

## FAFSA and Financial Aid FAQs

- 1) **My student is a high school senior this year. What FAFSA do I file if they plan to attend college next year?**
  - a. You will file the 2021-2022 FAFSA either online at [studentaid.gov](http://studentaid.gov) or via the MyStudentAid Mobile application.
  
- 2) **Who should get an FSA ID?**
  - a. Great question! The student needs an FSA ID and at least one parent needs an FSA ID to sign the FAFSA and complete other federal aid processes.
  - b. The FSA ID application process is located at this link <https://fsaid.ed.gov/>
  
- 3) **What year do I use for my tax information on the FAFSA?**
  - a. You will use your 2019 federal income tax information.
  - b. If possible, you should link your 2019 federal tax information to the FAFSA using the IRS Data Retrieval Tool.
  
- 4) **We have a blended family. Which parent and stepparent (if remarried) should file the FAFSA?**
  - a. For reporting purposes, “parent” means your legal (biological or adoptive) parent or stepparent, or a person that the state has determined to be your legal parent.
  
  - b. Use this guide to figure out which parent’s information to include (depending on your family situation).
    - i. Question 1: Are your parents married to each other?  
If yes, then report information for both parents on the FAFSA.  
If no, then answer question 2.
  
    - ii. Question 2: Do your parents live together?  
If yes, then report information for both parents on the FAFSA, even if they were never married, are divorced, or are separated.  
If no, then answer question 3.
  
    - iii. Question 3: Did you live with one parent more than the other over the past 12 months?  
If yes, then report information on the FAFSA for the parent you lived with more. Also, if this parent remarried, you will need to report information for your stepparent on the FAFSA.  
If no, then report information on the FAFSA for the parent who provided more financial support over the past 12 months or in the last year you received support. In addition, if this parent remarried, you will need to report information for your stepparent on the FAFSA.
  
  - c. The following people are not your parents unless they have legally adopted you:  
Widowed Stepparent  
Grandparents  
Foster Parents  
Legal Guardians  
Older Brothers or Sisters  
Aunts or Uncles
  
  - d. If you’re not sure whom to report as a parent, you can visit
    - i. [StudentAid.ed.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/filling-out/parent-info](http://StudentAid.ed.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/filling-out/parent-info) or
    - ii. Call 800-4-FED-AID (800-433-3243).

**5) What are the current interest rates and fees for federal student and parent loans?**

- a. Please visit the following website to learn everything about federal student and parent loans  
<https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/loans>

**6) Where can I learn more about outside scholarships?**

- a. Where to look locally:
- i. High School Counselor- They generally have a great list of local scholarship sponsors, applications, links, and deadlines.
  - ii. Community Foundations
  - iii. Local Clubs and Organizations
  - iv. Churches
  - v. Employer/Parent's Employer
- b. Where to look online:
- i. [www.Chegg.com](http://www.Chegg.com)
  - ii. [www.Cappex.com](http://www.Cappex.com)
  - iii. [www.Fastweb.com](http://www.Fastweb.com)
  - iv. [www.CollegeBoard.org](http://www.CollegeBoard.org)
  - v. [www.niche.com](http://www.niche.com)
  - vi. [www.bestcolleges.com](http://www.bestcolleges.com)

**7) We have filed our FAFSA, but it was selected for a review process called verification. Do I need to do this? Why do I need to do this?**

- a. FAFSAs are chosen to be verified for a number of reasons. A student's FAFSA may be flagged for verification due to an error made while filling out the form, or your FAFSA may just be one of the lucky ones randomly chosen to complete the process. Regardless of the reason, approximately one in three FAFSAs are chosen and federal aid cannot be awarded to those students by any school until the process is complete.
- b. Follow your college's guidelines to complete this federally mandated process as quickly as you can otherwise you may not receive a financial aid award package.

**8) Where can I get an estimated financial aid package without filing a FAFSA? I want to see a quick estimate to determine whether I can afford to go to a certain college.**

- a. Every college is required to have a Net Price Calculator on their website. The Net Price Calculator is designed to provide you a quick estimate of your financial aid eligibility and out of pocket costs at the college. You can easily find a Net Price Calculator on every college's financial aid webpages or located in the footer of the college's main website.
- b. You can also visit external sources like College Raptor to learn about estimated costs for a number of colleges across the country. [www.collegeraptor.com](http://www.collegeraptor.com)

**9) Where should I get more help?**

- a. Always work with your student's college financial aid office. They are there to assist you with any questions you have regarding financial aid, scholarships, costs, etc. They can assist you with FAFSA filing questions as well.