

# FAFSA

## CHECKLIST

Follow these steps to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) each year to apply for most types of financial aid.

# 1

## Determine if you are an **independent** or **dependent** student.

**Independent student:** only report information about yourself and not your parent(s)

**Dependent student:** report information about yourself and your parent(s) — most common

- You are an **independent student** if **at least one** of the following is true about you:
  - You will be 24 years of age or older as of Jan 2023
  - You have a child or other dependent for whom you provide the majority of financial support
  - You have a court-ordered legal guardian who is not your biological or adoptive parent(s)
  - You were in foster care at any point after age 13
  - You were a ward of the court at any point after age 13
  - You are married (*but not separated or divorced*)
  - You are homeless or at risk of being homeless
  - Your parents are incarcerated or deceased
  - You are currently on active duty or are a veteran of the U.S. armed forces
- If you don't meet any of the criteria above, you're a **dependent student** and the following criteria should apply to you:
  - You are under 24 years old
  - You live with at least one biological or adoptive parent (*not always the case*)
- Turning 18 years old and/or moving out doesn't qualify you as an independent student, but there are exceptions. Ask your uAspire advisor or email [studentsupport@uaspire.org](mailto:studentsupport@uaspire.org) for clarification on your unique circumstance.

# 2

## All students need to collect the following information

- Student FSA ID (*username and password*)
- Picture or copy of your social security card (*if applicable*)
- Picture or copy of your green card (*if applicable*)
- Your 2021 federal tax forms and W-2 form(s) (*if applicable*)
- Value of your checking and savings accounts \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Value of your investments \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- List of colleges you will apply to or current college you will continue attending



If you're a dependent student, collect this information for your parent(s).  
If the parent you live with is remarried, include your stepparent.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Parent FSA ID (*username and password*) if applicable

Date parents were married, remarried, separated, divorced, or widowed:

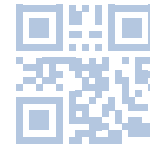
| <input type="checkbox"/> PARENT 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> PARENT 2 |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Name _____                        | Name _____                        |
| Date of birth _____               | Date of birth _____               |
| Social security number _____      | Social security number _____      |

### TAX INFORMATION

2021 federal tax forms (1040 and all schedules)

2021 W-2 form(s)

If taxes were not filed, an estimate of all income earned in 2021: \$ \_\_\_\_\_



Click or scan  
to see examples  
of tax forms.

### FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total current amount in checking and savings account(s): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Net value of current stocks, bonds, mutual funds, 529 plans, etc.: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Net value of investment/rental property, including portions  
of your primary home that are rented out: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of any child support paid or received for all children: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Veterans non-education benefits: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Untaxed privately funded disability benefits: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Untaxed workers compensation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Received federal benefits (SNAP, WIC, TANF, etc) in 2021 or 2022? \_\_\_\_\_

**Certain situations may impact how you report information on the FAFSA.  
Contact your college(s) if:**

- Your family's income has drastically changed since 2021 or after submitting your FAFSA
- You and your family are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless
- Your parent's marital status has changed since 2021
- You have concerns about your or your parents' citizenship status
- Other major life/financial changes have occurred recently