FAFSA Verification FAQ

What is verification?

Verification is the process used to confirm that the information you entered on your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) application is accurate. If selected for verification, you must successfully complete the verification process by submitting the required documents before you are eligible to receive federal aid.

How do I know if I have been selected for verification?

One way to know if you have been selected for verification is to review your Student Aid Report (SAR) after your FAFSA application has been processed. On the first page of your Student Aid Report (SAR), you will find your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). If your Expected Family Contribution has an asterisk (*) next to it, that indicates that you have been selected for verification. Additionally, it is common for students to be contacted by the college directly to verify information.

Student Aid Report (SAR) & Expected Family Contribution (EFC):

The Student Aid Report offers a summary of all the information entered on the FAFSA, comments about your eligibility for Federal Student Aid, and your EFC. The EFC stands for Expected Family Contribution. It is an indicator of a family's ability to pay towards the student's education. It is also used by financial aid offices to determine a student's eligibility for federal, state, and some institutional financial aid during one school year.

How do I find my Student Aid Report (SAR)?

1. Go to www.fafsa.gov
2. Log in with your FSA ID
3. Select *View or Print your Student Aid Report* (SAR) from the "My FAFSA" page

What can be verified?

- Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)
- U.S income tax paid
- Education tax credits
- Income earned from work
- Tax-exempt interest income
- IRA deductions and payments
- Untaxed IRA distributions pensions
- Identity/statement of educational purpose
- Household size
- Number in college

What are the acceptable documents for income verification?

Tax Transcript: You can request a copy of your tax transcript online or by mail at www.irs.gov/individuals/get-transcript, or by calling 1-800-908-9946.

Form 1040: If you cannot obtain a copy of your tax transcript, you can submit a signed electronic or paper copy of your tax return (form 1040) and any applicable schedules.

Individuals needing to provide verification of non-filing will need to complete and submit Form 4506-T available at https://www.irs.gov/forms-pubs/about-form-4506-t.

How important is it to complete verification?

Successfully completing verification is very important because it can impact your ability to receive financial aid. If selected for verification, be sure to complete the process by your school's deadline.

What steps can I take to be more proactive with the verification process?

We recommend that students and parents of dependent students use the Internal Revenue Service Data Retrieval Tool (IRS DRT) if able when filling out your FAFSA form. Although you may still be selected for verification, using IRS DRT will reduce the overall burden of verification.

Additionally, upon completing the FAFSA, some students and parents may wish to proactively request documentation from the IRS:

- Parent(s) of dependent students who filed taxes but were unable to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool may want to obtain their transcript online.
- Parent(s) of dependent students who did not file federal taxes should use form 4506-T to request verification of non-filing.
- Independent students who filed taxes but were unable to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool may want to obtain their transcript online.
- Independent students who did not file federal taxes should use form 4506-T to request verification of non-filing.

Who can I contact if I need help or have questions about verification?

The Scholarship Foundation's Student Advising Team is available for college access and persistence support. This includes supporting you and answering your questions as you prepare for, or go through, the verification process. You can reach a member of the Advising Team at info@sfstl.org, (314) 725-7990, or www.linktr.ee/SFSTLadvising for support.