

FAFSA:

Free Application for Federal Student Aid

Objectives

- Understand *acronyms and jargon* associated with the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).
- Appreciate the importance of completing the FAFSA *early and accurately*—*each and every year*.
- Recognize how to address *unique family and financial situations* when completing the FAFSA—and, what to do if your situation cannot be addressed within the form itself.
- Identify the *correct FAFSA website* and the form itself.

What...

... is the FAFSA?

The FAFSA is the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid**; it is the gateway to almost all money to pay for college. This form is used to determine the amount of money (or EFC) a family can "reasonably contribute" to the price of attending a postsecondary institution. The results from the FAFSA are used in the awarding of student grants, work-study, and loans.

...is an FSA ID?

The FSA ID consists of a user-created Username and Password. Students can create an FSA ID at any point prior to or after starting their FAFSA .

...is an EFC?

The EFC stands for **Expected Family Contribution**. It is an indicator of a family's ability to pay towards the student's education. It is also used by financial offices to determine a student's eligibility for federal, state, and some institutional financial aid during one school year.

How...

...do I find the FAFSA?

The FAFSA can be found at <u>www.fafsa.ed.gov</u>. REMINDER: The FAFSA is **FREE**; do not complete the FAFSA at any other website. You will be asked to pay.

...often must I complete the FAFSA?

The FAFSA is a form that must be completed every year the student is in school—the earlier in the year, the better (as soon after January 1st each year!).

...important is it that I check email regularly?

Because Federal Student Aid will email the student when the Student Aid Report (SAR) is ready, it is vitally important that the student check his or her email on a regular basis. Communication is not frequent, but anything from Federal Student Aid is important. Communication will also be sent if a financial aid office makes changes or corrections to a FAFSA and to remind students to make corrections if the FAFSA was originally filed with estimates.



...should I file a FASFA?

The FAFSA is the necessary application for any student wanting to receive federal, state, and some institutional aid.

Think of it this way: **NO FAFSA=NO AID**.

...is it important to file as early as possible? Many kind of financial aid are awarded on a firstcome, first-served basis. Since some funding is limited, students want to complete the FAFSA early in order to receive funds for which they are eligible.

When...

...do I complete a FAFSA?

The FAFSA is not available until **January 1st, 2016** and should be completed as soon as possible. Aid is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. The earlier the better!

... is Missouri's FAFSA deadline?

In order to be considered for some Missouri aid, particularly the Access Missouri Grant, schools must receive the FAFSA before April 1st, 2016. Students are encouraged to apply and submit no later than March 15th each year to meet that deadline.

... is my school's FAFSA deadline?

Many colleges and universities have their own priority FAFSA deadlines; oftentimes, these deadlines are utilized not just in the awarding of institutional dollars, but also state aid (i.e., Access Missouri). Please check with each school's financial aid office to determine what those dates might be.

...do I renew my FAFSA?

Students should always renew their FAFSA sometime after January 1st each year. Remember, the earlier the better!

FAFSA:

Free Application for Federal Student Aid



Login Form Approved Student Information OMB No. 1845-0001 App. Exp. 12/31/2016 Instructions are provided for each FAFSA guestion in the Help and Hints section on the right side of the page and are also available by clicking Need Help? at the bottom of the page. Enter either your (the student's) FSA ID or personal information to log in to -AFSA on the Web. Enter your (the student's) FSA ID O Enter the student's information OR Do not log in with the FSA ID if you are not the student. Create an FSA ID FSA ID Username or Verified E-mail Address Forgot Username FSA ID Password Forgot Password NEXT > NEED HELP?

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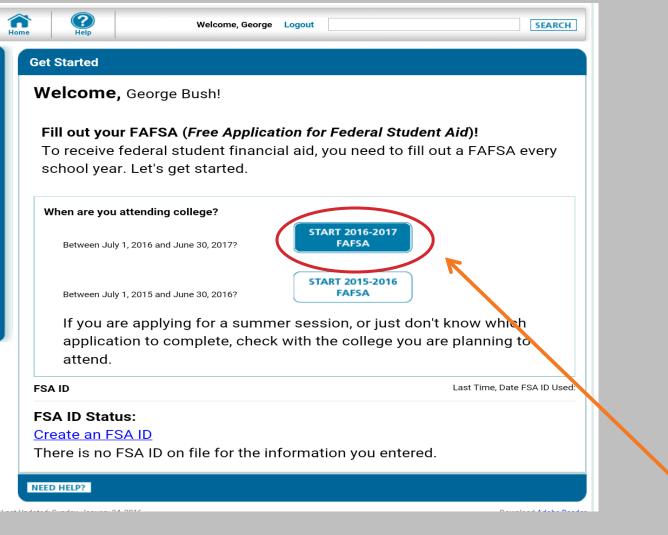
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Log-in using the student's FSA ID Username and Password.

Please review everything; double- and triple-check!

The information (i.e., Social Security Number) on this page cannot be changed once you click "NEXT".

You should revie	eat w the information you entered to mail	ke sure it is
accurate before of		
	have already submitted a FAFSA an this page is correct, <u>Contact Us</u> for a	
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	for each FAFSA question in the Help are also available by clicking Need H	and Hints section
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Please complete the **2016-2017 FAFSA**, which will be available starting January 1st, 2014.

Your date of birth (mmddyyyy) 08/30/1983
Are you male or female? Male Female
Your permanent mailing address (include apt. number) 8215 Clayton Road
Your city (and country if not U.S.) Your state
St. Louis Missouri 👻
Your ZIP code 63117
Have you lived in Missouri for at least 5 years? Yes No
Your permanent telephone number (314) 932-6932
Your e-mail address Re-enter your e-mail address
teresa@sfstl.org teresa@sfstl.org
What is your marital status as of today? I am single
Do you have driver's license information that you want to provide?
PREVIOUS
NEED HELP? SAVE CLEAR ALL DATA VIEW FAFSA SUMMARY EXIT

Email addresses are not required, but **strongly advised**! You will be required to enter it twice to confirm. This is the main way Federal Student Aid communicates with students.

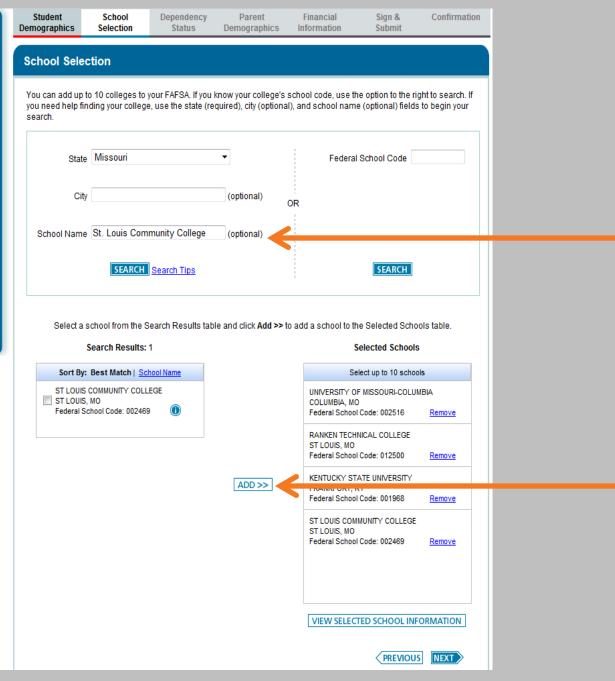
Students are not required to provide a driver's license. There is no reason not to, but it will not prevent a student from moving forward with completing the FAFSA. There are several possible options in the drop-down box; please be sure to remember that students are eligible for different aid.

Even if you are planning to eventually obtain a master's or a doctorate degree, please make sure to enter the degree you will be working on for the 2016-2017 aid year. It could cause mix-ups in the financial aid process.

Student Eligibility

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2017 school year?	chool completion status be when you begin college in the 20
Select	T
What will your grade	level he when you have the 2016 2017 echool year?
Select	level be when you begin the 2016-2017 school year?
Select	•
	ficate will you be working on when you begin the 2016-2017 s
year?	
Select	
Select 🔻	
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Search for schools here remember, you can add **up to 10 schools!**

Don't forget to **ADD** the schools by clicking on this box after checking the school(s) you want to select. Unfortunately, some schools do consider placement order when reviewing. **We recommend entering schools alphabetically.**

Dependency Determination

Were you born before January 1, 1991? Yes
No

As of today, are you married?

🔘 Yes 💿 No

At the beginning of the 2014-2015 school year, will you be working on a master's or doctorate program (such as an MA, MBA, MD, JD, PhD, EdD, or graduate certificate, etc.)?

Yes
No

Do you now have or will you have children who will receive more than half of their support from you between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015?

Yes

Do you have dependents (other than your children or spouse) who live with you and who receive more than half of their support from you, now and through June 30, 2015?

Yes
No

Are you currently serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces for purposes other than training?

Yes O No

Are you a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces?

Yes O No

At any time since you turned age 13, were both your parents deceased, were you in foster care, or were you a dependent or ward of the court?

Yes
No

As determined by a court in your state of legal residence, are you or were you an emancipated minor?

Yes O No

As determined by a court in your state of legal residence, are you or were you in legal guardianship?

Yes
No

On or after July 1, 2013, were you homeless or were you self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?

Yes in No

PREVIOUS NEXT

EXIT

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NEED HELP? SAVE CLEAR ALL DATA VIEW FAFSA SUMMARY
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Dependency Status

Dependency Status Results

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Based on your answers to the dependency status questions, you are considered a dependent student. This means you must provide <u>parental</u> information. Select "I will provide parental information" and click Next to continue to Parent Demographics.

If you have a special circumstance and are unable to provide parental information, under very limited circumstances, you may be able to submit your FAFSA without parental information. Select "I am unable to provide parental information" and click Next to get additional information.

I will provide parental information

I am unable to provide parental information

PREVIOUS NEXT

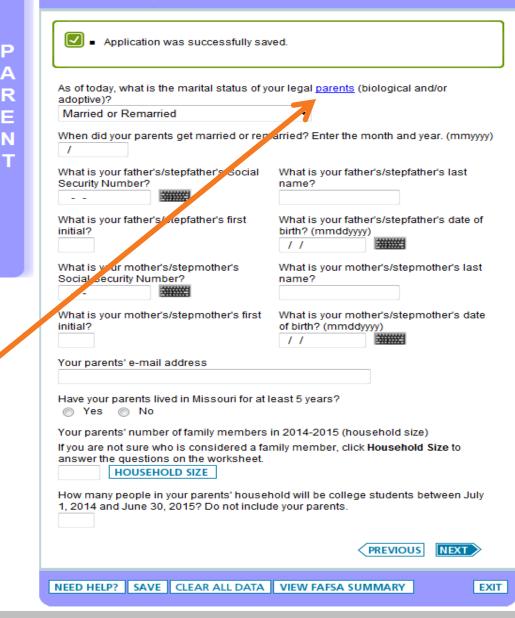
EXIT

NEED HELP? SAVE CLEAR ALL DATA VIEW FAFSA SUMMARY

Dependent students will need to know the marital status of their parents. An important was made change for 2014-2015: If a student's biological parents **BOTH** live with the student, both of their financial information MUST be in the FAFSA, regardless of marital status. An additional marital status option was available beginning on January 1st, 2014. That option will be "Unmarried but living together". This will be for families where biological parents never married or, are divorced or separated, but still reside together.

By clicking on the link titled "parents", one can read additional information and descriptions to best choose the correct marital status.

Parent Demographics Information



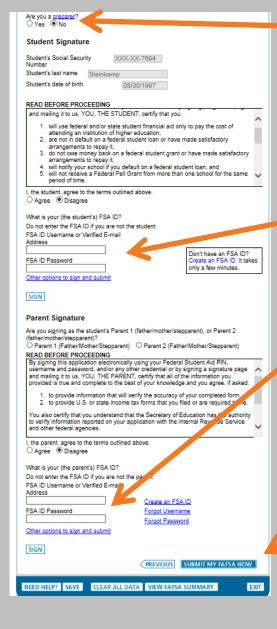
	Parent Ta	x Inforr	nation			
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A R E	Will file For 2014, wh	at will be ye	ents completed their			
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Both parents and students will see these questions, separately; *a dependent student will see these questions twice* (*once for parent's income/assets and once for student income/assets*). Each will have to answer if they will file, are not going to file, or have already filed 2015 federal taxes. In addition, they should indicate their tax filing status according to that tax return. By indicating "will file", you will be prompted to **estimate** your 2015 tax information. You must include adjusted gross income, as well as earned wages.

Additionally, you may be asked to indicate whether or not you've received certain federal benefits.

Once taxes have been filed, you should **make a correction** with updated tax information. Information on this page and the screen on **page 19** will be transferred over directly if the **IRS Data Retrieval** function is used for 2015 taxes.

	Your parents indicated they "Will file" a 2014 tax return.
	If their 2014 income is similar to their 2013 income, use your parents' 2013 tax return to provide estimates for questions about their income. If their income is not similar, click Income Estimator for assistance estimating your parents' adjusted gross income, and answer the remaining questions about their income to the best of your ability.
	Once your parents file, they must correct the FAFSA, changing 1) their filing status from "Will file" to "Already completed," and 2) their estimated answers to the final amounts on their 2014 tax return. At that time, they may be able to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool to transfer their tax return information into the FAFSA.
	type of income tax return will your parents file for 2014?
Selec	
s	00 INCOME ESTIMATOR
How m	nuch did your Parent 1 (father/mother/stepparent) earn from working (wages,
salarie	es, tips, etc.) in 2014?
\$.00
	nuch did your Parent 2 (father/mother/stepparent) earn from working (wages, es, tips, etc.) in 2014?
\$.00
	today, is either of your parents a dislocated worker?
Selec	
	or 2014, did your parents receive benefits from any of the federal benefits s listed below? Check all that apply or check None of the above .
Supple	emental Security Income (SSI)
Supple	emental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
Free o	or Reduced Price Lunch
Tempo	orary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
Specia	al Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
None	of the above



This question should always be left a "NO"; it is only marked otherwise if you pay someone to complete the FAFSA for you. *And you should never, ever pay for FAFSA help!* There are many free resources: see page 21!

Both the student and one parent will sign electronically, using their FSA IDs!

Both must read the accompanying statements and indicate agreement.

You are all finished—hit submit!

That's great, but I still want help.

Help text is available and accessible for every question on the FAFSA if you apply online at <u>www.fafsa.ed.gov</u>. You can also get free live help online via this website.

Free help is also online at: <u>http://www.studentaid.ed.gov/sites/default/files/2012-13-completing-the-fafsa.pdf</u>.

Contact the *Federal Student Aid Information Center*: 1.800.4.FED.AID (1.800.433.3243) for assistance with any questions you have regarding your FAFSA!

The Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis offers **free** FAFSA Completion Clinics. Please call our offices, 314.725.7990, to schedule an appointment.

Take advantage of the Missouri Department of Higher Education's FAFSA Frenzy in 2014! Page 21 in your workbook includes a list of sties, dates, and times. ! All FAFSA Frenzy events are free and open to the public! For more information on FAFSA Frenzy Sites, please visit <u>www.dhe.mo.gov/ppc/ffsites.php</u>.

2016-2017 FAFSA Checklist

Required Information	Where to Find It
2015 Federal Income Tax Forms and, if applicable, Schedule K-1 (Form 1065)	Personal records or call the IRS at 800-829- 1040—Allow 10 days processing.
2015 W2 Forms	Personal records or contact your employer(s) or call the IRS at 800-829-1040
Federal Student Aid ID (FSA ID)	
Student's driver's license number	Personal records
Social Security Number (both student and parent(s))	Personal records or call the Social Security Administration at 800-772-1213
Birth date (for both student and parent(s)	Personal records
Date student or parents were married, separated, divorced, or widowed.	Personal records
Current (day of FAFSA filing) cash, checking, savings account balances.	Personal records from bank
Current investment values (stocks, savings bonds, mutual funds, CDs) excluding parent(s)' home and retirement plans	Statements from the financial institution(s)

Questions? Concerns?

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