, a federally funded program administered by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, partners with 13 school districts and five regional colleges throughout the state to prepare nearly 16,000 middle and high school students for college success. **GEAR UP services are contingent upon the availability of funds from the federal government.**