











2024-2025 FAFSA Updates & Changes



What is the Federal Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)?

- The FAFSA form collects student and parent income, tax, assets and household data information.
- Calculates the Student Aid Index (SAI), a measure of the family's financial strength.
- The FAFSA is also the application used to apply for financial aid from the federal government, including federal Pell Grants, as well as financial aid from colleges.

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Launch of the 2024–25 FAFSA® Form



There are major changes and improvements coming to the 2024–25 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) form. As a result, the new form was launched on December 31, 2023. The launch date will apply only for the 2024–25 FAFSA form. The changes to the FAFSA form for the 2024–25 aid year include expanded eligibility for federal student aid and a more streamlined application process.

Acknowledgements



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Changes at a glance

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What isn't changing

While the FAFSA is receiving an update and the aid eligibility calculation has been revised, there are a number of aid-related matters that will not change. The general types of aid available to students and federal student loan limits will not change. The FAFSA will still be required for consideration of federal and state financial aid every year. Dependency status questions that determine if your parent(s) must complete the FAFSA will remain the same. The FAFSA will still request tax information from the prior-prior year, which means you'll report 2022 income and assets on your 2024-25 application. Families with significant reductions in income can consider submitting an appeal. VVC admission application deadlines will not change. The questions regarding an applicant's gender, race, and ethnicity will have no effect on federal student aid eligibility and are included for statistical purposes and data collection only. In fact, VVC won't even receive this data from the FAFSA.

Individual Changes In Detail...

The following will go over each change with additional information





The FAFSA will be shorter & more user friendly

The FAFSA will reduce the maximum number of questions from 108 to 46. And because the FAFSA on the Web is dynamic, some students won't even be presented with all 46 questions. This streamlined format will simplify the application process and make it less daunting for students and their families.



The FAFSA will be available in more languages

Currently, the FAFSA is only available in English and Spanish. The 2024-25 application will be expanded to include the 11 most common languages spoken by English learner students and their parents.



Students may list up to 20 colleges.

Previously, the FAFSA only allowed students to list up to 10 colleges and universities.



All applicants will be required to use the IRS Direct Data Exchange

Previously, users had the option to enter their tax information manually or use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool. Beginning with 2024-25, all persons on the FAFSA must provide consent for the Department of Education to receive tax information or confirmation of non-filing status directly from the IRS. In a very small number of cases, students and families will have to enter their tax data manually, but for most, that data will be automatically transferred into the application. This change makes it easier to complete the FAFSA and reduces the number of questions to be answered.



All “contributors” must provide financial information.

A contributor — a new term being introduced on the 2024-25 FAFSA — refers to anyone who is required to provide information on a student's form (such as a parent/stepparent or spouse). A student's or parent's answers on the FAFSA will determine which contributors (if any) will be required to provide information. Contributors will receive an email informing them that they've been identified as such, and will need to log in using their own FSA ID (if they don't already have one) to provide the required information on the student's FAFSA. Being a contributor does not mean they are financially responsible for the student's education costs, but it does mean the contributor must provide information on the FAFSA or the application will be incomplete and the student will not be eligible for federal student aid.



The Student Aid Index (SAI) is replacing the Expected Family Contribution (EFC).

A notable terminology update within the new FAFSA is the replacement of the term Expected Family Contribution (EFC) with the Student Aid Index (SAI). This name more accurately describes the number used to determine aid eligibility and, unlike the EFC, the SAI may be a negative number down to -1500.



The number of students in college will not be used to calculate SAI.

Previously, the FAFSA calculated the number of household members attending college into the EFC, dividing it proportionately to determine federal aid eligibility. Beginning with the 2024-25 FAFSA, the application will still ask how many household members are in college, but your answer will not be calculated into the SAI. As such, undergraduate DU students with siblings in college may see a change in their federal aid eligibility. DU will continue to use the number in college for undergraduate students when determining eligibility for need-based institutional financial aid.



Some students may be automatically awarded the Pell grant.

Families making less than 175% and single parents making less than 225% of the federal poverty level will see their students receive a maximum Federal Pell Grant award. Minimum Pell Grants will be guaranteed to students from households below 275%, 325%, 350%, or 400% of the poverty level, depending on household structure. Pell awards between the maximum and minimum amounts will be determined by SAI.



Parent responsible for providing the most financial support will be required to provide information.

For dependent students, financial information was previously needed from the parent(s) the student had lived with the most in the last 12 months. With the new FAFSA, financial information will be required from the parent(s) who provided the most financial support to the student.



Family farms & small businesses must be reported as income.

When required, families must now report the value of their small business or family farm. If the family farm includes the principal place of residence, applicants should determine the total net value of all farm assets and subtract the net value of their principal residence to determine the final value of their farm assets.

When should I submit the 2024-25 FAFSA?

New students who plan to begin classes at VVC in the fall of 2024 should complete the FAFSA as soon as it becomes available in December. Returning VVC students should complete the FAFSA by the April 2nd priority deadline.

We plan to begin sending aid offers within the timelines listed below to students who are admitted to VVC and have completed the aid application process. However, these dates are subject to change as we receive new information from our software providers and the Department of Education.

Disclaimer:

VVC's Office of Financial Aid is dedicated to providing timely updates to students, families, and our community. Due to the significant amount of changes that are occurring, portions of our website may not yet be 100% accurate for the 2024-2025 academic year. We'll continue to update this page as we receive more information from the Department of Education and Federal Student Aid, and appreciate your patience as we work to implement the changes brought by the FAFSA Simplification Act.



Application Checklist

Who fills out the FAFSA? Students who are US Citizens, Permanent Residents, certain designations (including refugees or those who received asylum), and T Visa holders.

- FSA ID – Please make sure students have set up their FSA ID prior to completing their application.
- Parent FSA ID (if applicable)
- Social Security Card (For FAFSA applicants, must not say “Valid for Work Purposes only” on card)
- Alien Registration Number / Green Card (if applicable)
- Driver’s License (if applicable)
- Tax Information (1040s and W2s from two years prior) if applicable
- Record of untaxed income (child support, combat pay, retirement, etc.)
- List of colleges that the student is interested in applying to

www.studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa

California Dream Act Application

Who fills out the CADAA? Students who are Undocumented students (with or without DACA), who have Temporary Protected Status, and U Visa Holders who are eligible for state financial aid and in-state tuition

- ITIN number (if applicable)
- Driver's License (if applicable)
- Tax Information (1040s and W2s from two years prior) if applicable
- Record of untaxed income (child support, combat pay, retirement, etc.)
- List of colleges that the student is interested in applying to

www.dream.csac.ca.gov/landing

