



WHAT IS THE FAFSA?

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) opens the door of opportunity for students to pay for college. Colleges use the FAFSA to determine a student's financial aid eligibility for grants, scholarships, work-study and student loans.

THE FAFSA OPENS ON OCTOBER 1 EACH YEAR

VISIT [FAFSA.GOV](https://fafsa.gov) TO COMPLETE YOUR 2023-2024 FAFSA

FAFSA DOCUMENTS NEEDED:

- Social Security number (student and parent)
- Drivers license number (if applicable)
- Alien Registration number (If you are not a U.S. citizen)
- 2021 federal income tax returns, W-2's and other records of money earned (student and parent)
- Bank statements and records of investments (student and parent)

FIRST STEP IN COMPLETING YOUR FAFSA - CREATE YOUR FSA ID

WHAT IS THE FSA ID?

The Federal Student Aid Identification is the first step to completing your FAFSA. It is a username and password that allows access to the FAFSA and to electronically sign the form. It's quick and easy to create!

1. Visit [Studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov).
2. You will need to enter your personal email address, cell number, date of birth and Social Security number to create your FSA ID.
3. Make sure to write down or take a picture of your FSA ID username and password as a reminder!
4. You are all set!

Don't forget to have your parent create a FSA ID too! When creating their FSA ID, they will repeat the process using their own information.

FAFSA MYTHS AND FACTS

MYTH: My parents make too much money, so I won't qualify for financial aid.

FACT: There is no income cutoff to qualify for federal student aid - grants, work-study, etc.

MYTH: The FAFSA takes too long to fill out!

FACT: On average, it takes about 40 minutes to complete the FAFSA.

MYTH: Students should wait to fill out their FAFSA until they are accepted into college.

FACT: Don't wait! Students are highly encouraged to complete their FAFSA during their senior year of high school.

MYTH: All scholarships DO NOT require the FAFSA.

FACT: Many merit-based scholarships require a FAFSA on file for students to be considered.

MYTH: I support myself, so I DO NOT have to include my parents' information on the FAFSA.

FACT: Even if you support yourself, live on your own or file your own taxes, you may still be required to include your parents' information on the FAFSA.

NEED EXTRA HELP?

FREE FAFSA RESOURCES:

Students and families can schedule one-on-one appointments with local FAFSA experts for help. All appointments take place virtually via ZOOM, Google Meet or Microsoft Teams. Click [HERE](#) to schedule a meeting.

Ask Benji - Arizona's free, digital FAFSA assistant. Text Benji with FAFSA questions and you'll receive an immediate answer! Get started with this digital assistant by texting "Hi Benji" to 602-786-8171.

HELPFUL TIPS:

Maximize the amount of financial aid that you receive by completing your FAFSA early. If your parent does not have a Social Security number, they can use all zero's in the FAFSA - 000-00-0000.

Parents without a Social Security number are not able to create an FSA ID so they will need to print, sign and mail their signature FAFSA page.



ARIZONA
FAFSA CHALLENGE