Federal Student Aid (FSA) ID

Federal Student Aid IDs (FSA ID), or StudentAid.gov accounts, 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.
- Many 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. **_Identity verification occurs immediately; if your identity cannot be verified, you will be prompted to correct information and will be unable to begin the FAFSA until identity is verified._**
- Parent(s) or spouse contributors to a student's FAFSA, _who do not have a Social Security Number, are still able to create an FSA ID_. Individuals will create an ID through the same process but will have their identity verified through a set of knowledge-based identity verification questions.
  **Please contact us with your questions, concerns, or for help with the 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. Both the email address and a cell phone number must be verified through a two-factor authentication code. **_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, **_this is 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:_____