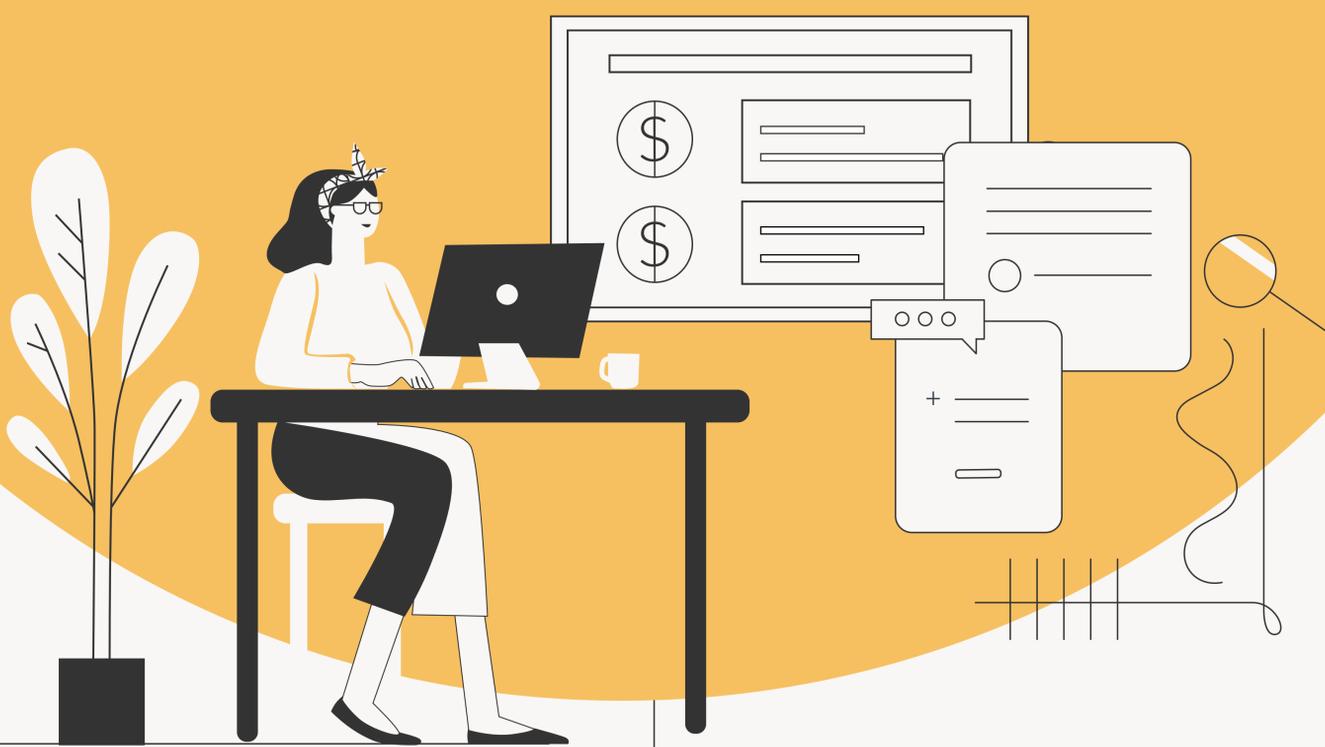


How To Fill Out The FAFSA



Create Your FSA ID

STEP 1

Create a FSA ID, a username and password combination that allows you to sign your FAFSA form electronically. Your FSA ID also can be used to sign loan contracts and to access certain information online. Be careful not to mix up parent and student FSA IDs, otherwise it can delay the process!

TIP

If you are renewing your FAFSA form, your information from last year will roll over to the current year, so make sure that your information is correct.

Fill Out Your Student Demographics Section

STEP 3

This is your full name, date of birth, social security number, and other personal information. If you are renewing your FAFSA, your information will be carried forward from the last application, saving you time. Enter your name exactly as it appears on your social security card. If you are a parent entering information on a student's FAFSA form, remember that the questions are for the student.

Fill Out Your FAFSA Application

STEP 2

Since some states and schools have limited funds for financial aid, you should get a head start and complete your FAFSA form as soon as possible and stay update on changes to the FAFSA requirements. If the application requires parent information, you can create a "save key", or a temporary password that allows the parent and child to "pass" the FAFSA form back and forth. This feature is especially useful if the parent and child are in different geographic locations.

Select The Schools To Receive Your FAFSA Information

STEP 4

Add every school you are considering in the "School Selection" section. You can add up to 10 schools at a time. You can also remove schools at any time to make room for new schools. If you don't apply to or get accepted to an institution, they can disregard your FAFSA. Keep in mind that the schools you list will use your FAFSA information to determine the type and amounts of aid available for you. Some schools suggest that students list schools in a particular order, where you list state schools first. Check if your state has a requirement for the order to list schools on your FAFSA form.

Answer The Dependency Status Question

STEP 5

Now, you will answer questions to determine whether you need to provide parent information on your FAFSA form. These questions will determine whether you are considered a dependent student to determine the extent of eligibility for federal student aid. If you qualify as a dependent student, you will have to report parent information. Otherwise, you will skip to Step 7.

Fill Out The Parental Demographics Section

STEP 6

If you qualify as a dependent student, you will need to fill out the parent demographic information.

Supply The Required Financial Information

STEP 7

The FAFSA form asks for financial information, including information from tax forms and balances of savings and checking accounts. If you are a dependent, your parents will provide their financial information into your FAFSA form.

TIP

Importing tax returns can be tedious, but The IRS Data Retrieval Tool (DRT) will allow you quickly to import your IRS Tax information to your FAFSA form.

Sign And Submit Your FAFSA

STEP 8

Once you complete the FAFSA form, you can sign your FAFSA form online with your FSA ID. If you are a dependent, your parent must sign the form as well.

Don't pass up your chance to get your college tuition paid, or to get competitive forgivable student loans. While you may not qualify for financial aid for one year, don't be discouraged, because your situation could change for the next academic year.

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