



Top Ten Changes to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

1. **New Start Date:** The FAFSA for the 2024-2025 school year will not open until sometime in December of 2023. For the following years, the FAFSA will return to an opening date of October 1.
2. **FSA ID:** EVERYONE who needs to put information into an online FAFSA will need an FSA ID to access the form. FSA has created a process for people without social security numbers to create an ID and be able to access the FAFSA. An FSA ID will need to be created and confirmed prior to accessing a FAFSA.
3. **FSA ID Two-Step Verification:** EVERYONE who attempts to use their FSA ID to log into the 2024-25 FAFSA will go through a multi-factor authentication process. People should take advantage of every type of verification available (email, text, and authentication apps) when setting up the FSA ID so that completing the two-step verification will be easier. It also means that student and their parents or spouses will need to be in contact if they are trying to help complete information for other roles (contributors).
4. **Identifying Those Who Will Contribute Information (Roles):** If a student begins the FAFSA, they will be asked to identify the parent(s) or spouse who will be contributing financial information on the form. It is critical they enter that person(s) information as it appears in their FSA ID so it will match and they be able to log-in and access the student's FAFSA. In a major change for divorced/separated parents - the primary "contributor" is now the parent who provides the most financial support (rather than the parent with whom the student resides most of the time). PLEASE NOTE: Everyone is required to check the box that allows for the transfer of information from the IRS. Failure to do so will result in NO FAFSA being completed – and no financial aid will be awarded.
5. **Role-based Form:** Each person/role on the FAFSA will only be able to see questions related to their role. When a student logs in, they will only be able to see questions that should be answered by the student. The parent or spouse will need to log in to see the questions related to their role. Once the appropriate people have completed the questions for their role, the FAFSA will be able to be submitted. Each contributor will need to electronically sign the FAFSA individually.
6. **Number in College:** The Student Aid Index (SAI) formula will no longer be divided by the number in college. Students with multiple siblings in college will potentially have a much larger SAI with no change in income.
7. **Family Size:** The new name for "household size" is "family size" and will be determined by the number of exemptions claimed on the federal tax return. Because family situations can change, there will be a question that allows the student to modify the family size to reflect the current number.
8. **Number of Colleges Listed on the FAFSA:** Students will now be able to list up to 20 colleges on the FAFSA which should facilitate students applying to more than 10 colleges.
9. **Assets:** Families with an adjusted gross income of greater than \$60,000 (up from \$50,000) or those who filed certain schedules will be required to submit assets. There are no exemptions for reporting net business or family farm value. Current FAFSA filers may see an increase in their SAI due to having to report all business or farm net values with no change in income.
10. **Negative SAI:** The new SAI formula may result in a student receiving a negative SAI down to -1500. This SAI will be assigned to all non-filer families. It will not result in a larger Pell Grant than a zero SAI and colleges will not be permitted to award students more than the Cost of Attendance.