

# 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 to your prospective college(s) before you are eligible to receive federal aid.

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

If you are chosen for verification, you will find detailed instructions in the 'Next Steps' section of your FAFSA Submission Summary. This information becomes available after you've successfully submitted your FAFSA, and it's been processed. Keep an eye on your email and school portal as well, as your school's financial aid office may contact you about the verification process if you are chosen. Stay proactive and check these platforms regularly to avoid missing any essential updates related to the financial aid process.

## FAFSA Submission Summary & Student Aid Index (SAI):

The FAFSA Submission Summary offers a summary of all the information entered on the FAFSA, comments about your eligibility for Federal Student Aid, and your SAI. The SAI 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.

## How do I find my FAFSA Submission Summary?

You can find a guide to access and download your FAFSA Submission Summary on our [website](#).

## How important is it to complete verification?

Successfully completing verification is required to receive federal financial aid, including grants, work-study, and student loans. If selected for verification, be sure to complete the process by your school's deadline.

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

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](mailto:info@sfstl.org), (314) 725-7990, or [linktr.ee/SFSTLadvising](https://linktr.ee/SFSTLadvising) for support.

***When selected for verification by the Department of Education, you are placed in one of three verification groups.***

***V1 Standard Verification      V4 Custom Verification      V5 Aggregate Verification: This is a combination of V1 and V4.***

***On the next page you will find a list of acceptable documents for each verification group.***

What can be verified	Acceptable Documents
Adjusted Gross Income (AGI), Income earned from work, U.S income tax paid, IRA deductions and payments, Tax-exempt interest income, Education tax credits (V1)	Tax transcript or Income tax return (Form 1040), or IRS Form W-2 if the individual being verified filed a joint return and is a widower, or is divorced or separated.
Untaxed IRA distributions & pensions (V1)	Tax transcript or income tax return; if IRA disbursement or pension contains a rollover, provide a signed statement confirming the amount of the rollover in the untaxed pension or IRS distribution.
Foreign Income Exempt from Federal Taxation (V1)	Tax transcript or income tax return from the IRS, other relevant tax authority of a U.S Territory or commonwealth, or a foreign government that lists tax information of the tax filer for the specified year.
Income information for non-tax filers, Income Earned from Work (V1)	A signed and dated statement certifying that the individual is not required to file an income tax return for the specified year along with the sources and amounts of earnings and resources that supported the individual for the specified tax year, a W-2 for each source, or verification of non-filing. Individuals without a Social Security number (SSN), Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN), or Employer Identification Number (EIN), will need to provide a signed and dated statement indicating that they do not have an SSN, ITIN, or EIN.
Family Size (V1)	A statement signed by the applicant and, if the applicant is a dependent student, by one of the applicant's parents, that lists the name and age of each family member for the specified award year and the relationship of that family member to the applicant.
Identity (V4)	<p>An unexpired, valid government-issued photo identification, i.e., driver's license, non-driver's license ID card, or other state-issued identification, or U.S. passport. The acceptable document can be presented in person to the institution. If the individual cannot appear in person, the following options are available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual identity can be verified by an entity that is compliant with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). <i>Federal Student Aid plans to provide more information on this requirement in the future.</i></li> <li>• Provide the institution with a copy of an acceptable identification presented to a notary and acknowledged in a signed notary statement.</li> <li>• Appear on a video call with institutional personnel and present the acceptable identification to an institutionally authorized individual.</li> </ul>
Victims of Tax-Related Identity Theft	A signed copy of the income tax return for the required year and applicable schedules the individual filed with the IRS; and an IRS 4674C letter (a letter from the IRS acknowledging the identity theft) or a statement signed and dated by the tax filer indicating they were a victim of IRS tax-related identity theft, and the IRS is aware of it.

Reference: Department of Education. The Application and Verification Guide [2025-2026 Federal Student Aid Handbook][https://fsapartners.ed.gov/sites/default/files/2025-2026/2025-2026\\_Federal\\_Student\\_Aid\\_Handbook/knowledge-center\\_fsa-handbook\\_2025-2026\\_application-and-verification-guide.pdf](https://fsapartners.ed.gov/sites/default/files/2025-2026/2025-2026_Federal_Student_Aid_Handbook/knowledge-center_fsa-handbook_2025-2026_application-and-verification-guide.pdf)  
Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) Information To Be Verified for the 2025-2026 Award Year  
<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/07/22/2025-13740/free-application-for-federal-student-aid-fafsa-information-to-be-verified-for-the-2025-2026-award>