

## Federal Student Aid (FSA) ID

Federal Student Aid IDs (FSA ID) are a username and password, created by the individual student 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 is strongly advised to create one as well. Here are a few recommendations regarding the FSA IDs.

- Create an FSA ID at <https://fsaid.ed.gov>.
- 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 what is listed on your Social Security card.*
- Users may link an email address to their FSA ID; a second step in this process is verifying the email address by entering a secure code that has been sent to the email address listed on the application. Doing so is strongly encouraged for two reasons:
  - 1. A *verified* email address can be used interchangeably with the username, offering greater flexibility.
  - 2. If the username and/or password are forgotten, a user may send a secure code to their *verified* email, which allows for easier retrieval and/or reset.
- Users may also link a cell phone number to their FSA ID; again, a second step in this process is verifying the cell phone number by entering a secure code that has been sent by text message to the cell number listed. Doing so is strongly encouraged for two reasons:
  - 1. A *verified* cell phone number can be used interchangeably with the username, offering greater flexibility.
  - 2. If the username and/or password are forgotten, a user may send a secure code to their *verified* cell phone number, which allows for easier retrieval and/or reset.
- When creating challenge questions and answers, choose things that are constant or that will not change. For example, the name of your favorite song may change over the years, but the hospital in which you were born will always remain the same.
- Show text when answering challenge questions to ensure they are typed as intended.
- Write everything down and save in a safe, secure spot.
- Although it is understandable the many reasons why students create parent FSA IDs (and vice versa), it is advisable to avoid this unless absolutely necessary. When it is necessary, one suggestion is to use the same password for both accounts, to minimize what detail needs to be remembered.

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

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

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

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

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

Challenge Questions and Answers:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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