



# FAFSA: Free Application for Federal Student Aid

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*As of August 2023, the images of the FAFSA included within this material are draft images and changes may occur. The Scholarship Foundation will update if necessary, as soon as new images are made available by Federal Student Aid.*

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# Objectives

- Understand **acronyms** and **jargon** associated with the FAFSA, or Free Application for Federal Student Aid.
- Discover **what** the FAFSA is, **why** it is important, **when** to file each year, and **how** to get started.
- Identify the **correct** FAFSA website.
- Recognize common pitfalls and learn how to address **everyday family and financial situations** when completing the FAFSA, and what to do if your situation cannot be addressed within the form itself.
- Understand what the **FAFSA Submission Summary** is and how to read it.
- Learn about the two forms of professional judgement review and when to consider a **special circumstances appeal**.
- Determine what **information and/or documents** are needed to complete the FAFSA.
- Familiarize yourself with **dependency status**, as well as the **dependency questions** that determine whether a student requires parent(s) information on the FAFSA.

## Objective 1: Understand Acronyms and Jargon

**FAFSA:** The FAFSA is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid; for students eligible<sup>1</sup> to file a FAFSA, it is the most critical part of the financial aid application process. The FAFSA, which is a form, is used to calculate the Student Aid Index (SAI), which is used to determine a student's aid eligibility. The SAI is used to award federal and state grants, work-study, and student loans.

**FSA ID:** The FSA ID is a Federal Student Aid Identification, which is used to access critical Federal Student Aid applications and serves as an individual user's legally binding electronic signature. The FSA ID consists of a username and password and can be created online <https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account>. All students must have an FSA ID to file a FAFSA; in addition, dependent students will need their parent(s) to create an FSA ID too. For a list of questions used to determine dependency status, please see page 48. Additionally, please see pages 49-50 for more information on the FSA ID.

**SAI:** The SAI is Student Aid Index. The Student Aid Index is the output of a processed FAFSA and is used to determine a student's financial aid eligibility. The SAI is a student's approximate financial resources to contribute toward their education for one school year. A Student Aid Index can be a negative number, with -1,500 being the lowest SAI possible.

**FAFSA Submission Summary:** The FAFSA Submission Summary is the output document of a FAFSA form, which provides a summary of data reported on the form.

**Contributor:** A contributor is any individual required to provide information on a FAFSA. Contributors give consent and approval, via an FSA ID, for federal tax information and their signature, on a FAFSA form. Contributors can include the student, the student's spouse (if married), a biological or adoptive parent, or the parent's spouse. A contributor must have an FSA ID, which is used as a legally binding signature on the FAFSA and allows an individual to provide approval for their federal tax information to be used in determining the student's financial aid eligibility. All contributors must provide approval, regardless of their tax filing status.

**FTI:** Federal Tax Information, or FTI, is the data and information related to paying federal taxes. This includes a tax return or return information that is received directly from the IRS or obtained through an authorized secondary source, such as the U.S. Department of Education (ED).

**FAFSA FTI Approval:** This is the formal approval granted by an applicant, and any applicable contributors, to the Department of Education for a given FAFSA cycle to retrieve and use FTI to determine the applicant's federal financial aid eligibility. FAFSA FTI approval also permits the redisclosure of FTI to an eligible institution (college), state higher education agency, or a designated scholarship organization for the application, award, and administration of student aid programs. An applicant and contributor (if applicable) must provide consent once each year. If FAFSA FTI consent is not provided, the student will not be eligible for any Title IV aid until the appropriate consent is provided.

**Title IV:** Title IV refers to federal financial aid funds for postsecondary education, including federal grants, Federal Work Study, and student loans.

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<sup>1</sup> Eligible students include US citizens, as well as eligible non-citizens, which includes those who are legal permanent residents and have a green card. Students who are unable to file a FAFSA are encouraged to contact The Scholarship Foundation for assistance in exploring other financial aid options, including funding available through The Scholarship Foundation's grant and interest-free loan programs.

## Objective 2: What, Why, When, and How of FAFSA

### What is the FAFSA?

The FAFSA is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid; it is an application a student completes for every year that they hope to receive financial assistance in paying for college.

### Why should a student file the FAFSA?

For students who are eligible to do so, filing a FAFSA is a critical part of the financial aid process. The FAFSA is the primary application for federal aid, need-based state aid, and some institutional aid. **(NOTE: Students who are ineligible to file a FAFSA or who are unsure they can file should contact The Scholarship Foundation for assistance.)**

### When does a student file the FAFSA?

Typically, the FAFSA opens for the following academic year on October 1<sup>st</sup>. The 2024-25 FAFSA will open in December 2023. Some financial aid is awarded first-come, first-served.

In Illinois, state need-based aid (Monetary Award Program, or MAP) is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis; filing ASAP is crucial. In Missouri, state need-based aid (Access Missouri Grant) requires that a FAFSA be filed no later than February 1<sup>st</sup> for guaranteed consideration.

Many colleges have priority financial aid deadlines. It is critical to meet these deadlines; while researching these deadlines, determine if your college requires any other financial aid paperwork, such as the CSS Profile. The CSS Profile is used by some colleges to award institutional aid; you can learn more and view a list of colleges that require it here:

<https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/>.

### How does a student begin?

The FAFSA belongs to the student, so they should initiate the process. First, they will need to create an FSA ID at <https://studentaid.gov>. This username and password allow the student to securely access their FAFSA and sign Federal Student Aid forms and documents. Once an FSA ID has been verified (3-5 days after creation), the ID has full functionality, and a student can complete their FAFSA online at <https://studentaid.gov>. **REMEMBER:** The FAFSA is free; do not complete the FAFSA at any other website, no matter how much “easier” that site promises to make the process—you may be asked to pay.

Students will be prompted to invite the appropriate contributor(s) to complete their respective portion of their FAFSA. *Everyone will only see the questions that are specific to them.*

## Objective #3: Identify the Correct FAFSA Website

An official website of the United States government. Help Center English | Español

FederalStudentAid  
AN OFFICE OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

FAFSA ▾ Loans & Grants ▾ Repayment ▾ Loan Forgiveness ▾

Get Money to Pay for School

Use the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) form to apply for financial aid for college or graduate school.

2024-25 FAFSA Form

Start a New Form Edit Existing Form

Need to access last year's form? Start or Edit a 2023-24 Form

Check FAFSA® Deadlines for the State You Live In

Some states and colleges use FAFSA information to award their own grants, scholarships, and loans. Check your state's deadlines here!

School Year State of Residence Find Deadlines

View All FAFSA Deadlines

Who Should Complete This?

Any student, regardless of income, who wants to be considered for federal, state, and school financial aid programs, which includes scholarships, grants, loans, and Federal work-study.

How Long Will it Take?

It takes most people less than an hour to complete, including gathering any documents or data needed.

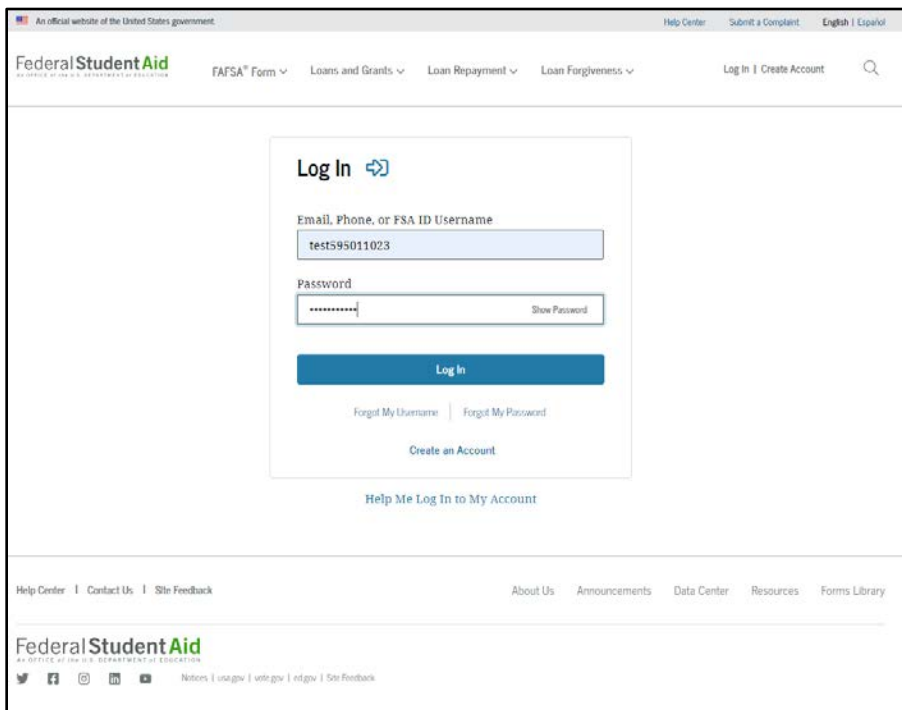
What Do I Need?

- Verified StudentAid.gov account
- Social Security Number
- Parent or spouse contributor email addresses
- Income and asset information, if required

Students and contributors can **Create Account** (create their FSA ID) or **Log In** and use the FSA ID to access Federal Student Aid's website, including the FAFSA.

**Objective #4:** Recognize common pitfalls and learn how to address everyday family and financial situations.

## Student Portion

The screenshot shows the Federal Student Aid login page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'FAFSA Form', 'Loans and Grants', 'Loan Repayment', and 'Loan Forgiveness'. Below this, the 'Log In' section features a form with two input fields: 'Email, Phone, or FSA ID Username' (containing 'test595011023') and 'Password' (containing masked characters). A 'Log In' button is positioned below the password field. Links for 'Forgot My Username', 'Forgot My Password', and 'Create an Account' are located at the bottom of the login form. The footer includes social media icons and a 'Site Feedback' link.

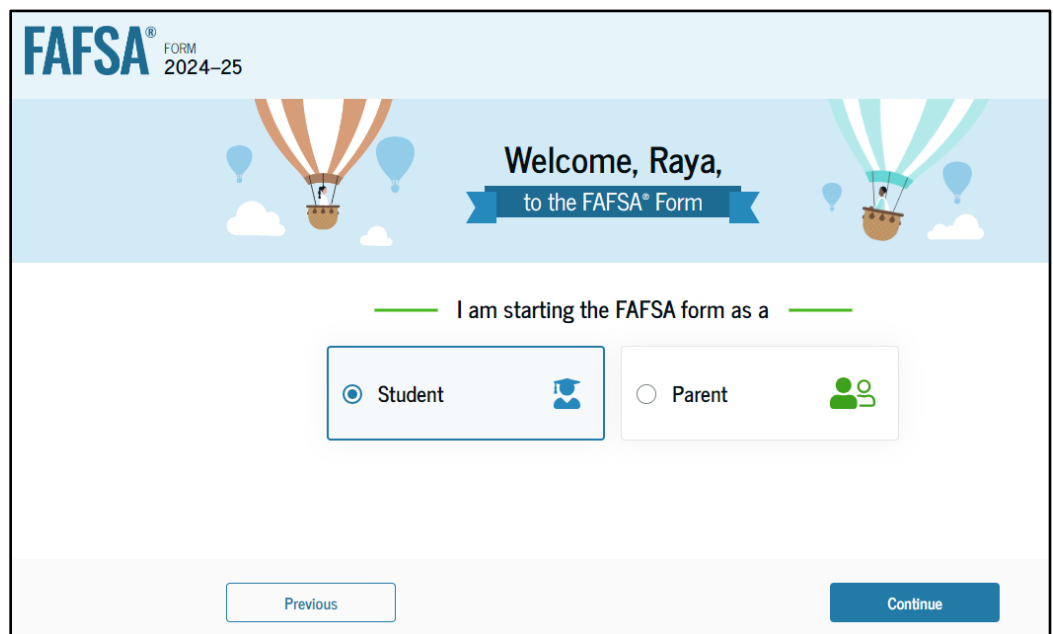
The student will log in with their FSA ID; once verified, a student may use their email address and/or cell phone number in place of the username.

After logging in, the student will receive a two-factor verification code via email or text message. Access to one or both is necessary when filing the FAFSA.

Students are strongly advised to create their FSA ID at least 3-5 days before filing their FAFSA. For full functionality, IDs must be verified by the Social Security Administration.

As a reminder, the FAFSA belongs to the student. Once the student has logged in, they will indicate they are beginning the form in the role of student.

Students will only see questions that directly relate to them and their finances.


The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2024-25 welcome screen. The header features the 'FAFSA FORM 2024-25' logo. Below the header, a banner reads 'Welcome, Raya, to the FAFSA Form'. The main section contains a statement 'I am starting the FAFSA form as a' followed by two radio button options: 'Student' (selected) and 'Parent'. Each option is accompanied by a corresponding icon (a graduation cap for Student and two people for Parent). At the bottom, there are 'Previous' and 'Continue' buttons.

**FAFSA®** FORM 2024-25 Student *Raya Tran*

**Understanding the FAFSA® Form**  
1 of 4

### What is the FAFSA® form?

Use the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®)* form to apply for grants, scholarships, work-study funds, and loans for college or graduate school.



Previous Continue

A first-time FAFSA filer will first view Federal Student Aid's "onboarding." This process will walk a student through four steps to understanding the FAFSA:

1. What is the FAFSA form?
2. Contributors to the FAFSA form
3. What to Expect
4. After Submitting the FAFSA form

**FAFSA®** FORM 2024-25 Student *Raya Tran*

**Understanding the FAFSA® Form**  
2 of 4

### Contributors to the FAFSA® Form



**Parents or Spouses**  
Your answers on the FAFSA form will determine if any contributors need to be identified. These contributors will complete their own sections of the form and are asked to provide personal and financial information, but will not become financially responsible for your education.



**How to Invite**  
Contributors will need to log in with their own FSA ID to provide their information. To invite a contributor to your FAFSA form, you'll need to provide their name, date of birth, Social Security number, and email address.

Information or Documents You May Need

You might need the following information or documents as you fill out the FAFSA form:

- Tax returns
- Records of child support received
- Current balances of cash, savings, and checking accounts
- Net worth of investments, businesses, and farms

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**FAFSA®** FORM 2024-25 Student *Raya Tran*

**Understanding the FAFSA® Form**  
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### What To Expect

How long will this take? 1 hour

Every contributor must provide consent for you to be eligible for federal student aid. With your consent, we can obtain your federal tax information automatically from the IRS to help you complete the FAFSA® form. You can save the form and return to it later if you need more time.

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**FAFSA®** FORM 2024-25 Student *Raya Tran*

**Understanding the FAFSA® Form**  
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### After Submitting the FAFSA® Form

After submission, you'll need to check on the status of your FAFSA® form and make corrections, if required.

→ Your form will be processed in 1-3 days.

→ You'll receive a FAFSA Submission Summary. It will include the Student Aid Index (SAI), a number used to determine federal student aid eligibility.

→ Schools will use your SAI to create your financial aid offer that explains the types and amounts of aid they are offering you. Most schools will wait to send you an aid offer only after they accept you for admission.

Previous Start FAFSA form



FAFSA<sup>®</sup>

FORM 2024–25

Student Raya Tran

Save

FAFSA Menu

## Student Identity Information

Review the information below and verify that it's correct before moving forward.

---

Name  
Raya A. Tran

Date of Birth  
05/05/1995

Social Security Number  
•••••1234

Email Address  
rayaatran@gmail.com

Mobile Phone Number  
(555) 555-5555

To update this information for all federal student aid communications, go to [Account Settings](#).

Before beginning the rest of the form, students will review their identity information. *Please be aware that none of this information can be changed anywhere but **Account Settings**.*

Permanent Mailing Address

Include apartment number.

12345 Sesame Street

City

New York

State

New York (NY)

Zip Code

67891

Country

United States of America (US)

Previous

Continue

FAFSA<sup>®</sup>

FORM 2024–25

Student Raya Tran

Save

FAFSA Menu

## Student State of Legal Residence

State

New York (NY)

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Date the Student Became a legal Resident

Month Year

01 2000

Previous

Continue

Every contributor, including the student, will be required to provide consent for their Federal Tax Information (FTI), whatever it is, to be retrieved from the IRS and shared with Federal Student Aid for the purposes of calculating the Student Aid Index and awarding financial aid.

*No one should provide consent for anyone but themselves.*

**FAFSA**<sup>®</sup> FORM 2024–25 Student Raya Tran Save FAFSA Menu

### Provide Consent or Be Ineligible for Federal Student Aid

#### Summary

Your consent is needed to retrieve and disclose federal tax information (FTI). With your consent, we can obtain tax return information automatically from the IRS to help you complete the FAFSA<sup>®</sup> form. If you don't provide consent, you will not be eligible for federal student aid, including grants and loans. You must provide consent even if you didn't file a U.S. federal tax return or any tax return at all.

- Get your 2022 tax return information for the 2024–25 FAFSA form.
- Tax return information is required to complete the FAFSA form.
- FTI is used to determine your eligibility for federal student aid.

Under penalty of law, I certify that I am the individual associated with the FSA ID log-in credentials used to access the FAFSA form to provide the necessary approval and consent for the disclosure and use of my federal tax information (FTI) from the U.S. Department of the Treasury. By accepting below, I approve and consent to:

- The U.S. Department of Education to disclose my Social Security number, last name, and date of birth to the U.S. Department of the Treasury in order to obtain my FTI only for the purpose of determining the eligibility for, and the amount of, federal student aid for myself or of others for which I participated and shared my FTI by a program authorized under subpart 1 of Part A, Part C, or Part D of Title IV of the *Higher Education Act of 1965*, as amended.
- The use of my FTI by U.S. Department of Education officials and contractors (as defined in 26 U.S.C. § 6103(i)(13)), only for the purpose of determining the eligibility for, and amount of, federal student aid for myself or of others for which I participated and shared my FTI by a program authorized under Title IV of the *Higher Education Act of 1965*, as amended.
- The U.S. Department of Education to redisclose my FTI received from the U.S. Department of the Treasury, pursuant to 26 U.S.C 6103(i)(13)(D)(iii), which includes:
  - institutions of higher education participating in the federal student aid programs authorized under the *Higher Education Act of 1965*, as amended;
  - state higher education agencies; and
  - scholarship organizations designated prior to Dec. 19, 2019, by the Secretary of Education.
- The use of my FTI for the application, award, and administration of student aid awarded by the federal government, institutions of higher education, state higher education agencies, and designated scholarship organizations.
- The redisclosure of my FTI to any future 2024–25 FAFSA forms for which I elect to participate (e.g., if I elect to participate in my child's FAFSA form or to complete my own FAFSA form after participating in another FAFSA form). My FTI will be redisclosed to these additional applications upon my affirmation to participate. I understand that I may decline an invitation to participate, which will prevent the transfer of my FTI to that FAFSA form.

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By approving and consenting, I further understand:

- My approval and consent are a condition of my eligibility or of others for which I have participated and shared my FTI for federal student aid, even if I did not file a U.S. federal tax return.
- FTI received from the U.S. Department of Treasury will supersede any manually entered financial or income information on the FAFSA form.
- The U.S. Department of Education may request updated tax information from the U.S. Department of Treasury once consent is provided. If FTI has changed (e.g., amended tax return filed with revised FTI), then eligibility for and amounts of federal, state, and institutional financial aid may change.
- If I do not approve and consent to the disclosure of my FTI, the U.S. Department of Education will be unable to calculate my eligibility for federal student aid or the eligibility of others who have requested that I share my FTI on their FAFSA form.
- I am permitted to revoke my approval and consent for the disclosure and use of my FTI, as outlined herein, at StudentAid.gov. However, by revoking such approval and consent, neither I nor other applicants for which I participated and shared my FTI will be eligible for future federal student aid and/ or other financial aid program that used FTI to make determinations for eligibility of aid awarded by an institution of higher education, state higher education agency, or other designated scholarship organization.

### Frequently Asked Questions

Who should provide consent?



If I'm married and didn't file a joint tax return with my current spouse, does my spouse have to provide consent for you to access their tax information?



What happens after I provide consent?



What happens if I revoke consent?



What happens if I decline consent?



Select "Approve" to consent to using your tax information to determine your eligibility for federal student aid. If you select "Decline," you will not be eligible for federal student aid.

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Decline

Approve

As a reminder, an individual may decline to provide consent for use of their FTI. **However, if consent is not provided for a contributor on the FAFSA (student, parent, other parent, or spouse), the student will be ineligible for financial aid.**

Questions related to **personal circumstances** help determine if a student is **dependent or independent**. A **dependent student** is *required* to provide parent(s) information on the FAFSA to be considered for financial aid; an **independent student** does not. *See more about dependency questions on page 52.*

FAFSA<sup>®</sup>

FORM  
2024–25

Student Raya Tran

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### Your Personal Circumstances

Tell us about your marital status; your financial dependencies; your plans for college; and any other special circumstances that may impact your aid eligibility (including if you've been homeless or at risk of becoming so).

→ This information can affect how much aid you're eligible to receive.

→ Based on your answers, we may need to collect additional information from other people.

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FAFSA<sup>®</sup>

FORM  
2024–25

Student Raya Tran

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3

4

5

Personal Circumstances

Demographics

Financials

Colleges

Signature

### Student Marital Status

☒ Single (Never Married)

☐ Married (not Separated)

☐ Remarried

☐ Separated

☐ Divorced

☐ Widowed

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Continue

1 Personal Circumstances 2 Demographics 3 Financials 4 Colleges 5 Signature

## Student College or Career School Plans

When the student begins the 2024–25 school year, what will their college grade level be?

☒ First Year (freshman)

☐ Second Year (sophomore)

☐ Other undergraduate (junior or senior)

☐ College graduate, professional, or beyond  
(MBA, M.D., Ph.D., etc.)

When the student begins the 2024–25 school year, will they have their first bachelor's degree?

☐ Yes

☒ No

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## Student Personal Circumstances

Select all that apply.

☐ The student is currently serving on active duty in the U.S. armed forces for purposes other than training.

☐ The student is a veteran of the U.S. armed forces.

☐ The student has children or other people (excluding their spouse) who live with them and receive more than half of their support from the student now and between July 1, 20XX and June 30, 20XX.

☐ At any time since the student turned 13, they were an orphan (no living biological or adoptive parent).

☐ At any time since the student turned 13, they were a ward of the court.

☐ At any time since the student turned 13, they were in foster care.

☐ The student is or was a legally emancipated minor, as determined by a court in their state of residence.

☐ The student is or was in a legal guardianship with someone other than their parent or stepparent, as determined by a court in their state of residence.

☒ None of these apply

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### Student Other Circumstances

At any time on or after July 1, 2023, was the student unaccompanied and either (1) homeless or (2) self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?

☐ Yes ☒ No

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Students who are under the age of 24, unmarried, do not yet have a bachelor's degree, and who cannot answer “yes” to any of the personal circumstances questions are likely to be considered dependent and will require the information of their parent(s). The parent(s) will be invited as contributors to the student’s FAFSA.

**FAFSA**® FORM 2024-25 Student **Raya Tran** Save FAFSA Menu

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### Student Unusual Circumstances

This information will help us evaluate the student’s ability to pay for school.

Do unusual circumstances prevent the student from contacting their parents or would contacting their parents pose a risk to the student?

A person experiencing unusual circumstances may have:

- Left home due to an abusive or threatening environment;
- Been abandoned by or estranged from their parents, and have not been adopted;
- Been granted refugee or asylee status and are separated from their parents, or their parents are displaced in a foreign country;
- Been a victim of human trafficking;
- Been incarcerated, or their parents are incarcerated and contact with them would pose a risk to them; or
- Been otherwise unable to contact or locate their parents, and have not been adopted.

If their circumstances resulted in not having a safe, stable place to live, they may be considered a homeless youth and should review the answer to the previous question about being unaccompanied and homeless.

☐ Yes ☒ No

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Federal Student Aid recognizes that some students may not meet the definition of an independent student but will be unable to invite their parent(s) to contribute to the FAFSA. This is referred to as “unusual circumstances<sup>2</sup>” and students who may have a circumstance that prevents them from obtaining parent information may be able to file the FAFSA as provisionally independent student and request their prospective college(s) consider them for a **dependency override**.

<sup>2</sup> The term “unusual circumstances” is Federal Student Aid’s language. The Scholarship Foundation considers this language problematic and will use other language whenever possible to describe or discuss provisionally independent students, their circumstances, and the dependency override process.

A provisionally independent student status will allow a student to submit their FAFSA without inviting parent(s) to contribute. The FAFSA will calculate a *provisional* Student Aid Index (SAI); however, the student must follow up with the college's financial aid office and provide documentation to verify their circumstances.

The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2024-25 interface for Student Raya Tran. The progress bar at the top indicates five steps: 1. Personal Circumstances (active), 2. Demographics, 3. Financials, 4. Colleges, and 5. Signature. The main heading is 'Your Dependency Status'. Below it, a light blue box contains an illustration of a student and the following text:

**Provisionally Independent Student**

Based on your answers, you're a provisionally independent student. This means you don't need to answer questions about your parents to submit your application.

To complete your application, you'll need to contact your school's financial aid office and provide documentation to verify your circumstances.

We won't be able to calculate your Student Aid Index (SAI) until you confirm your circumstances with your financial aid office. Until then, we will provide only an estimate of your federal student aid eligibility as an independent student.

At the bottom, there are 'Previous' and 'Continue' buttons.

Students who are considered dependent who cannot obtain the information of their parent(s) for the FAFSA, and who do not have circumstances that qualify them for provisional independent status and, ultimately, a dependency override, may submit their FAFSA without parent information. However, they would be eligible to apply *only* for a Direct Unsubsidized Loan<sup>3</sup>.

The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2024-25 interface for Student Raya Tran. The progress bar at the top indicates five steps: 1. Personal Circumstances (active), 2. Demographics, 3. Financials, 4. Colleges, and 5. Signature. The main heading is 'Student Dependency Status'. Below it, a light blue box contains an illustration of a student and the following text:

**Dependent Student**

Based on your answers, you're a dependent student, and since we assume parents of dependent students will help pay for your education if they are able, we need information about their finances and backgrounds. This information is used to determine how much financial aid you're eligible to receive.

**Apply for a Direct Unsubsidized Loan Only**

Are the student's parents unwilling to provide their information, but the student doesn't have an unusual circumstance that prevents them from contacting or obtaining their parents' information?

Select "Yes" if the student wants a financial aid administrator at their school to determine their eligibility for a Direct Unsubsidized Loan only.

There are two radio button options: 'Yes' (unselected) and 'No' (selected).

At the bottom, there are 'Previous' and 'Continue' buttons.

<sup>3</sup> For more information about the Direct Loans, both subsidized and unsubsidized, please visit: <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/loans/subsidized-unsubsidized>.

When a student is dependent and can invite their parent(s) to contribute, they will be prompted to provide additional information about them. The FAFSA form will include a parent wizard, which will help guide the student in determining which parent(s) must be invited to contribute to their FAFSA.

The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2024-25 form interface for Student Raya Tran. The progress bar at the top indicates five steps: 1. Personal Circumstances (active), 2. Demographics, 3. Financials, 4. Colleges, and 5. Signature. The main heading is 'Tell Us About Your Parents'. A green box contains the text: 'On the FAFSA® form, your "Parent" is your legal (biological or adoptive) parent or stepparent who supports you financially.' Below this is a question: 'Are your parents married to each other?' with two radio button options: 'Yes' (selected) and 'No'. A blue box with a document icon contains the text: 'You will need to provide information for your parents. Based on your answers in this section, you'll need to provide information about both of your parents on your FAFSA form. You can invite your parents to your form so they can complete their required sections.' At the bottom are 'Previous' and 'Continue' buttons.

Depending on the marital and tax filing statuses of the student's parents, one or both may need to contribute. Outlined below are some examples.

If the student's parents are **married and filed their federal taxes using a married-joint tax return**, only one parent will be required to create an FSA ID, act as a contributor, and provide consent.

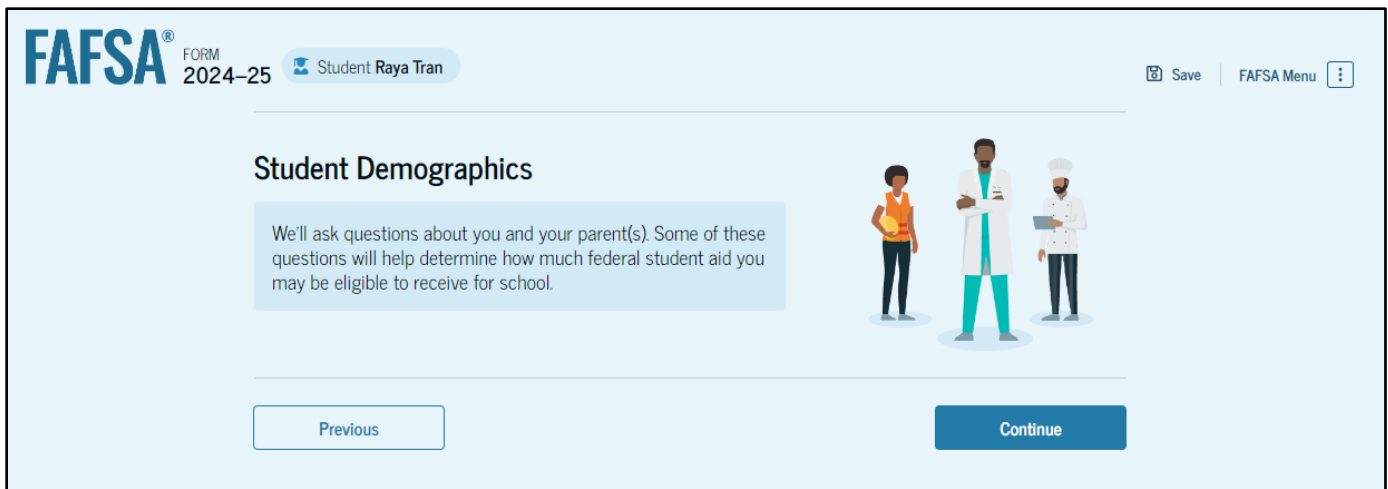
If the student's parents are **married and filed their federal taxes using a married-separate tax return**, both parents will be required to create an FSA ID, act as contributors, and provide consent.

If the student's parents are **divorced**, the student will need to determine which parent provides more than 50% of the financial support.

If the student's parents are **unmarried but living together in one household**, both parents will be required to create an FSA ID, act as a contributor, and provide consent.








FAFSA<sup>®</sup> FORM 2024-25 Student Raya Tran

Save | FAFSA Menu

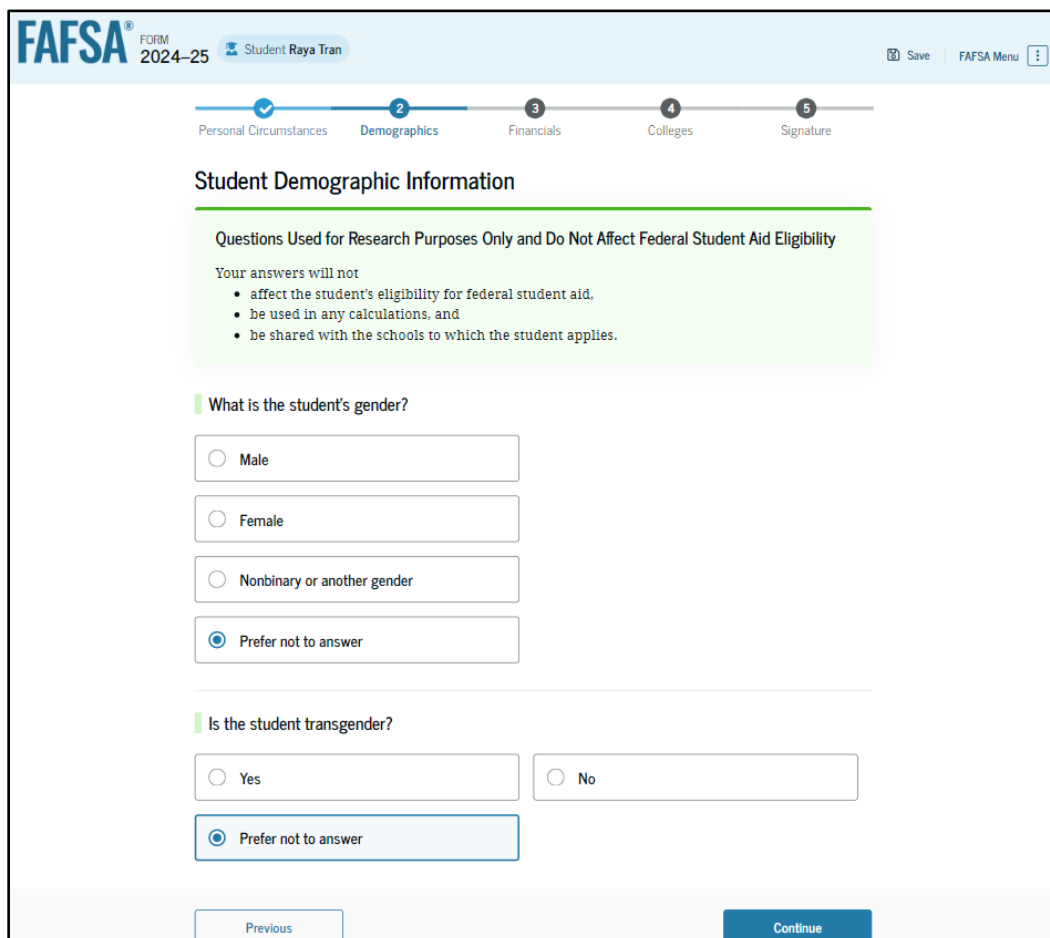
## Student Demographics

We'll ask questions about you and your parent(s). Some of these questions will help determine how much federal student aid you may be eligible to receive for school.



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The FAFSA does ask students to provide demographic information. It is important to note that responses to the questions related to race and gender will not be used to determine student's aid eligibility; are not shared with colleges or state agencies; and are not listed on the FAFSA submission summary. *These questions, and the responses, are visible **only** to the student.*



FAFSA<sup>®</sup> FORM 2024-25 Student Raya Tran

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Personal Circumstances **Demographics** Financials Colleges Signature

## Student Demographic Information

**Questions Used for Research Purposes Only and Do Not Affect Federal Student Aid Eligibility**

Your answers will not

- affect the student's eligibility for federal student aid,
- be used in any calculations, and
- be shared with the schools to which the student applies.

**What is the student's gender?**

☐ Male

☐ Female

☐ Nonbinary or another gender

☒ Prefer not to answer

**Is the student transgender?**

☐ Yes

☐ No

☒ Prefer not to answer

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**Please note:** These images all reflect "prefer not to answer." These are FSA screenshots, and the images are not intended to be perceived as a recommendation on how to respond to these questions.

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## Student Race and Ethnicity

### Questions Used for Research Purposes Only and Do Not Affect Federal Student Aid Eligibility

Your answers will not

- affect the student's eligibility for federal student aid,
- be used in any calculations, and
- be shared with the schools to which the student applies.

Is the student of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?

Select all that apply.

☐ No, not of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin

☐ Yes, Mexican, Mexican American, or Chicano

☐ Yes, Puerto Rican

☐ Yes, Cuban

☐ Yes, another Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin

☒ Prefer not to answer

## What is the student's race?

Select all that apply.

☐ White

☐ Black or African American

☐ Asian

☐ American Indian or Alaska Native

☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

☒ Prefer not to answer

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Continue

The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2024-25 interface for Student Raya Tran. At the top, the FAFSA logo is followed by 'FORM 2024-25' and the student's name. On the right, there are links for 'Save' and 'FAFSA Menu'. Below the header is a progress bar with five steps: 1. Personal Circumstances (checked), 2. Demographics (active), 3. Financials, 4. Colleges, and 5. Signature. The main heading is 'Student Citizenship Status'. There are three radio button options: 'U.S. citizen or national' (selected), 'Eligible noncitizen', and 'Neither U.S. citizen nor eligible noncitizen'. At the bottom, there are 'Previous' and 'Continue' buttons.

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### Student Citizenship Status

☒ U.S. citizen or national

☐ Eligible noncitizen

☐ Neither U.S. citizen nor eligible noncitizen

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As the primary financial aid application, filing the FAFSA is critical for students eligible to do so. All U.S. citizens are eligible, as well as eligible noncitizens. Eligible noncitizens include those who have legal permanent residence (green card holders). In addition, individuals with an Arrival-Departure Record (I-94) from U.S. Citizen and Immigrant Services (USCIS) showing any of the following may also be eligible to file the FAFSA: refugee, asylum granted, Cuban-Haitian Entrant, or parolee.

Students who are undocumented, including those approved for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), are not eligible for federal student aid. Students who wish to speak with someone about financial aid opportunities are encouraged to contact The Scholarship Foundation for information and assistance.

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### Parent Education Status

Did either of the student's parents attend college?

☐ Yes

☒ No

☐ Don't know

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### Parent Killed in Line of Duty

Was the student's parent or guardian killed in the line of duty while (1) serving on active duty as a member of the Armed forces on or after September 11, 2001 or (2) performing official duties as a public safety officer?

*Public safety officers include law enforcement officers, firefighters, and emergency service workers.*

☐ Yes

☒ No

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### Student High School Completion Status

What will the student's high school completion status be at the beginning of the 2024–25 school year?

☒ High school diploma

☐ State-recognized high school equivalent (e.g., GED certificate)

☐ Homeschooled

☐ None of the above

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### High School Information

From what high school did or will the student graduate?

State

New York (NY) ?

City

Brooklyn ?

High School Name - optional

Brown Hi ?

Brown High School

Search

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### High School Information

From what high school did or will the student graduate?

State  
New York (NY) ?

City  
Brooklyn ?

High School Name - optional  
Brown High School ?

☒ Brown High School  
Brooklyn, New York (NY)

Search Again

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### Confirm Your High School

Take a look to verify that your high school information below is correct. Once you're ready, select "Continue" and we'll add this high school to your FAFSA.

High School Name

Buena Vista High School

Edit

City

Lakewood

State

California

Previous

Continue

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Your Finances

The FAFSA form helps schools determine your ability to pay for college without financial aid, so we ask in this section if you receive any federal or state entitlement benefits and if you have any investments, real estates, or other assets.

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Although most FTI will be shared directly from the IRS through a direct data exchange, tax filers should have relevant tax information on hand when they file the FAFSA, as some questions may still require referencing the tax return for the answer.

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✓

✓

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Student 2022 Tax Return Information

Refer to the student's 2022 tax return to answer the following questions.

*Convert all currency to U.S. dollars.*

Amount of College Grants, Scholarships, or AmeriCorps Benefits Reported as Income to the IRS (optional)

The student paid taxes on these grants, scholarships, or benefits. These usually apply to those renewing their FAFSA<sup>®</sup> form, not to first-time applicants.

\$

0

.00

①

Foreign Earned Income Exclusion

\$

0

.00

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Continue



**FAFSA**<sup>®</sup> FORM 2024-25 Student **Raya Tran** Save FAFSA Menu

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### Student Assets

**Current Total of Cash, Savings, and Checking Accounts**  
*Don't include student financial aid*

\$ 500 .00

**Current Net Worth of Businesses and Investment Farms**  
*Enter the net worth of the student's businesses or for-profit agricultural operations. Net worth is the value of the businesses or farms minus any debts owed against them.*

\$ 0 .00

**Current Net Worth of Investments, Including Real Estate**  
*Don't include the home the student lives in. Net worth is the value of the investments minus any debts owed against them.*

\$ 0 .00

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Students will only see the asset questions if they complete their entire portion first and/or if their parent(s) are *not* exempt from asset reporting. If the student provides responses to these questions and it is later determined the household is exempt from asset reporting, the information will be excluded from the SAI calculation. Students are exempt from asset reporting if:

- The applicant qualifies for a maximum Pell Grant.
- The applicant's parent(s) adjusted gross income is less than \$60,000 and they did not meet additional tax-filing conditions.<sup>4</sup>
- The applicant or their parent received a benefit under a means-tested Federal benefit program during the 2022 or 2023 calendar year<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>4</sup> If the parent(s) did not file a Schedule A, B, D, E, F, or H **and** did not file a Schedule C, **or** they file a Schedule C with net business income of not more than a \$10,000 loss or gain.

<sup>5</sup> The reference to 2022 or 2023 is specific to the 2024-25 FAFSA.

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## Your Colleges

In this section, you'll search for and select schools you're considering so they will automatically receive an electronic copy of your FAFSA form. You don't need to worry if you don't end up applying to them - there is nothing else you need to do.

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Students may list up to 20 colleges on their FAFSA and they should list any colleges they have already applied to, as well as any they may still apply to for admission. Students may always return to their FAFSA and amend this list, adding or removing as necessary. In some states, the order of schools does matter for consideration of state financial assistance. The FAFSA will now provide guidance appropriate to students if their state of legal residence has any eligibility requirements. The schools listed will not be able to see what other colleges a student has listed on their FAFSA.

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## Where should we send your FAFSA?

Search for the colleges to which you'd like to send your FAFSA<sup>®</sup> information.

You can add up to 20 colleges to your FAFSA form.

0 of 20 Schools Selected View Selected Schools

Search by School Name Search by School Code

State

California (CA)

School Name - optional

Search

Previous Continue

Rice University

Burlington, California (CA)

Federal School Code

B09773

+ Select

Rhodes College

Centerville, California (CA)

Federal School Code

E89235

+ Select

Smith College

Lexington, California (CA)

Federal School Code

G92383

+ Select

Macalester College

Madison, California (CA)

Federal School Code

038412

+ Select

Wellesley College

Springfield, California (CA)

Federal School Code

F09983

✓ Selected

Search and Select Schools

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Continue

✓ 4 of 20 schools have been selected

Search and Select Schools

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Selected Colleges

These are the colleges you want to receive your FAFSA information

To change the position of a school in your list, use the up and down arrow buttons to the left of the schools name.

School list guidelines for Connecticut residents

To be eligible for state grant aid in Connecticut, you must list an eligible in-state college within the first 2 positions. If you update your school choices later, please notify your state agency by sending an email to [sfa@ctohe.org](mailto:sfa@ctohe.org)

12 of 20 Schools Selected

Showing 1 to 10 of 12

1

University of California

Northridge, CA

Federal School Code

G03453

Remove

View Info

2

University of California

Northridge, CA

Federal School Code

G03453

Remove

View Info

3

University of California

Northridge, CA

Federal School Code

G03453

Remove

View Info

27

After listing their colleges, the student will be finished with their portion. They will still need to sign and submit their section, after reviewing the information they have provided to ensure it is correct.

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FAFSA Menu

Take a moment to review before signing

Expand the sections below to review and edit the information you've entered before you sign your portion of the form.

Student Sections

Expand All

Introduction

Personal Identifiers

Section 1

Personal Circumstances

Section 2

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Section 3

Financials

Section 4

Colleges

Section 5

Signature

Students will be able to review, and edit if necessary, the information for their contributors before submitting the FAFSA.

Remember, the FAFSA cannot be processed until any required contributor(s) have provided their information, including consent for use of FTI.

Parent Contributor Section

This Section is Shared With 2 Contributors

Your FAFSA form is shared with the individuals listed below. You can request, manage, or remove signatures and contributions from this page or in your FAFSA form.

Parent Contributors	Date Request Sent	Status	Edit
Alcina Tran	07/13/2024	<div>Invite Sent</div>	
Travis Tran	07/13/2024	<div>Invite Sent</div>	

Previous

Continue

Finally, students will be asked to sign and submit. *As with the consent for use of FTI, students should read this page before using their FSA ID to sign and submit.*

**FAFSA** FORM 2024-25 Student Raya Tran Save FAFSA Menu

Personal Circumstances Demographics Financials Colleges **Signature**

### Sign and Complete Your Part

**Summary**

This page confirms you understand the terms and conditions of the FAFSA form, and that you have filled it out accurately to the best of your ability.

The FAFSA form is a legal document you will electronically sign with your FSA ID. Because this is associated with your personal information, do not share it with anyone.

By signing this application electronically using your FSA ID (username and password) and/or any other credential or by signing a signature page and mailing it to us, YOU, THE STUDENT, certify that you

- will use federal and/or state student financial aid only to pay the cost of attending an institution of higher education,
- are not in default on a federal student loan or have made satisfactory arrangements to repay it,
- do not owe money back on a federal student grant or have made satisfactory arrangements to repay it,
- will notify your school if you default on a federal student loan, and
- will not receive a Federal Pell Grant from more than one school for the same period of time.

By signing this application electronically using your username and password, and/or any other credential or by signing a signature page and mailing it to us, you certify that all of the information you provided is true and complete to the best of your knowledge and you agree, if asked to provide

- information that will verify the accuracy of your completed form, and
- U.S. or state income tax forms that you filed or are required to file.

You also certify that you understand that the secretary of education has the authority to verify information reported on your application with the Internal Revenue Service and other federal agencies.

If you sign this application or any document related to the federal student aid programs electronically using a username and password, and/or any other credential, you certify that you are the person identified by the username and password, and/or any other credential and have not disclosed that username and password, and/or any other credential to anyone else. If you purposely give false or misleading information, you may be fined up to \$20,000, sent to prison, or both.

### Sign Your FAFSA Form

☒ I, Raya Tran, agree to the terms outlined above

FAFSA<sup>®</sup>

FORM 2024-25

Student **Raya Tran**

FAFSA Menu

You're Almost There!

The Student Section is complete!

Parent Contributors

Requirements for Dependent Students

Your FAFSA form is not complete until your parents complete the contributor section of the form and sign it. Once completed, your FAFSA form will be submitted for processing.

Parent Contributors	Date Request Sent	Status
Alcina Tran	07/13/2024	<div>Invite Sent</div> <div>Edit</div>
Travis Tran	07/13/2024	<div>Invite Sent</div> <div>Edit</div>

Track and Manage Your FAFSA Application and Your Contributors

This application has been added to My Activity in your StudentAid.gov account. Go there to:

- Review, edit, or cancel any FAFSA application information.
- Revise your household size, contact your schools.
- Start your state application to apply for state-based financial aid

View Status

After completing the student portion of the FAFSA, the applicant will see a confirmation page, which will include details about next steps and information about what the FAFSA Submission Summary is and how to access it

Here's What You Can Do Next

Check Your Email

You will receive an email version of this page at the following email address:  
rayaatran@gmail.com.

Your FAFSA<sup>®</sup> Form Still Needs Contributor Information

The contributor(s) you selected will receive an email invitation to join your form every seven days until the application is complete.

Things You Should Know

View Your FAFSA<sup>®</sup> Submission Summary

Once your application is complete and submitted, you can view your FAFSA Submission Summary, a summary of the information you provided on your FAFSA form. You'll be able to access the FAFSA Submission Summary one to three days after you submit your application by logging back in with your account username and password (FSA ID).

Questions About Your Eligibility For Aid?

Visit the "FAFSA Help" page for more information.

Get Help >

We strongly recommend that your parent(s) complete their own section. If that isn't possible, you can manually provide their information, but you will not be eligible for federal student aid, including grants and loans, until they provide consent and sign the form.

Provide Parent Information Manually >


**Objective #4:** Recognize common pitfalls and learn how to address everyday family and financial situations.

## Parent Portion

Parent contributors will receive an email invitation, which explains in more detail what they have been invited to complete, and why. Note that the student's portion will be deleted after 45 days of inactivity, which would then require the student to return to their portion and do over.

Federal Student Aid

Help Complete  
[StudentFirstName]'s Form



[Contributor First Name],

[StudentFirstName] [StudentLastName] can't be eligible for federal student aid without your input. Help them complete the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®)* form.

**Providing information as a contributor does not make you financially responsible for [StudentFirstName]'s education costs.** Completing the FAFSA form is how they qualify for student aid including

- Federal Pell Grants,
- federal student loans,
- state financial aid, and
- school financial aid.

[Log in with your FSA ID (account username and password) to complete your section.]

**Note: Forms are deleted after 45 days of inactivity.**

Don't recognize [StudentFirstName]? Read [\[Help topic title\]](#).

Log In

 **Why You Were Invited**

Without your input, [StudentFirstName] won't be eligible for federal student aid.

**Reasons To Finish Early**

Here's why it's a good idea to finish as soon as possible:



States and schools have different deadlines for student aid. Check the ["FAFSA® Deadlines"](#) page for more information.



You may need extra time to make corrections after you submit.

 **Can't find [StudentFirstName]'s Form?**

Read [\[help topic title\]](#).



[Sign up for text alerts](#) to stay updated on our grant programs, loan forgiveness programs, repayment plans, and information about your loans.



This email was sent by: Office of Federal Student Aid  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Ave. SW  
Washington, DC, 20002, US

Please do not reply to this email. Messages sent to this email address are not monitored. If you wish to contact us, please use the [StudentAid.gov contact page](#). For more information about financial aid, visit [StudentAid.gov](#).

Like student applicants, contributors will be prompted to log in with their FSA ID username and password.

Individuals who have an existing relationship with Federal Student Aid may see details about other activities, past or present.



## Parent Identity Information

Review the information below and verify that it's correct before moving forward.

Name

Alcina Tran

Date of Birth

05/05/1973

Social Security Number

•••••-1234

Email Address

alcinatran@school.edu

Mobile Phone Number

(555) 555-5555

To update this information for all federal student aid communications, go to [Account Settings](#).

Parent contributors will also only be able to update their identity information in **account settings**.

## Permanent Mailing Address

*Include apartment number.*

12345 Sesame Street

City

New York

State

New York (NY)

Zip Code

67891

Country

United States of America (US)

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FAFSA<sup>®</sup>

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Parent of Raya Tran

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FAFSA Menu

### Provide Consent or the Student Will Be Ineligible for Federal Student Aid

#### Summary

Your consent is needed to retrieve and disclose federal tax information (FTI). With your consent, we can obtain tax return information automatically from the IRS to help you complete your section of the student's FAFSA<sup>®</sup> form. If you don't provide consent, the student will not be eligible for federal student aid, including grants and loans. You must provide consent even if you didn't file a U.S. federal tax return or any tax return at all.

→ Get your 2022 tax return information for the 2024-25 FAFSA form.

→ Tax return information is required to complete the FAFSA form.

→ FTI is used to determine the student's eligibility for federal student aid.

Under penalty of law, I certify that I am the individual associated with the FSA ID log-in credentials used to access the FAFSA form to provide the necessary approval and consent for the disclosure and use of my federal tax information (FTI) from the U.S. Department of the Treasury. By accepting below, I approve and consent to:

- The U.S. Department of Education to disclose my Social Security number, last name, and date of birth to the U.S. Department of the Treasury in order to obtain my FTI only for the purpose of determining the eligibility for, and the amount of, federal student aid for myself or of others for which I participated and shared my FTI by a program authorized under subpart 1 of Part A, Part C, or Part D of Title IV of the *Higher Education Act of 1965*, as amended.
- The use of my FTI by U.S. Department of Education officials and contractors (as defined in 26 U.S.C. § 6103(i)(13)), only for the purpose of determining the eligibility for, and amount of, federal student aid for myself or of others for which I participated and shared my FTI by a program authorized under Title IV of the *Higher Education Act of 1965*, as amended.
- The U.S. Department of Education to redisclose my FTI received from the U.S. Department of the Treasury pursuant to 26 U.S.C. 6103(i)(13)(D)(iii), which includes:
  - institutions of higher education participating in the federal student aid programs authorized under the *Higher Education Act of 1965*, as amended;
  - state higher education agencies; and
  - scholarship organizations designated prior to Dec. 19, 2019, by the Secretary of Education.
- The use of my FTI for the application, award, and administration of student aid awarded by the federal government, institutions of higher education, state higher education agencies, and designated scholarship organizations.
- The redisclosure of my FTI to any future 2024-25 FAFSA forms for which I elect to participate (e.g., if I elect to participate in my child's FAFSA form or to complete my own FAFSA form after participating in another FAFSA form). My FTI will be redisclosed to these additional applications upon my affirmation to participate. I understand that I may decline an invitation to participate, which will prevent the transfer of my FTI to that FAFSA form.

Every contributor ***must*** provide consent.  
 Parent contributors can decline to provide consent, but the student will be ineligible for Federal Student Aid.

By approving and consenting, I further understand:

- My approval and consent are a condition of my eligibility or of others for which I have participated and shared my FTI for federal student aid, even if I did not file a U.S. federal tax return.
- FTI received from the U.S. Department of Treasury will supersede any manually entered financial or income information on the FAFSA form.
- The U.S. Department of Education may request updated tax information from the U.S. Department of Treasury once consent is provided. If FTI has changed (e.g., amended tax return filed with revised FTI), then eligibility for and amounts of federal, state, and institutional financial aid may change.
- If I do not approve and consent to the disclosure of my FTI, the U.S. Department of Education will be unable to calculate my eligibility for federal student aid or the eligibility of others who have requested that I share my FTI on their FAFSA form.
- I am permitted to revoke my approval and consent for the disclosure and use of my FTI, as outlined herein, at StudentAid.gov. However, by revoking such approval and consent, neither I nor other applicants for which I participated and shared my FTI will be eligible for future federal student aid and/or other financial aid program that used FTI to make determinations for eligibility of aid awarded by an institution of higher education, state higher education agency, or other designated scholarship organization.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who should provide consent?

If I'm married and didn't file a joint tax return with my current spouse, does my spouse have to provide consent for you to access their tax information?

What happens after I provide consent?

What happens if I revoke consent?

What happens if I decline consent?

Select "Approve" to consent to using your tax information to determine the student's eligibility for federal student aid. If you select "Decline," the student will not be eligible for federal student aid.

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Decline

Approve

FAFSA<sup>®</sup>

FORM 2024–25

Parent of Raya Tran

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Demographics About You

We'll ask about your marital status, college students in your household, and legal residence.

→ This is because most dependent students receive support from their parents, and this affects how much they're able to pay for school.

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Parent contributors will also be prompted to provide some demographic information, but the information is different than what is required from students.

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Parent of Raya Tran

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Parent Current Marital Status

☐ Single (Never Married)

☐ Unmarried and both legal parents living together

☒ Married (not Separated)

☐ Remarried

☐ Separated

☐ Divorced

☐ Widowed

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Parent State of Legal Residence

State

New York (NY)

Date the Parent Became a Legal Resident

Month

Year

01

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Your Finances

The FAFSA form helps schools determine the student's ability to pay for college without financial aid, so we ask in this section if you receive any federal or state entitlement benefits and if you have any investments, real estates, or other assets.

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Parent financial information is an important part of the FAFSA. The parent contributor(s) will be prompted to answer the following questions related to their finances.

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Federal Benefits Received

**Questions Don't Affect Federal Student Aid Eligibility**

Your answers to these questions will not affect the student's eligibility for federal student aid or these federal benefits.

At any time during 2022 or 2023, did the parent or anyone in their family receive benefits from any of the following federal programs?

Select all that apply.

☐ Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)

☐ Federal Housing Assistance

☐ Free or Reduced Price School Lunch

☐ Medicaid

☐ Refundable Credit for Coverage Under a Qualified Health Plan (QHP)

☐ Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

☐ Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

☐ Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

☐ Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

☒ None of these apply.

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**FAFSA**® FORM 2024-25 Parent of Raya Tran

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### Parent Tax Filing Status

Did or will the parent file a 2022 joint tax return with their current spouse?

☒ Yes ☐ No

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The marital and tax filing status of the parent(s) will confirm if all contributors are correctly accounted for on the student's FAFSA.

**FAFSA**® FORM 2024-25 Parent of Raya Tran

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### Family Size

Is the parent's family size different from the number of individuals claimed on their 2022 tax return?

☒ Yes ☐ No

The parent's family size is 3

Parent: 1 Other Parent: 1 Student: 1 Parent's Children and Other Dependents: 1

Enter the number of children or other dependents who live with the parent and will receive more than half of their support from the parent between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025?

*Do not include the student applicant.*

1 ?

Previous Continue

Although most tax information will be directly transferred from the IRS, some questions will require manual entry or allow for updated information to be provided. Family size is one item that parent contributors can update and so it is necessary to have tax returns on hand for reference when filing the FAFSA.

**FAFSA**® FORM 2024-25 Parent of Raya Tran Save FAFSA Menu

Demographics Financials Signature

### Number in College

How many people in the parent's family will be in college between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025?

*Do not include the parent.*

1 ?

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Please be aware that although the FAFSA asks about the number of household members, excluding parent(s), will be enrolled in college, this information is **not** a factor in determining the Student Aid Index or the student's aid eligibility.

**FAFSA**® FORM 2024-25 Parent of Raya Tran Save FAFSA Menu

Demographics Financials Signature

### Parent 2022 Tax Return Information

Refer to the parent's 2022 tax return to answer the following questions.

*Convert all currency to U.S. dollars.*

Did the parent receive the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)?

☐ Yes ☒ No

☐ Don't know

---

Amount of College Grants, Scholarships, or AmeriCorps Benefits Reported as Income to the IRS (optional)

*The parent paid taxes on these grants, scholarships, or benefits. These usually apply to those renewing their FAFSA® form, not to first-time applicants.*

\$ 0 .00

---

Foreign Earned Income Exclusion

\$ 0 .00

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**FAFSA**<sup>®</sup> FORM 2024-25 Parent of Raya Tran Save FAFSA Menu

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### Annual Child Support Received

Enter total amount received in child support for the last complete calendar year.

\$  .00

### Parent Assets

**Current Total of Cash, Savings, and Checking Accounts**  
Don't include student financial aid

\$  .00

**Current Net Worth of Businesses and Investment Farms**  
Enter the net worth of your businesses or for-profit agricultural operations. Net worth is the value of your businesses or farms minus any debts owed against them.

\$  .00

**Current Net Worth of Investments, Including Real Estate**  
Don't include the home you live in. Net worth is the value of your investments minus any debts owed against them.

\$  .00

[Previous](#) [Continue](#)

Some parent contributors will be **exempt from reporting assets**. However, those who are required to provide asset information should note the following:

- Child support *received* is an asset and is reported on the FAFSA if applicable.
- Parent contributors must report the net worth of any businesses and investment farms, regardless of size.
- Parent contributors must also report the net worth of any investments; please note that this question specifically excludes the value of the home the family lives in, as well as retirement accounts (401K, 403B, etc.). Please carefully review information about investments that are required.

FAFSA<sup>®</sup>

FORM 2024–25

Parent of Raya Tran

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Other Parent's Information

Enter the following information about the other parent.

Other Parent

First Name

Travis

Last Name

Tran

Date of Birth

Month

Day

Year

02

01

1970

Social Security Number (SSN)

\*\*\*\*\*

Show

Email Address

travistran@gmail.com

Confirm Email Address

travistran@gmail.com

Previous

Continue

FAFSA<sup>®</sup>

FORM 2024–25

Parent of Raya Tran

Save

FAFSA Menu

Take a moment to review before signing

Expand the sections below to review and edit the information you've entered before you sign your portion of the form.

Parent Contributor Sections

Expand All

Introduction

Personal Identifiers

Section 1

Demographics

Section 2

Financials

Section 3

Signature

Previous

Continue

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Demographics Financials **Signature**

### Sign and Complete Your Section

**Summary**

This page confirms that you understand the terms and conditions of the FAFSA® form and filled out the form accurately to the best of your ability.

The FAFSA form is a legal document you will electronically sign with your account username and password (FSA ID). Because your FSA ID is associated with your personal information, do not share it with anyone.

By signing the student's application electronically using your account username and password, YOU, THE PARENT, certify that all of the information you provided is true and complete to the best of your knowledge and you agree, if asked, to provide

- information that will verify the accuracy of your completed form, and
- U.S. or foreign income tax forms that you filed or are required to file.

You also certify that you understand that the Secretary of Education has the authority to verify information reported on your application.

If you sign this application or any document related to the federal student aid programs electronically using a username and password, and/or any other credential, you certify that you are the person identified by the username and password, and/or any other credential and have not disclosed that username and password, and/or any other credential to anyone else. If you purposefully give false or misleading information, including applying as an independent student without meeting the unusual circumstances required to qualify for such a status, you may be subject to criminal penalties under 20 U.S.C. 1097, which may include a fine up to \$20,000, imprisonment, or both.

Sign for yourself and submit the application for Raya Tran (Student).

☒ I, Alcina Tran, agree to the terms outlined above.

Cancel Sign and Submit

The parent contributor(s) must also sign using their FSA ID.

FAFSA® FORM 2024-25 Parent of Raya Tran Save FAFSA Menu

## Congratulations, the FAFSA® Form Is Complete!

Raya Tran

Completion Date  
10/12/2024

### What Happens Next

- Email sent**  
Confirm that the student received an email version of this page.
- The Student Will Receive Notification of Processing**  
In one to three days, the student will receive a notification by email that their FAFSA form was processed and sent to the student's schools.
- The Student Will Receive School Communications**  
We use the information collected on the student's FAFSA form to calculate their Student Aid Index (SAI). The SAI lets schools determine how much aid the student is eligible to receive. Schools will reach out to the student if they need more information. They will also contact the student with financial aid offers. Once received, the student can contact their financial aid offices directly to ask questions about their student aid packages.

**Track and Manage the Student's FAFSA® Form**

You can check the status of the student's application in the "My Activity" section of your StudentAid.gov account. We will let you know if we need anything more from you.

View Status

After submitting, the parent contributor will see a confirmation page. Because the FAFSA belongs to the student, it is the student who will receive the confirmation email. Once the FAFSA has processed, one to three days after submission of the form, the student will receive a notice. They will be able to return to the FAFSA to access and review their FAFSA Submission Summary.

## Objective #5: Understand the FAFSA Submission Summary

The **FAFSA Submission Summary** is a summary of information related to the student's FAFSA. There are four tabs to the summary. There are several key elements to notice below; they include:

- The date the application was received.
- The date the application was processed.
- Which submission is being viewed (corrections to the form generate a new FAFSA Submission Summary).

< Back Print This Page

**FAFSA** FORM 2024-25 **FAFSA Submission Summary**

Student Raya Tran Application Received Sept. 10, 2024 Application Processed Sept. 12, 2024 Data Release Number 2572 Viewing: Submission 1 ?

[Eligibility Overview](#) [FAFSA Form Answers](#) [School Information](#) [Next Steps](#)

The **first tab** of the FAFSA Submission Summary is an Eligibility Overview. This page will include an estimate of the student's Pell Grant if they are eligible. It will also provide the Student Aid Index.

[Eligibility Overview](#) [FAFSA Form Answers](#) [School Information](#) [Next Steps](#)

**Estimated Federal Student Aid**

**Federal Pell Grant** ?  
A Federal Pell Grant is awarded to undergraduate students who have financial need and who have not earned a degree or are in a teacher certification program. Federal Pell Grants don't need to be repaid. Up to **\$4,556**

**Federal Direct Loans** ?  
A federal direct loan is money lent by the government to you that you must repay with interest. Up to **\$4,556**

**Federal Work-Study** ?  
Federal Work-Study is a way for students to earn money to pay for school through part-time jobs on or off campus. **You May Be Eligible**

*Amounts shown here are only estimates of federal student aid based on full-time enrollment and the average cost of attendance. Your school will determine how much student aid to offer you, which may include additional aid from your school or state.*

[Learn more about financial aid](#)

**Keep in mind, this is only an estimate**  
Always refer to your school's financial aid offer for a final determination of financial aid available.

**Your Student Aid Index (SAI)**

Your SAI is a number used by your school to determine your federal student aid eligibility and to build your financial aid offer **-355** ?

[What does this mean?](#)

The **second tab** of the FAFSA Submission Summary is an actual summary of the answers reported on the FAFSA itself.

Eligibility Overview

FAFSA Form Answers

School Information

Next Steps

Your FAFSA® Form Answers

Review your responses carefully and make sure all the information you provided is correct. Start a correction to fix any errors and ensure that your form is processed correctly.

Make a Correction

Student Sections

Expand All

Introduction

Personal Identifiers

Section 1

Personal Circumstances

Section 2

Demographics

Section 3

Financials

Section 4

Colleges

Section 5

Signature

Parent Sections

Expand All

Section 0

Personal Identifiers

Section 1

Demographics

Section 2

Financials

Section 3

Signature

The **third tab** is school information, where students can view key data elements about their prospective institution(s), including graduation and retention rates; median debt upon completion; average annual cost; and more.

Eligibility Overview FAFSA Form Answers <u>School Information</u> Next Steps						
<b>Find an Affordable School</b> Many schools offer the opportunity to attend college affordably. Learn about the costs and benefits associated with the schools you listed on your form. <a href="#">Learn More on College Scorecard</a> <div>Showing results for family income between <b>\$0-\$30,000</b> </div>						
School Name	Graduation Rate	Retention Rate	Transfer Rate	Default Rate	Median Debt Upon Completion	Average Annual Cost
George Washington University	15%	89%	26%	64%	\$56,000	\$102,000
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill	26%	76%	25%	34%	\$24,000	\$38,000
University of California, North Ridge	55%	65%	35%	15%	\$19,000	\$24,000
<a href="#">View All</a>						

The **fourth and final tab** outlines the next steps. If the student has required action, the FAFSA Submission Summary should open directly to that tab first.

Eligibility Overview	FAFSA Form Answers	School Information	<b>Next Steps</b>
----------------------	--------------------	--------------------	-------------------

**Next Steps**

- 1 Correct any errors on your FAFSA® form
- 2 Make sure your schools have everything they need
- 3 Look out for aid-related communications from your schools

**For Your Awareness**

- VA Education and Training Benefits help veterans, service members, and their family members with needs like paying college tuition or finding the right school.
- Based on the information we have on record for you, your Student Aid Index (SAI) is 123,456,789. You may be eligible to receive a Federal Pell Grant and other federal student aid. Your college's or career school's financial aid office will use your SAI to determine your eligibility for other types of grants, scholarships, work-study funds, and loans
- The limit to the total amount of Federal Pell Grants that a student may receive is the equivalent of six school years. Once you've reached that limit, you can no longer receive a Federal Pell Grant.

**Understand Your Tax Benefits**

Did you know that the IRS provides tax benefits for education? These tax benefits can be used to get back some of the money you spend on tuition or loan interest, or to maximize your college savings.

[Learn About Tax Benefits](#)

**Objective #6:** Learn when to consider a special circumstances appeal.

## **Special Circumstances Appeal**

The FAFSA is a form, and many aspects of students' lives, experiences, and financial circumstances are not accounted for when applying for financial aid. Some circumstances may be considered through a process known as a **special circumstances appeal**.

Special circumstances appeals are a form of **professional judgement review** (unusual circumstances, which is the **dependency override process**, is also a form of professional judgement review). If a student has new or additional financial matters that affect their ability to cover the costs of college, they may follow up directly with their prospective college(s) and request the school consider this information.

Here are some examples of circumstances that *may* be considered:

- Recent reduction or loss of income
- Change in employment for a member of the house
- Extenuating costs due to ongoing illness, hospitalization, etc.

Please be aware that although it is always advisable to explore the possibility of an appeal, not all circumstances are considered by a college or will yield a change in the student's aid eligibility. It is the professional judgement of the financial aid administrator at the college. A successful appeal would mean the financial aid administrator makes changes to data in the student's FAFSA, prompting the form to recalculate a new SAI and, as result, potentially changing the student's aid eligibility.

Scholarship Foundation Student Advisors can assist you in navigating this process; please contact us by email at [info@sfstl.org](mailto:info@sfstl.org) or phone at (314) 725-7990.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### If my parents are divorced, whose information do I need to provide?

Report the information of the parent who *provided more than 50%* of the student's financial support in the most recent 12 months. Financial support can be determined by considering who covers the greater share of the student's expenses, including, but not limited to housing, food, utility costs, health insurance, car note, car insurance, school fees, etc. *If the student's parents support the student equally, the student should provide the financial information for the parent who has the greater income.* Please note that if the parent whose information is required is remarried, the stepparent's information is also required. In addition, if the student's biological parents are divorced, but still share a household (live under one roof together), both parents' information is required on the FAFSA.

### Whose income do I report if I live with a grandparent, aunt, family friend, etc. (anyone other than a biological or adoptive parent)?

Federal Student Aid is clear—only biological or adoptive parent information should be included on the FAFSA. Students who reside with a grandparent, aunt/uncle, or another adult may, depending on circumstances, be considered an independent student, which means no parent/guardian information is required. Otherwise, students may need to pursue a dependency override or begin conversation with their parent(s) to secure required information.

### What kind of information is required in a dependency override?

Schools often require the student to submit paperwork to request a dependency override. This includes a school form, as well as supporting documentation. The supporting documentation will vary depending on the student's specific circumstances. For example, a student who has left the home due to abuse or neglect may be asked to provide copies of police reports, any relevant reports from the Division of Child and Family Services (or similar entities), etc. Letters of support or corroboration from school counselors, social workers, faith leaders, and others familiar with the student's circumstances are often needed too. Although the burden of proof is on the student, students do not have to go through this alone. The Scholarship Foundation's Student Advisors are here to listen, support, and help. Please contact us at [info@sfstl.org](mailto:info@sfstl.org) or (314) 725-7990 for assistance.

### What if I need or want additional help?

#### Help exists!

First, **help text** is available for every question on the FAFSA.

If you'd like to schedule a **free one-on-one appointment, or attend a FASFA clinic**, please contact the Foundation at [info@sfstl.org](mailto:info@sfstl.org) or call the office at (314) 725-7990. Clinics are in-person, although one-on-one appointments may be in-person or virtual.

## 2024-25 FAFSA Checklist

Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA, at <https://studentaid.gov> to apply for federal, state, and institutional financial aid.

*Dependent students must include parent(s) information on the FAFSA. To determine dependency status, see the dependency status worksheet.*

- ☐ Student's Social Security Number, legal name, and birthdate  
*Please reference the student's social security card to ensure information matches.*
- ☐ Parent Contributor(s) Social Security Number(s)/Individual Taxpayer Identification Number(s) (ITIN), legal name(s), and birthdate(s)  
*Please reference the parent contributor(s) social security card(s) to ensure information matches.*
- ☐ Student Federal Student Aid ID  
*IDs are created at <https://studentaid.gov>.*
- ☐ Parent Contributor(s) Federal Student Aid ID  
*IDs are created at <https://studentaid.gov>*
- ☐ 2022 federal income tax forms, including the 1040 and any schedules and forms  
*Although most federal tax information will be directly transferred from the IRS, some manual entry will be required. Tax filers can use copies in their personal records or request documentation from the IRS at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).*
- ☐ 2022 W-2s and/or 1099s
- ☐ Current (date of FAFSA filing) cash, checking, and savings account balances  
*Students and their contributor(s) will need to confirm via personal banking records.*
- ☐ Current (date of FAFSA filing) net worth investment values  
*Students and their contributor(s) will need to confirm via statements from their financial institutions.*
- ☐ Current (date of FAFSA filing) net worth of businesses or investment farms, if applicable  
*Students and their contributor(s) will need to confirm the net worth.*

## 2024-2025 Dependency Checklist

Dependency Status Questions		
<b>Answer the following questions to determine your dependency status for the FAFSA.</b>		
Were you born before January 1, 2001?	Yes	No
Are you married?	Yes	No
Will you be enrolled in a master's or doctorate program at the beginning of the 2024-25 school year?	Yes	No
Are you a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces or currently serving on active duty?	Yes	No
Do you have children who will receive more than half of their financial support from you?	Yes	No
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?	Yes	No
Are you or were you an emancipated minor as determined by a court in your state of legal residence?	Yes	No
Are you or were you in legal guardianship as determined by a court in your state of legal residence?	Yes	No
At any time on or after July 1, 2023, were you homeless?	Yes	No

If you answer “no” to **every** question, you are dependent and must provide parental information on the FAFSA.

If you answer “yes” to **any** question, you are independent and should not include parental information on the FAFSA.



## Federal Student Aid (FSA) ID

Federal Student Aid IDs (FSA ID) are a username and password, created by the individual student and/or parent. FSA IDs are used to sign the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and, as a result, are a crucial part of the FAFSA-completion process. ***All FAFSA-filers are required to create an FSA ID; if the student is dependent, a parent and, in some cases, two parents are required to create an FSA ID.*** Here are a few recommendations regarding the FSA IDs.

- Create an FSA ID at <https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/sign-in/landing>. ***Create an FSA ID at least 3-5 days before you plan to work on the FAFSA; identity must be verified with the Social Security Administration before they are fully functional.***
- FSA IDs are linked to the user's Social Security Number. *Please double check that the name, birthdate, and SSN used on the FSA ID application match **exactly** what is listed on your Social Security card.* They will not work if the Social Security Administration cannot verify the individual's identity.
- **Beginning in fall 2023, individuals without an SSN will be able to create an FSA ID. Please check back after August 1, 2023, for more information and details about this process.**
- Users are ***required*** to link an email address to their FSA ID and may also link to a cell phone number, which is recommended. A second step in this process is verifying by entering a secure code that has been sent. ***The FSA ID is not finalized until the email address, and the cell number if entered, are verified.***

Remember:

- A *verified* email address *and/or* cell phone number can be used interchangeably with the username, offering greater flexibility.
- If the username and/or password are forgotten, a user may send a secure code to their *verified* email and/or cell phone number, which allows for easier retrieval and/or reset.
- Federal Student Aid uses a two-step verification process. ***All FSA ID users are required to set up, and use, two-step verification.*** Individuals may use their verified email address and/or cell phone numbers for two-step verification; users also may use an authenticator app.
- All FSA ID users will receive a backup code ***for one-time use only!*** Please store it safely and securely.
- Federal Student Aid does not permit passwords to include any aspects of the user's legal name, DOB, or SSN.
- Show text when answering challenge questions to ensure they are typed as intended.
- Write everything down and save it in a safe, secure spot. See the next page for a place to write everything down!

Although it is understandable the many reasons why students create parent FSA IDs (and vice versa), please *only create an FSA ID for yourself.* ***An FSA ID serves as a legally binding signature.*** When it is necessary, one suggestion is to use the same password for both accounts, to minimize what detail needs to be remembered.

**Student:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Backup Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Username: \_\_\_\_\_

Password: \_\_\_\_\_

Challenge Questions and Answers:

Question #1: \_\_\_\_\_

Answer #1: \_\_\_\_\_

Question #2: \_\_\_\_\_

Answer #2: \_\_\_\_\_

Question #3: \_\_\_\_\_

Answer #3: \_\_\_\_\_

Question #4: \_\_\_\_\_

Answer #4: \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Backup Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Username: \_\_\_\_\_

Password: \_\_\_\_\_

Challenge Questions and Answers:

Question #1: \_\_\_\_\_

Answer #1: \_\_\_\_\_

Question #2: \_\_\_\_\_

Answer #2: \_\_\_\_\_

Question #3: \_\_\_\_\_

Answer #3: \_\_\_\_\_

Question #4: \_\_\_\_\_

Answer #4: \_\_\_\_\_



Grace Carlson  
Student Advisor  
(314) 932-6936  
[grace@fstl.org](mailto:grace@fstl.org)

Ricky Hughes  
Student Advisor  
(314) 932-6939  
[ricky@sfstl.org](mailto:ricky@sfstl.org)

DeVonte' (DJ) Jackson  
Student Advisor  
(314) 932-6940  
[dj@sfstl.org](mailto:dj@sfstl.org)

Dominesha Newton  
Senior Student Advisor  
(314) 932-6937  
[dominesha@sfstl.org](mailto:dominesha@sfstl.org)

Teresa Stock Steinkamp, LMSW  
Advising Director  
(314) 932-6932  
[teresa@sfstl.org](mailto:teresa@sfstl.org)

The Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis  
6825 Clayton Ave, Suite 100, St. Louis, MO 63139  
Main: (314) 725-7990  
[info@sfstl.org](mailto:info@sfstl.org)  
[www.sfstl.org](http://www.sfstl.org)

*Teresa Stock Steinkamp, LMSW*  
*Revised August 2023*