

BE READY FOR 2025-2026 FAFSA CHECKLIST FAFSA.GOV

If you are considered a **dependent student** (see right), your parent(s) or guardian(s) are considered a contributor to your FAFSA.

If you are considered an **independent student** and have a spouse, your spouse is considered a contributor to your FAFSA.

ITEMS YOU MAY NEED TO COMPLETE THE FAFSA

- ☐ Student and Contributor's 2023 Federal Income Tax Returns and all schedules (most tax return information will be pulled directly from the IRS database)
- ☐ Student and Contributor's FSA ID username and passwords
- ☐ Student and Contributor's email addresses
- ☐ Student and Contributor's date of birth and social security number
- ☐ Student and Contributor's savings/checking account balances
- ☐ Student and Contributor's investments (i.e. stocks, bonds, mutual funds, 529 plans, rental properties) excluding home and retirement
- ☐ Student and Contributor's current net worth of all contributor's businesses/farms
- ☐ Student and Contributor's child support received from the LAST complete calendar year
- ☐ Student and Contributor's Alien Registration Number/USCIS Number for eligible non-citizens



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FAFSA DEPENDENCY QUESTIONS

Answer the questions below to determine if you are a **dependent** or **independent** student on your FAFSA.

YES NO

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Were you born before January 1, 2002? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Are you married? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Will you be working on a master's program at the beginning of the 2025-26 school year? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Are you a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces or currently serving on active duty? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you have children who live with you and will receive more than half of their support from you from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you have dependents (other than your children or spouse) who live with you and receive more than half of their support from you, now and through June 30, 2026? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 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? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | As determined by a court in your state of legal residence, are you or were you an emancipated minor? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Does someone other than your parent or stepparent have legal guardianship of you, as determined by a court in your state of legal residence? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | At any time on or after July 1, 2024, did your high school or school district homeless liaison determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | At any time on or after July 1, 2024, did the director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | At any time on or after July 1, 2024, did the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless? |

If you answered **NO** to every question, you are considered a **dependent** student.
If you answered **YES** to any question, you are considered an **independent** student.