

# FAFSA Walkthrough

## Financial Aid Virtual Event

Name  
Title

Name  
Title

**[As people are arriving, first 2-3 minutes]:** Hello everyone! We're going to give folks a few more minutes to arrive before we begin. Thank you for coming and we'll get started soon.

Hello and thank you for joining this FAFSA Walkthrough hosted by uAspire. I am (presenter name) and I am being supported during this presentation by my colleague, (driver name).

I'll share a few notes before we begin:

- First, please make sure to ask all questions using the Q&A feature on your Zoom toolbar. (Driver name) will be answering them in live time as they are able, but also may refer you to one of our follow-up support resources that we will get to at the end of today's presentation.
- In addition, we will be sending those who registered a PDF of the slides with hyperlinks to important sites, tools and helpful videos referenced.
- Lastly, we will ask you to complete a brief poll to get your feedback on today's session before we close out with some time for more

- Q&A.



# Agenda

- Before the FAFSA
- FAFSA completion overview
- After the FAFSA
- How to get follow-up support after today's presentation
- Survey/Q&A

This is our agenda for our time together:

- First we will introduce the FAFSA and talk about what you need to do before starting
- Then we will go through the FAFSA section by section
- Next, we will talk about what comes after the FAFSA
- We will next let you know ways in which you can get support from uAspire.
- And finally, we will end with a quick survey and some live question and answer time

# What is the FAFSA?

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid, complete it on [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov)
  - It will take about an hour to complete
- 24-25 form opened in December 2023
  - Will return to opening on October 1 in future years
- The FAFSA does two main things:
  - Determines eligibility for federal financial aid
  - Provides states and colleges with the information they may use to distribute their financial aid funds



For more information about the changes to the FAFSA form, check out [this video](#)

The FAFSA, or Free Application for Federal Student Aid, is a federal form that you will need to complete every year you plan to attend college. Due to some changes being made to the form, the 2024-25 FAFSA was released in December of 2023 for this year. In future years, it will go back to opening on October 1. The FAFSA does two main things: it determines eligibility for federal financial aid, and states and colleges may use this information to distribute their own funds.

## 24-25 FAFSA Launch

With so many changes to the FAFSA you may experience some tech issues when it launches.


- You should come back later to complete the FAFSA if:
  - The FAFSA is down for maintenance
  - You can't access [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov)
  - Other issues are stopping you from accessing or navigating the form
- If you are put into a waiting room, you will be allowed to access the FAFSA once there is space available



Due to the many changes to the FAFSA for this year, we expect tech issues to come up when trying to complete the form. If you try to complete the FAFSA and the site is down or can't be accessed, you should come back later to try again. Federal student aid will be trying to resolve these issues as quickly as possible. If you try to access the FAFSA and get put into a waiting room, you will automatically be placed in the form when more space is available - do not leave and come back later if you see the waiting room!

# Who should complete the FAFSA?



- Eligible students should complete the FAFSA
    - US citizens or nationals
    - [Eligible noncitizens](#)
    - Students from freely associated states
  - Undocumented students are not eligible for federal aid (this includes DACA students)
    - State and institutional aid may be available
    - [Check with your state](#) and intended schools to see if you should complete the FAFSA or a separate form
- 

Unfortunately, there are limitations to eligibility when filling out the FAFSA - certain statuses, like undocumented, DACA, or other ineligible non US citizens are not able to receive federal financial aid. However, depending on the state you live in, you may be able to fill out additional state forms. You should check with your state to see if you are eligible to receive state financial aid.

Colleges have their own policies regarding institutional aid eligibility. If you are undocumented, we also recommend calling the colleges you are planning to apply to assess what their financial aid policies are for undocumented students.

# State Financial Aid & Alternative Forms



## Massachusetts

[MAFSA](#) (Massachusetts Application for State Financial Aid)



## California

[California Dream Act Application](#)



## New York

[New York State DREAM Act Application](#)



National Immigration Law Center's [Toolkit on Access to Postsecondary Education](#)

Big Future's [6 Things Undocumented Students Need to Know About College](#)

For students who are not eligible to complete the FAFSA, here are some other options. Massachusetts recently allowed undocumented students to receive in-state tuition rates and eligibility for certain state aid. There is an alternative form called the MASFA that you should look into if you believe you are eligible.

California and New York both have a Dream Act Application for state aid. You should also reach out to your colleges to see if there may be any institutional aid available for you and how to apply for it.

We also have linked some additional resources here that you can check out for more information. Citizenship status does not have to be a barrier to college admission or affordability! Please reach out to your uAspire advisor to discuss your options.

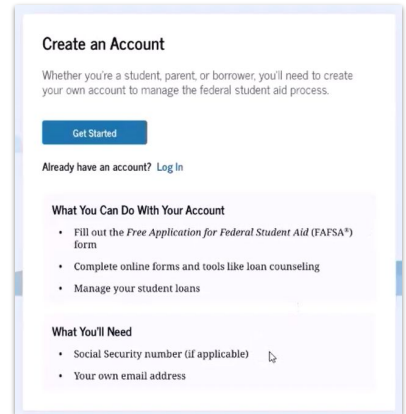


Now that we know what the FAFSA is, let's discuss some steps you should take before starting.



# What is an FSA ID?

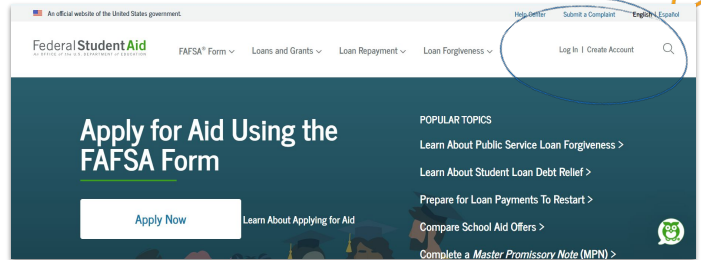
- Username and password that serves as your legal signature
  - All “contributors” need an FSA ID
    - Dependent students and at least one parent
    - Independent students and their spouse (if applicable)
    - Each person can have only one FSA ID
- Your verified FSA ID is **REQUIRED** to be able to complete the FAFSA



First, you and at least one parent should make an FSA ID if you haven't already. An FSA ID is a username and password that serves as your legal signature when signing and submitting the FAFSA. Your verified FSA ID is REQUIRED to be able to complete the FAFSA. It will also be used to do other things on Federal Student Aid's website.

# Creating an FSA ID

To create an FSA ID go to [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov) and click on "Create Account"



For help making your FSA ID, check out uAspire's handout (in [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Cape Verdean](#), [Chinese](#), [Haitian Creole](#), and [Portuguese](#))



It usually takes 1-3 days for an FSA ID to be verified. We recommend students and parents **create FSA IDs at least 3 days before completing the FAFSA.**

Go to [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov) and **[CLICK ONCE]** click "create account" in the upper right hand corner. It takes around 1-3 days for an FSA ID to be confirmed by federal student aid. Because a verified FSA ID is required to complete the FAFSA, we recommend that you create your FSA IDs at least 3 days before completing the FAFSA. If you have not created an FSA ID, you should do so ASAP. The application is available in English and Spanish. For help making your FSA ID, check out uAspire's handout which is available in several different languages.

# What do you need to create an FSA ID?



## With a SSN

- Social security number
- Full legal name
- Date of birth
- Personal email address



For help making your FSA ID, check out uAspire's handout (in [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Cape Verdean](#), [Chinese](#), [Haitian Creole](#), and [Portuguese](#))



## Without a SSN

- Address
- Full legal name
- Date of birth
- Personal email address

There may be additional steps needed to confirm your identity

To create an FSA ID, you will need some personal information. If you have a Social Security Number, you will need it to make your FSA ID, along with your full legal name, date of birth, and a personal email address. If you have an SSN, you should create your FSA ID now if you haven't already.

If you do not have a Social Security Number and are a parent of a dependent student, OR are a student from a freely associated state without an SSN, you are now required to create and use an FSA ID. You will need your address, full legal name, date of birth, and a personal email address.

# uAspire's FAFSA Checklist

Use [this checklist](#) to stay organized while completing the FAFSA



u-aspire  
**FAFSA** CHECKLIST

Follow these steps to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) each year to apply for most types of financial aid.

**1** Determine if you are an independent or dependent student.

**Independent student:** only report information about yourself and not your parent(s)  
**Dependent student:** report information about yourself and your parent(s) — most common

You are an **independent student** if at least one of the following is true about you:

- You will be 24 years of age or older as of Jan 2024
- You were a ward of the court at any point after age 13
- You have a child or other dependent for whom you
- You are married (*but not separated or divorced*)



Scan for checklist



To see our translated checklists, check out our resource page [here](#)

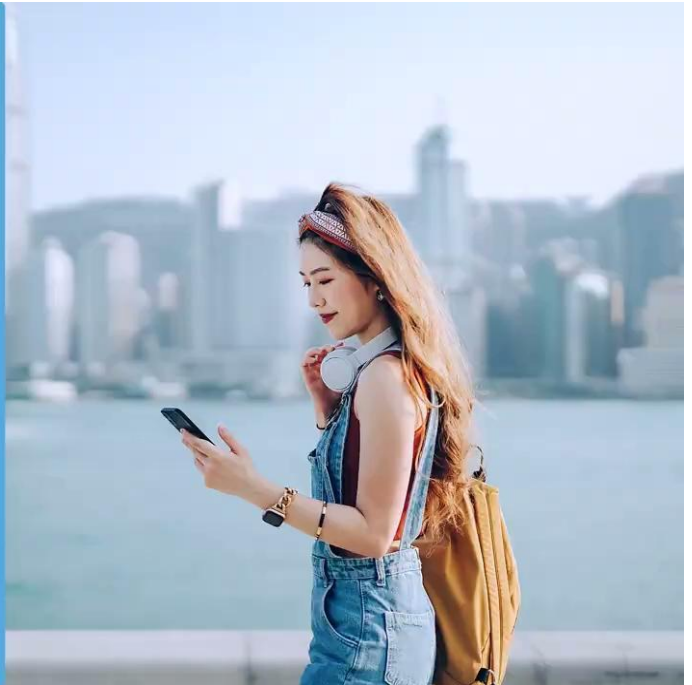
uAspire has this handy checklist to help you stay organized while completing your FAFSA. It also details the information you need to have on hand to complete the FAFSA. Let's watch a video about the information students and parents will need to have on hand to complete their sections of the FAFSA.

**\*Presenter click forward, video will automatically play\***

**FAFSA**

# What Info Do You Need to Fill Out the FAFSA

**u·aspire**



\*click white space around video to progress to next slide\* OR \*in presenter mode, advance to next slide\*

**DO NOT** press space or arrow to advance OR click on the video itself - it will play again

Link to video: <https://vimeo.com/617524705/9d0e149b4c>



Now let's look at the FAFSA section by section.



## Please Note:

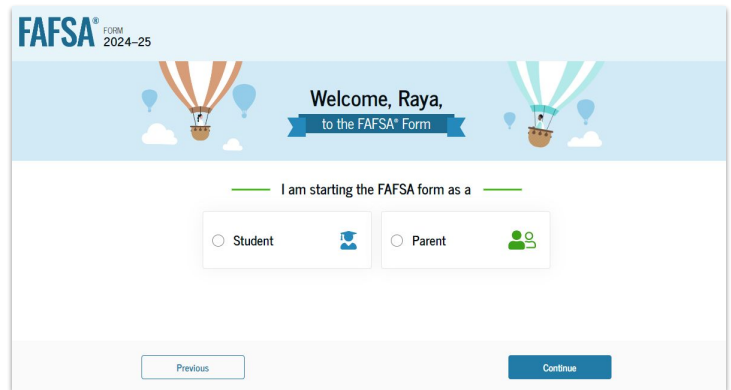
For this walkthrough we will be sharing the pathway a dependent student will see when starting and filling out the FAFSA

A quick note before we get started: We will be looking at the FAFSA today from the point of view of a dependent student starting the FAFSA. A dependent student is a student who is required to report parent information on the FAFSA. We will also discuss the parent invite process.

For independent students, your section will look similar to the dependent student section but will also include a few additional questions. We will talk about those a little later.

# Starting the FAFSA


- Select Student or Parent
  - Selecting the right role determines what questions you will see on the FAFSA




FAFSA<sup>®</sup> FORM 2024-25

Welcome, Raya,  
to the FAFSA<sup>®</sup> Form

I am starting the FAFSA form as a

Student 

Parent 

Previous Continue

The first thing you will do when you log in to start a new FAFSA form is select whether you are a student or a parent. Depending on who you are, you will see some different questions. Today, we will be completing the FAFSA as a dependent student starting the form before their parents, so we will click “Student”



# Understanding the FAFSA Form

- ✓ What is the FAFSA form?
- ✓ Contributors on the FAFSA
- ✓ What to expect
- ✓ After submitting the FAFSA form



After you select your role, you will be guided through a 4 part onboarding process that will help you understand the FAFSA form before getting started. It will outline what the fafsa is and what to expect. We will talk about all of these things and more in today's presentation.

# Student Identity Information

- Review and update information (*if necessary*)
  - You can update permanent mailing address directly on the FAFSA form, but to update any other student identity information you will need go to Account Settings
- State of Legal Residence
  - May be used to determine eligibility for state aid and in-state tuition

### Student Identity Information

Review the information below and verify that it's correct before moving forward.

Name  
Rajya A. Tran

Date of Birth  
8/8/2003

Social Security Number  
\*\*\*-\*\*-1234

Email Address  
raja.tran@email.com

Mobile Phone Number  
(555) 555-5555

To update this information for all U.S. Department of Education communications, go to Account Settings.

---

Permanent Mailing Address  
Include apartment number.

123 Sesame Street

City  
New York

State  
New York (NY)

Zip Code  
54321

Country  
United States

---

### Student State of Legal Residence

State  
New York (NY)

---

Date the Student Became a Legal Resident of New York (NY)

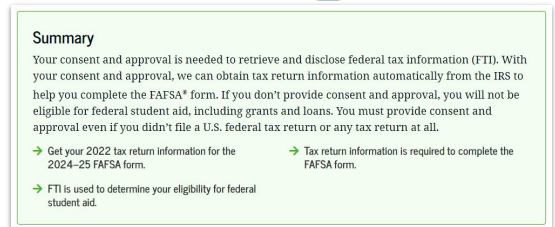
Month  Year



In the student identify information section, you should review the information they have listed for you and update it if necessary. You can update permanent mailing address directly on the FAFSA form, but to update any other student identity information you will need go to Account Settings. After that, you will confirm the state you live in and the month and year you began living there. If you have lived in that state your entire life, you would put the month and year of your birth. These State residency questions may be used to determine your eligibility for state aid and in-state tuition.

# Consent on the FAFSA

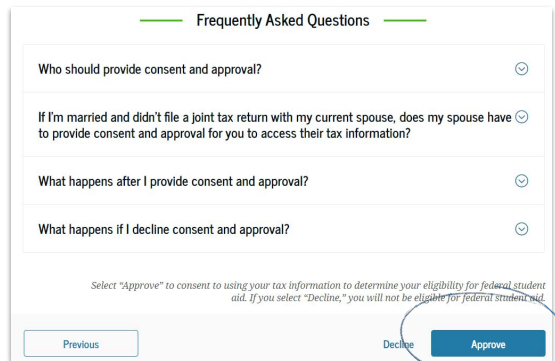
- Consent is **required by ALL contributors to be eligible for federal financial aid.**
  - Allows the IRS to share your federal tax information with the FAFSA in order to calculate your eligibility for federal aid
  - Consent will likely decrease the amount of tax information you must enter manually



**Summary**

Your consent and approval is needed to retrieve and disclose federal tax information (FTI). With your consent and approval, we can obtain tax return information automatically from the IRS to help you complete the FAFSA\* form. If you don't provide consent and approval, you will not be eligible for federal student aid, including grants and loans. You must provide consent and approval even if you didn't file a U.S. federal tax return or any tax return at all.

- Get your 2022 tax return information for the 2024–25 FAFSA form.
- Tax return information is required to complete the FAFSA form.
- FTI is used to determine your eligibility for federal student aid.



**Frequently Asked Questions**

- Who should provide consent and approval?
- If I'm married and didn't file a joint tax return with my current spouse, does my spouse have to provide consent and approval for you to access their tax information?
- What happens after I provide consent and approval?
- What happens if I decline consent and approval?

Select "Approve" to consent to using your tax information to determine your eligibility for federal student aid. If you select "Decline," you will not be eligible for federal student aid.

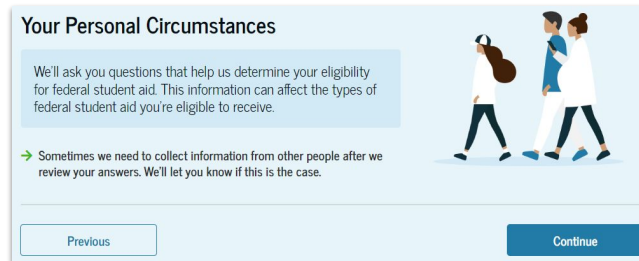
Next is one of the most important parts of the FAFSA. In order to be eligible for federal financial aid, you will be required to provide consent on the FAFSA. When you provide consent, you give the IRS permission to share your federal tax information with the FAFSA to determine your eligibility for federal financial aid. Consent is required no matter who you are on the FAFSA, whether you filed taxes or not. There is a lot of information on the consent page, so be sure to read through it carefully. On this slide, we are only showing the summary and FAQ's. At the end of the page, after the frequently asked questions, **[CLICK ONCE]** you will provide consent by clicking Approve.



Now that we've gotten through some of the first pages of the FAFSA, let's get into the sections, starting with Personal Circumstances.

# Student Personal Circumstances

- This section helps determine your dependency status
  - If none of the circumstances apply, you will be considered **dependent**, which means you will be required to invite at least one parent to provide information on your FAFSA form
- College can and will ask for proof!



**Your Personal Circumstances**

We'll ask you questions that help us determine your eligibility for federal student aid. This information can affect the types of federal student aid you're eligible to receive.

→ Sometimes we need to collect information from other people after we review your answers. We'll let you know if this is the case.

[Previous](#) [Continue](#)

The screenshot shows a light blue interface with a title 'Your Personal Circumstances'. Below the title is a text box explaining the purpose of the questions. To the right is an illustration of three people walking. At the bottom are two buttons: 'Previous' and 'Continue'.

The student personal circumstances section of the FAFSA will determine your dependency status. A student can be dependent, meaning that you will need to include your parent(s)' information, or independent, meaning parent information is not required. If none of the circumstances we will talk about apply to you, then you will be considered a dependent student, meaning that you will need to invite at least one parent to provide information on your FAFSA form. If any of the circumstances apply to you, then you will not need to provide parent information on your FAFSA. It's important to note that colleges will ask for proof if you say any of these circumstances apply to you. So let's review what they are.

# Student is independent if one of the following is true:

Will be 24 by January 1st of award year

Are married

Are working on a master's or doctorate

Serve in the U.S. armed forces or are a veteran

**Since age 13** – had no living parent, were in foster care, or were a ward of the court

Are an emancipated minor

Have a court-ordered legal guardian

Have children or other people who live with them and receive over half their support from the student

Are an unaccompanied youth who is homeless

You will be considered independent if any of the scenarios on this slide apply to you. The FAFSA determines that by asking you various questions. If any are true, then you are considered independent and will not need to invite a parent to complete a section on your fafsa.

If you are an independent student, your FAFSA will look similar to the dependent pathway, but you will have to provide some additional information.

# Student College/Career Plans

- Explains where you are in your college/career
  - If you have not attended college before, you will be a first year (freshman) student and will not yet have a bachelor's degree

**Student College or Career School Plans**

When the student begins the 2024–25 school year, what will their college grade level be?

First Year (freshman)

Second Year (sophomore)

Other undergraduate (junior and beyond)

Master's or doctorate program (such as MA, MBA, MD, JD, PhD, EdD, etc.).

---

When the student begins the 2024–25 school year, will they have their first bachelor's degree?

Yes

No

In the student personal circumstances section, you will also need to include your college grade level and if you have a bachelor's degree yet. If you are a senior in high school and have never attended college before, you will select "First year freshman" and indicate that you do not yet have a bachelor's degree. Even if you took AP classes in school and are coming to college, you are still considered a first year college student.

# Student Unusual Circumstances

Unusual circumstances can include situations in which you are unable to contact your parents due to any of the reasons listed.

If you select **“Yes”** you will:

- Be provisionally independent
- Get a provisional SAI
- Need to provide documentation to your college(s)

## Student Unusual Circumstances

This information will help us evaluate the student's ability to pay for school.

Do unusual circumstances prevent the student from contacting their parents or would contacting their parents pose a risk to the student?

A student may be experiencing unusual circumstances if they

- left home due to an abusive or threatening environment;
- are abandoned by or estranged from their parents;
- have refugee or asylee status and are separated from their parents, or their parents are displaced in a foreign country;
- are a victim of human trafficking;
- are incarcerated, or their parents are incarcerated and contact with the parents would pose a risk to the student; or
- are otherwise unable to contact or locate their parents.

If the student's circumstances resulted in not having a safe and stable place to live, they may be considered a homeless youth and should review the answer to the previous question about being unaccompanied and homeless.

Yes

No

There may be some additional reasons that you could be considered independent, referred to as “unusual circumstances” on the fafsa. If any of the circumstances listed for this question are true for you, you should say “Yes.” and you will be considered provisionally independent on the FAFSA. Provisional means that you will need to provide documentation to your colleges to confirm these circumstances later on in the financial aid process.



# Dependency Status

Here you will see your dependency status

- If you are considered dependent but your parents are unwilling to complete their section, you can opt out of including parent information and apply for a direct unsubsidized loan only

## Your Dependency Status



### Dependent Student

Based on your answers, you are a dependent student. This means you must provide parent information on your FAFSA® form. This information helps determine how much federal student aid you're eligible to receive.

### Apply for a Direct Unsubsidized Loan Only

Are the student's parents unwilling to provide their information, but the student doesn't have an unusual circumstance that prevents them from contacting or obtaining their parents' information?

*If you select "Yes," a financial aid administrator at the student's school will determine their eligibility for a Direct Unsubsidized Loan only.*

Yes

No

After answering all the dependency questions, you will get a dependency status. If you answered yes to any of the questions asked, you will be independent and will not need to invite your parents to provide their information. If none of the circumstances apply to you, you will be considered dependent and will need to provide parent information. If for some reason you cannot provide parent information, you can choose on this page to apply for a direct unsubsidized loan only.

# Dependency Override

While completing the FAFSA, if you are required to include parent information but are unable to get it for a reason other than what is listed on the FAFSA, you can start a [dependency appeal process](#).

- If you have been granted a dependency override in the past, you will not need to resubmit an appeal at your college!

Reach out to your college for more information about this process.

If the FAFSA requires you to include parent information but you are unable to get it for a reason other than those listed on the FAFSA, you can start a dependency appeal process. Please note that dependency overrides are not guaranteed to be approved and may take awhile for a decision to be made.

It's also important to note that If you were granted a dependency override in the past, you will not be required to resubmit.

Reach out to your college's financial aid office for more information about the process.

# Who is your Parent on the FAFSA?



- This section asks several questions about your parent(s) to determine who should be invited to provide information on your FAFSA



Example of married biological parents

**Tell Us About the Student's Parents**

On the FAFSA® form, the "parent" is the student's legal (biological or adoptive) parent.

Are the parents married to each other?

Yes  No

**Provide Information for Both Parents**

Based on your answers in the previous section, you'll need to provide information about both parents on the FAFSA® form. You can invite the parents to the form and have them complete their required sections.

Example of a parent who is remarried

**Tell Us About the Student's Parents**

On the FAFSA® form, the "parent" is the student's legal (biological or adoptive) parent.

Are the parents married to each other?

Yes  No

Do the parents live together?

Yes  No

Did one parent provide more financial support than the other parent over the past 12 months?  
If both parents provided an exact amount of financial support or if they don't support the student financially, select "No," and refer to the parent with the greater income or assets in the next question.

Yes  No

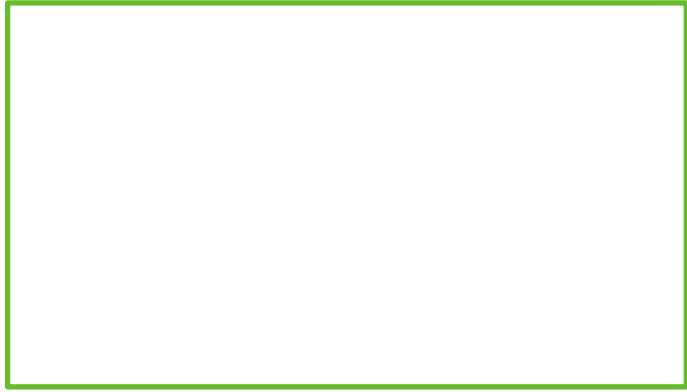
Has the parent you identified in the previous question remarried?

Yes  No

**Provide Information for the Parent and Stepparent**

Based on your answers in the previous section, you'll need to provide information about the parent and stepparent on the FAFSA® form. You can invite the parent and stepparent to the form so they can complete their required sections.

If you are a dependent student, you will be asked several questions to determine which of your parent(s) should be invited to provide information on the FAFSA. Here are two examples, one of a student who's biological parents are married to each other, and one where one of the student's parents is remarried



In order to better prepare to complete the FAFSA, let's take a look at this chart that outlines whose information should be reported on the FAFSA. Remember that the parent on the FAFSA can include biological, adoptive or stepparents. You should determine which of these scenarios is true for your family, and then ask that parent or parents to create FSA IDs before they complete the fafsa.

# Inviting your Parent(s)

You will need to provide information about at least one parent when completing your section of the FAFSA

- You will need to provide
  - Full legal name
  - Date of birth
  - SSN (if applicable)
  - Personal email address
- If parent doesn't have an SSN you will also need to provide their address



**We Need Information for One of Your Parents Now**  
Based on your answers in the previous section, you'll need to provide information about both of your parents on your FAFSA form. This does not make them financially responsible for your education. Right now you can invite one or both of your parents to your form and have them complete their required sections.

Enter information about the parent(s) identified on the prior page, and we'll send emails on your behalf.  
Provide the parent's full legal name as it appears on their Social Security card. The email does not have to be the same as their account username and password (FSA ID).

**Parent**

First Name:

Last Name:

Date of Birth: Month , Day , Year

Social Security Number (SSN):

My parent doesn't have an SSN.

Email Address:

Confirm Email Address:

**Parent Spouse or Partner (optional)**

First Name:

Last Name:

Date of Birth: Month , Day , Year

Social Security Number (SSN):

My parent doesn't have an SSN.

Address:

City:

State:

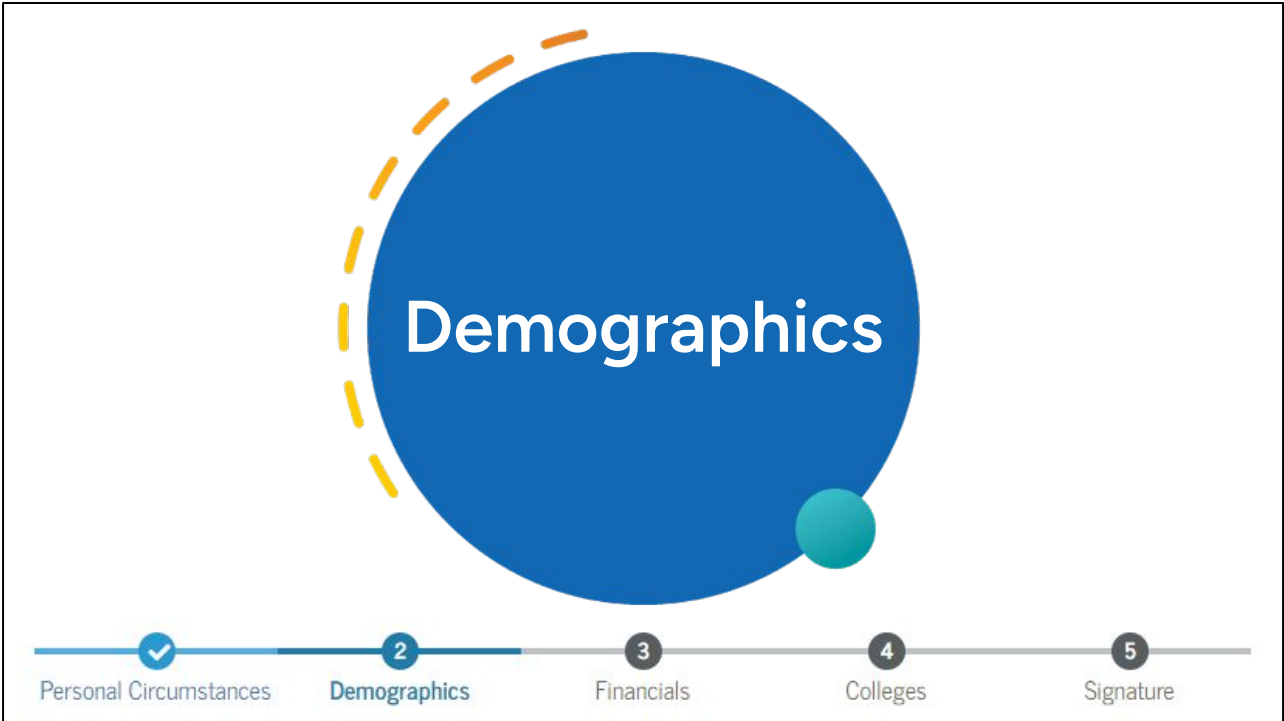
Zip Code:

Country:

Email Address:

Confirm Email Address:

The next step will be to invite the parents that you identified on the last page. You will do this by providing some of their information on the fafsa form. This information needs to be accurate, so even if it might be embarrassing to ask your parent's birthday, it's worth it to make sure they can complete their section and you can get the financial aid you deserve. If your parent does not have a social security number, **[CLICK ONCE]** you can click "My parent doesn't have an SSN" and will then need to provide their address



The next section is the Demographics section.

# Student Demographic Information

- The first three demographic questions are asked for research purposes, and do not affect eligibility for federal student aid
- For any of these questions, you may select “Prefer not to answer” if you’d rather not report this information

## Student Race and Ethnicity

### Questions Used for Research Purposes Only and Do Not Affect Federal Student Aid Eligibility

Your answers will not

- affect the student's eligibility for federal student aid,
- be used in any calculations, and
- be shared with the schools to which the student applies.

Is the student of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?

Select all that apply.

No, not of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin

Yes, Mexican, Mexican American, or Chicano

Yes, Puerto Rican

Yes, Cuban

Yes, another Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin

Prefer not to answer

The first three demographic questions ask about the student’s gender, race, and hispanic origin and are for research purposes only. They will not affect your eligibility for aid, no matter how you answer. If you would rather not report this information, you can select “prefer not to answer” - this will not affect your eligibility.

# Student Citizenship Status

- US citizens/nationals and eligible noncitizens
  - [Eligible noncitizens](#) need their A#
- Undocumented students can't complete the FAFSA, but state or institutional aid may be available
  - DACA students are not eligible for federal aid

## Student Citizenship Status

- U.S. citizen or national
- Eligible noncitizen
- Neither U.S. citizen nor eligible noncitizen



The next question focuses on student eligibility for federal financial aid, and you will select your citizenship status. In order to be eligible for federal financial aid, you must be a U.S citizen or eligible noncitizen. If you are an eligible noncitizen you will need your A number, which can be found on a permanent residency card. If you are not eligible to complete the FAFSA there may be another state-based form you can complete. Please also reach out to your uAspire Advisor with any questions - we are happy to help.



# Student High School Information

Here is where you will report your high school completion status

- For “high school diploma” you will need to include the high school you graduated from
- If you can't find your high school listed on the FAFSA you can manually enter it

## Student High School Completion Status

What will the student's high school completion status be at the beginning of the 2024–25 school year?

High school diploma

State-recognized high school equivalent (e.g., GED certificate)

Homeschooled

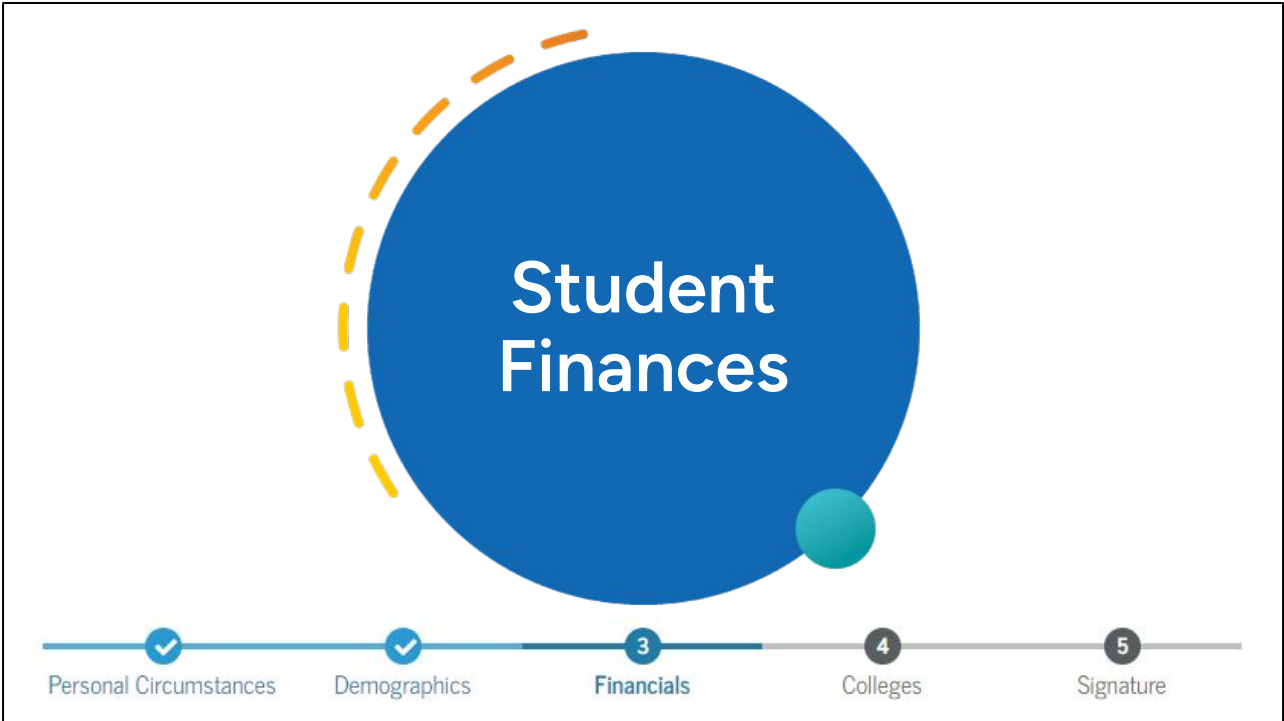
None of the above

## Student High School Information

From what high school did or will the student graduate?

State

For first year students, you will also be required to report information about your high school. You should report your high school completion status as of the first year you are attending college. Depending on your answer, you may need to provide additional information, like the state and/or high school you graduated from. If you can't find your high school listed on the fafsa you can manually enter it.



The third section is the student financial section.



## What will you see after consenting?

After consenting on the FAFSA, most of the tax and income questions will be answered automatically and you will not see them

- You will need to manually enter your tax information in certain circumstances including:
  - If you filed foreign tax returns
  - If you filed “married filing jointly” in 2022 but are no longer married to that spouse
- If you did not file U.S. taxes, you will need to say why you did not file

Each page will have help text that can help you find any information you need to report on the FAFSA

For the majority of students, after consenting on the fafsa, most income and tax questions will be answered when the IRS shares your tax information with federal student aid. Once that information is shared, you will not see those questions. There are some circumstances in which you will need to manually enter your tax information, but it is relatively rare. If you did not file U.S. taxes at all, there will be no income or tax questions you need to answer, but you will need to say why you did not file. Let’s review a few of the tax questions you may see even after consenting on the FAFSA. For any questions you do have to answer, each page will have help text that can help you find any information you need to report on the FAFSA

# Student Tax Return Information

- If you consent to having your tax information shared with the FAFSA and you filed a tax return, you will see very few tax questions

**Student 2022 Tax Return Information**

Refer to the student's 2022 tax return to answer the following questions.  
*Convert all currency to U.S. dollars.*

**IRA rollover into another IRA or qualified plan**

\$  .00

**Pension rollover into an IRA or other qualified plan**

\$  .00

**Amount of College Grants, Scholarships, or AmeriCorps Benefits Reported as Income to the IRS (optional)**

*The student paid taxes on these grants, scholarships, or benefits. These usually apply to those renewing their FAFSA<sup>®</sup> form, not to first-time applicants.*

\$  .00

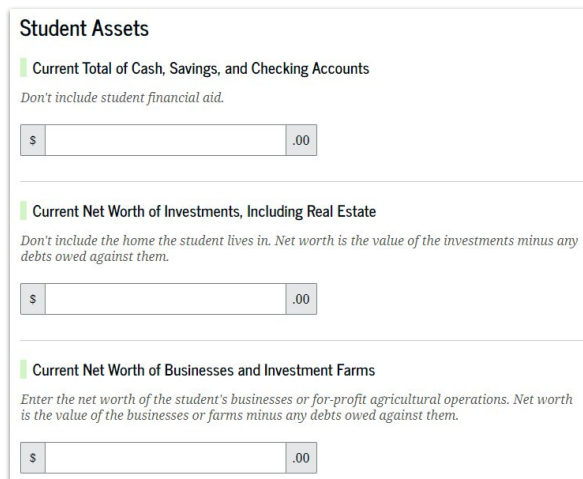
**Foreign Earned Income Exclusion**

\$  .00

For students who consent and don't fall into a circumstance where tax and income information needs to be provided manually, these are the only tax, and asset questions you will see on the fafsa, and for many of these questions, the answer will be 0. It's also important to keep in mind that the answers should be about your 2022 tax information.

# Student Assets

- Report your asset values as of the day you are filling out the FAFSA
  - We will dive deeper into assets when we talk about the parent section later



**Student Assets**

**Current Total of Cash, Savings, and Checking Accounts**  
*Don't include student financial aid.*

\$  .00

**Current Net Worth of Investments, Including Real Estate**  
*Don't include the home the student lives in. Net worth is the value of the investments minus any debts owed against them.*

\$  .00

**Current Net Worth of Businesses and Investment Farms**  
*Enter the net worth of the student's businesses or for-profit agricultural operations. Net worth is the value of the businesses or farms minus any debts owed against them.*

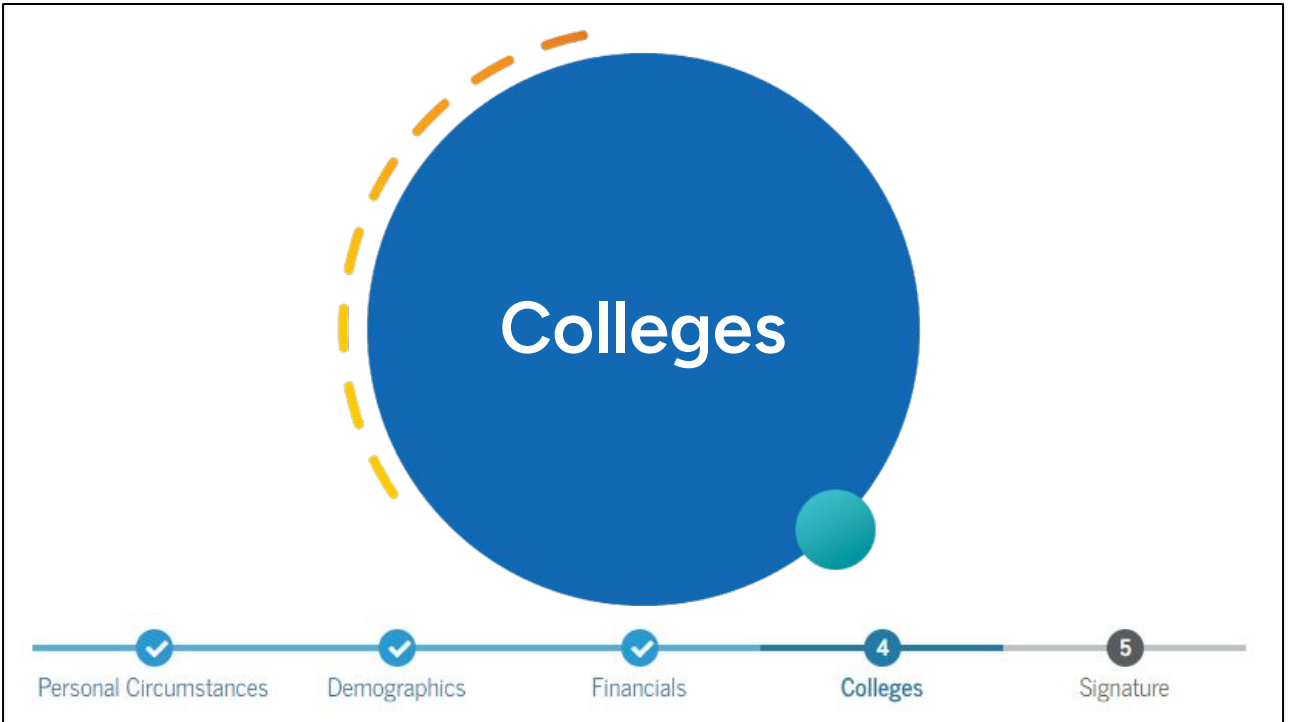
\$  .00

For the next section, the “Student Assets” section, you should report the values as of the day you are completing the FAFSA. For the first question, you can check your bank account while completing the fafsa to report those amounts. We will talk about assets more in the parent section, but for most students, the last two answers will be 0.

# Questions?

u·aspire

We are about halfway through our presentation today so before we get into how to add colleges on your FAFSA, we would like to take a second to answer any questions you may have.



The last section before signing your portion of the FAFSA is the colleges section.

# Listing Your Colleges

Two ways to add

- By school name
- By school code

Can add up to 20 schools at a time

- If need to add colleges to your list or apply to more than 20 you can make updates after the FAFSA processes

Where should we send the FAFSA® information?

Search and select colleges and career schools.

You can add up to 20 colleges and career schools to the FAFSA® form.

0 out of 20 Schools Selected [View Selected Schools](#)

[Search by School Name](#) [Search by School Code](#)

State

Where should we send the FAFSA® information?

Search and select colleges and career schools.

You can add up to 20 colleges and career schools to the FAFSA® form.

0 out of 20 Schools Selected [View Selected Schools](#)

[Search by School Name](#) [Search by School Code](#)

Federal School Code

You should list your colleges here. There are two ways to add schools. You can add them by state and name OR by school code. No matter how you add them, you can only add 20 schools at a time to your FAFSA. If you are applying to more than 20 schools, you will need to wait for the FAFSA to process before deleting your old list and adding the schools that still need to have the FAFSA information sent to them.




# Review

- You should review your answers and make edits here
- You can also review your contributors to see who has been invited and review the status of the invite

**Take a Moment To Review Before Signing**

Expand the sections below to review and edit the information you've entered before you sign your portion of the form.




**Student Sections** Expand All

- Introduction Personal Identifiers
- Section 1 Personal Circumstances
- Section 2 Demographics
- Section 3 Financials
- Section 4 Colleges
- Section 5 Signature

**Contributor Section**

This Section is Shared With One Contributor Manage Contributor Information

This FAFSA® form is shared with the individuals listed below. View who you invited and the status of their section.

Contributors	Role	Date Added	Status
 firstname lastname	Parent	11/22/2023	<span>Invite Sent</span>

Finally, you will review the FAFSA, check your answers, and make any edits. You can also check the status of the contributor(s) that you invited.

# Finishing the Student Section

- If all contributors have completed their section you will be able to sign & submit
- If you are waiting for additional contributors to complete their section, you can sign the form but can't submit it

## Sign and Complete Your Section

### Summary

This page confirms that you understand the terms and conditions of the FAFSA<sup>®</sup> form and filled out the form accurately to the best of your ability.

The FAFSA form is a legal document you will electronically sign with your account username and password (FSA ID). Because your FSA ID is associated with your personal information, do not share it with anyone.

By signing this application electronically using your FSA ID, YOU, THE STUDENT, certify that you

- will use federal and/or state student financial aid only to pay the cost of attending an institution of higher education.
- are not in default on a federal student loan or have made satisfactory arrangements to repay it.
- do not owe money back on a federal student grant or have made satisfactory arrangements to repay it.
- will notify your school if you default on a federal student loan, and
- will not receive a Federal Pell Grant from more than one school for the same period of time.

By signing this application electronically using your account username and password, you certify that all of the information you provided is true and complete to the best of your knowledge and you agree, if asked, to provide

- information that will verify the accuracy of your completed form, and
- U.S. or foreign income tax forms that you filed or are required to file.

You also certify that you understand that the secretary of education has the authority to verify information reported on your application.

If you sign this application or any document related to the federal student aid programs electronically using a username and password, and/or any other credential, you certify that you are the person identified by the username and password, and/or any other credential and have not disclosed that username and password, and/or any other credential to anyone else. If you purposely give false or misleading information, including applying as an independent student without meeting the unusual circumstances required to qualify for such a status, you may be subject to criminal penalties under 20 U.S.C. 1097, which may include a fine up to \$20,000, imprisonment, or both.

### Sign Your FAFSA Form

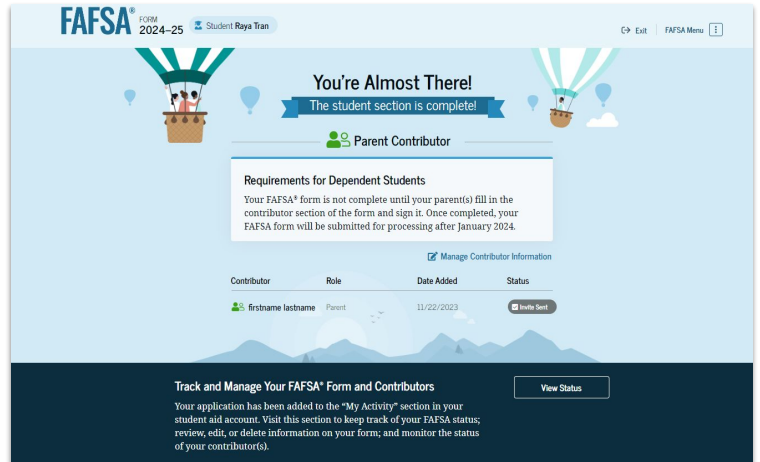
I, Raya Tran, agree to the terms outlined above.

After you've reviewed your FAFSA, you will sign and complete your section. However, this may not be the end of the FAFSA process for you yet.

# Parent Contributor Status

If you are waiting for contributors to complete their section you should:

- Remind them and help them gather the information they need



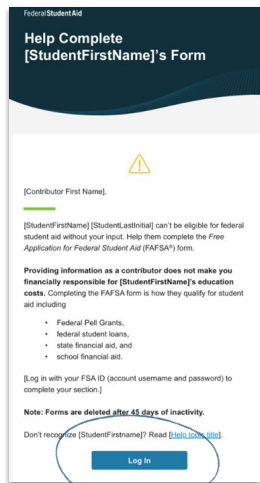
If you need a contributor's information to be provided on the FAFSA, you will see a reminder on the next page after signing your section. Their information is **REQUIRED** to be eligible for federal financial aid, so it's important that you follow up with them to make sure their section is completed.



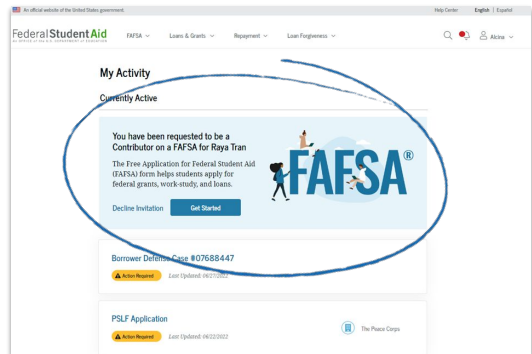
Now that we've completed the student section of the fafsa, let's talk about what parent contributors can expect.

# Ways Contributors can Log In

## Email Invitation



## Directly on FAFSA.gov



First, there are two ways a contributor can log in.

**[CLICK ONCE]** The first is via an email that is sent to the email address the student lists when inviting the parent. From that email, they can click on **[CLICK ONCE]** log in which will take them to fafsa.gov where they will need to log in with their fsa id.

**[CLICK ONE]** The second way a parent can log in to complete their section is to go directly to fafsa.gov, log in with their fsa id, and **[CLICK ONCE]** find the application under my activity.

# What to Expect

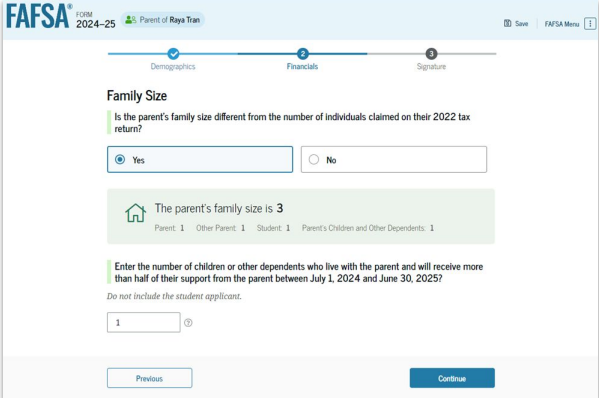
- You will see 3 sections
  - Demographics
  - Financials
  - Signature
- We will focus on the financial section, since this is where the major differences are
- For independent students, you will see the family size and number in college questions



Most of the parent section is the same or very similar to the student section. Remember that consent is required from all contributors so that the student can be eligible for federal financial aid. There are a few differences that we will discuss over the next couple slides. Also, remember, if you are an independent student, you may see these questions as well.

# Family Size

The FAFSA uses the number individuals claimed on federal taxes as the assumed family size. **If the family size is different from the tax return**, there is the option to provide it on the FAFSA



The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2024-25 interface for a parent named Raya Tian. The page is titled "Family Size" and asks, "Is the parent's family size different from the number of individuals claimed on their 2022 tax return?". There are two radio button options: "Yes" (selected) and "No". Below this, a green box displays "The parent's family size is 3" with a breakdown: Parent: 1, Other Parent: 1, Student: 1, Parent's Children and Other Dependents: 1. A second question asks, "Enter the number of children or other dependents who live with the parent and will receive more than half of their support from the parent between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025?". A text input field contains the number "1". At the bottom, there are "Previous" and "Continue" buttons.

The first major difference is the family size question. The FAFSA will use the number of individuals claimed on the taxes as the assumed family size. If the family size is different from the tax return, you should provide an updated number on the FAFSA.





# Number in College

### Number in College

How many people in the parent's family will be in college between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025?

*Do not include the parent.*

Previous Continue

Here you will report the number of people in your family who will be in college for the school year

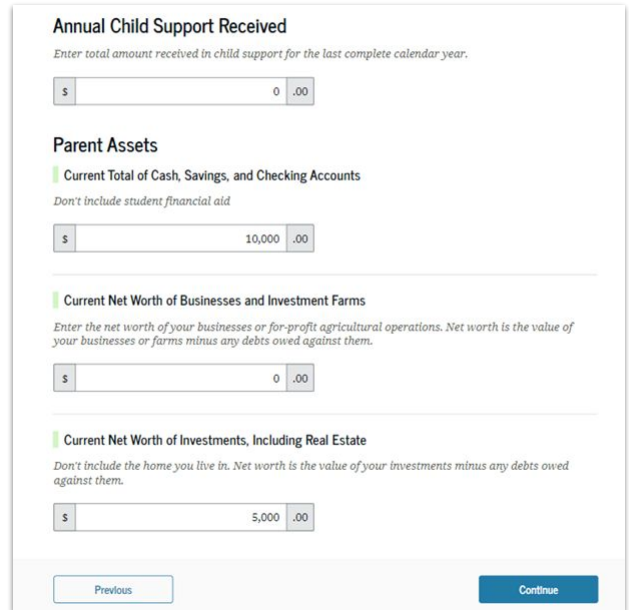
- Do not include any parents who are in college
- Number in college no longer affects federal financial aid eligibility, but some colleges will use it to determine institutional aid
  - If you believe that the number in college will significantly affect your ability to pay for college, you should [submit an appeal](#)



Next, you will report the number of people in your household who will be in college for the school year. Parents should not be included in this count. Additionally, the number in college will no longer affect federal financial aid eligibility, but some colleges may use it to determine institutional aid. If you believe that the number in college will significantly impact your ability to pay for college, you should submit an appeal.

# Parent Assets

- **Child support received**
  - Report the total amount received in the last complete calendar year
- **Cash, Savings, and Checking**
  - Report the value as of today
- **All businesses, farms, and investments**
  - Report the net worth as of today



The screenshot shows the 'Parent Assets' section of the FAFSA form. It is divided into three main categories, each with a corresponding input field for the dollar amount. The 'Annual Child Support Received' field is set to 0.00. The 'Current Total of Cash, Savings, and Checking Accounts' field is set to 10,000.00. The 'Current Net Worth of Businesses and Investment Farms' field is set to 0.00. The 'Current Net Worth of Investments, Including Real Estate' field is set to 5,000.00. At the bottom, there are 'Previous' and 'Continue' buttons.

**Annual Child Support Received**  
Enter total amount received in child support for the last complete calendar year.

\$ 0 .00

**Parent Assets**

**Current Total of Cash, Savings, and Checking Accounts**  
Don't include student financial aid

\$ 10,000 .00

**Current Net Worth of Businesses and Investment Farms**  
Enter the net worth of your businesses or for-profit agricultural operations. Net worth is the value of your businesses or farms minus any debts owed against them.

\$ 0 .00

**Current Net Worth of Investments, Including Real Estate**  
Don't include the home you live in. Net worth is the value of your investments minus any debts owed against them.

\$ 5,000 .00

Previous Continue

The parent asset section looks very similar to the student asset section, but also asks you about any child support received. If you receive any child support, you will report the total amount you received in the last complete calendar year. For cash, savings and checking, report the values as of the day you are filling out the fafsa. For businesses, farms, and investments report the net worth as of the day you are filling out the fafsa. Having statements on hand can be helpful.

# Investments: A Closer Look

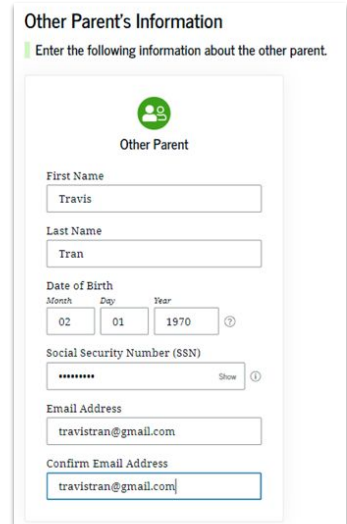
What <b>must be reported</b>	What <b>should not be reported</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Real estate</li><li>• Rental property</li><li>• Trust funds</li><li>• Uniform Gifts to Minors Act (UGMA) &amp; Uniform Transfer to Minors Act (UTMA) Account</li><li>• Money market funds</li><li>• Mutual funds</li><li>• Certificates of deposit (CD's)</li><li>• Stocks</li><li>• Stock options</li><li>• Bonds</li><li>• Securities</li><li>• Commodities</li><li>• 529 accounts owned by parent w/ student as beneficiary</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Home in which the student/parent(s) lives</li><li>• Life insurance policies</li><li>• Retirement plans</li><li>• UGMA and UTMA accounts for which the student/parent are the custodian, but not the owner</li><li>• 529 accounts with a beneficiary other than the student applicant</li></ul>

Let's look at what investments should be reported a bit more closely. Here we have a list of the assets that should and should not be reported. Remember that retirement plans and the home that you live in are not counted as assets on the FAFSA.

# Other Spouse Invitation

If the other parent's information is needed and the student did not provide it, the parent can provide it here.

- The other parent will receive an invite
- The FAFSA will not be able to be submitted until they complete their section



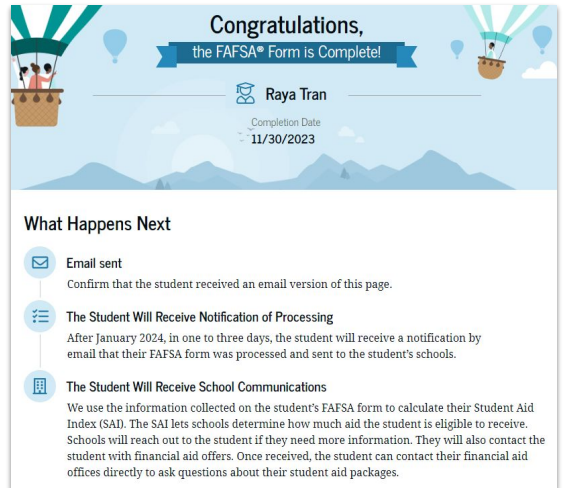
The screenshot shows a form titled "Other Parent's Information" with a sub-header "Enter the following information about the other parent." Below this is a green circular icon with a person silhouette and the text "Other Parent". The form contains several input fields: "First Name" with the value "Travis", "Last Name" with the value "Tran", "Date of Birth" with fields for Month (02), Day (01), and Year (1970), "Social Security Number (SSN)" with a masked field and a "Show" button, "Email Address" with the value "travistran@gmail.com", and "Confirm Email Address" with the value "travistran@gmail.com".

If another person's information is required who has not been invited yet, you can add their information here so they can complete their section.

# Submitting and Completing the FAFSA

Once the last contributor completes their section they can sign and submit it

- The student will get an email confirmation
- The 24-25 FAFSA will process after January 2024
- Student will then receive some communication from schools about verification, aid offers, etc.



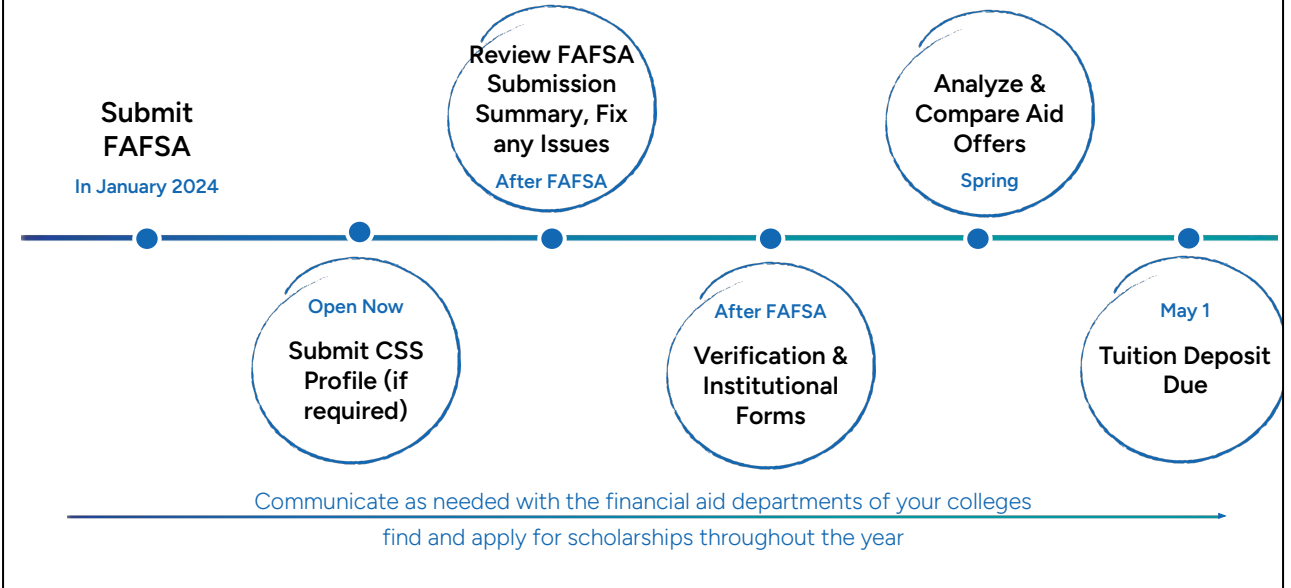
Then, once all contributors have signed and submitted the FAFSA, the student's fafsa will be complete. The student will get a confirmation email. Next the fafsa will be processed and students should hear from their colleges. If you don't hear from your colleges you should reach out. There are a few more steps to do after the fafsa, so let's talk about what comes next.



# Steps to take after the FAFSA

Let's get into some of these next steps in more detail.

# After the FAFSA Timeline



It is best to think of the FAFSA as the starting gate of the financial aid process and NOT the finish line, so there are a few other steps that you will need to take to ensure you get all the aid you can. Though we will be going over these steps briefly today, before closing out we will also be discussing some ways to get follow up on any of these steps in the future.

Remember you should be researching and applying to scholarships all year round. Don't wait until the last minute because there won't be many scholarships available.

# FAFSA Submission Summary

- FAFSA Submission Summary summarizes all student-reported info on FAFSA
- Includes estimated financial aid eligibility, Student Aid Index (SAI), corrections that need to be made, add colleges, flags for verification



Check out [our videos](#) on how to retrieve and review the FAFSA Submission Summary

Back FAFSA 2024-25 FAFSA Submission Summary Print This Page

Student: **Raya Tan** Application Received: **Sept 30, 2024** Application Processed: **Sept 12, 2024** Data Release Number: **2572** Viewing: **Submission 1**

Eligibility Overview FAFSA Form Answers School Information **Next Steps**

Eligibility Overview FAFSA Form Answers School Information **Next Steps**

### Estimated Federal Student Aid

**Federal Pell Grant** ⓘ US to: **\$4,556**  
A Federal Pell Grant is awarded to undergraduate students who have financial need and who have not earned a degree or are in a teacher certification program. Federal Pell Grants don't need to be repaid.

**Federal Direct Loans** ⓘ US to: **\$4,556**  
A federal direct loan is money lent by the government to you that you must repay with interest.

**Federal Work-Study** ⓘ You May Be Eligible  
Federal Work-Study is a way for students to earn money to pay for school through part-time jobs on or off campus.

Amounts shown here are only estimates of federal student aid based on full-time enrollment and the average cost of attendance. Your school will determine how much student aid to offer you, which may include additional aid from your school or state.  
Learn more about financial aid

**Keep in mind, this is only an estimate**  
Always refer to your school's financial aid offer for a final determination of financial aid available.

**Your Student Aid Index (SAI)**

Your SAI is a number used by your school to determine your federal student aid eligibility and to build your financial aid offer **-355** ⓘ

[What does this mean?](#)

The FAFSA Submission Summary summarizes all the information a student reported on their FAFSA. It provides a line-by-line review of the FAFSA questions and responses.

Reviewing it is important because it includes key information about your FAFSA and financial aid eligibility. It will indicate if any of the answers reported on the FAFSA seem to be incorrect or don't match up with other information reported elsewhere on the application. So that you can correct any errors and complete the FAFSA.

The summary provides your Student Aid Index, or SAI. This number determines your eligibility for certain types of financial aid.

The FAFSA Submission Summary also provides an opportunity to add additional colleges to the FAFSA. You may need to add colleges if you couldn't fit all the colleges you applied to during the first submission of your application or if you decided to apply to another college after already submitting your FAFSA.

The summary also indicates if a student is selected for verification, which means students and families will need to provide additional information to confirm what is reported on their FAFSA is true and accurate. Although we won't be watching it now, we do have a video linked here that explains what to look out for when reviewing your FAFSA Submission Summary that you can watch later.



## A Bit More About SAI

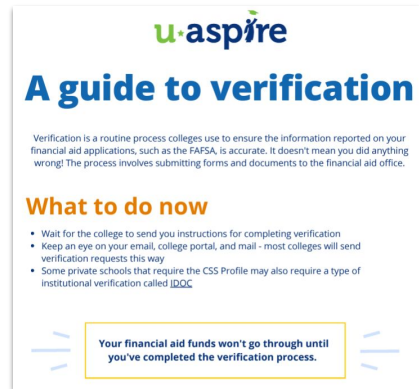
- Student Aid Index (SAI) is a number that determines your eligibility for certain types of financial aid.
  - Can be as low as -1500
- Colleges use SAI as a measure of financial need.
- SAI is NOT an exact amount of money you may have to pay! Many families will need to pay more than their SAI.



The student aid index is a number that determines your eligibility for certain types of financial aid. For example, if you have an SAI between -1500 and 0, you'll be eligible for the full amount of the Federal Pell Grant. As your SAI increases, the amount of Pell Grant you are eligible for decreases. The colleges, states, and federal government use SAI as a measure of need, and it is not the exact amount you will have to pay for college. Colleges are not always able to offer you the financial aid you are eligible for.

# Verification & Other Forms

- Colleges want to ensure that the information reported on financial aid applications is correct
- Verification is a normal part of the process!
- Colleges may ask you to fill out/submit:
  - Verification worksheets
  - Copies of tax returns
  - Proof of citizenship/residency
- Respond in a timely manner so that you don't miss out on financial aid



Check out uAspire's [Guide to Verification Handout](#)

Verification is one of the steps that may show up on your FAFSA submission summary. It is a process the federal government and colleges use to ensure you receive the financial aid you deserve. If you are selected for verification, it does not mean you have done anything wrong. The best thing you can do if a college reaches out and requests certain documents is to provide them in a timely manner. Colleges may ask you to fill out specific worksheets, provide copies of tax transcripts or copies of other documents such as a passport or birth certificate. If you don't respond to verification requests, you may not be able to access your financial aid. If you have questions, you should talk to your counselor, advisor, or reach out directly to the college.

---

# Next Steps

- All contributors [create FSA ID](#)
- Gather all materials using uAspire's [handout](#)
- Start your FAFSA
- All contributors submit their sections
- Review FAFSA Submission Summary and complete any required [verification](#)
- Complete other financial aid steps



Let's talk next steps.

Before starting the FAFSA, it's important for all contributors to create their FSA ID and to gather any necessary materials ahead of time. Be sure to start your FAFSA once it opens and make sure all contributors have completed their sections. Once your fafsa has been processed, be sure to review your fafsa submission summary and complete any required verification. Finally, there are more steps in the financial aid process that you will need to complete, and we are here to help along the way.

# uAspire's Resource Page

Check out [uAspire's resource page](#), a hub of helpful resources like:

- Videos walking you through parts of the FAFSA
  - Also check out our [YouTube channel](#) for more videos and helpful resources
- Various checklists in many different languages
- Blog posts on financial aid topics

And more!

The screenshot shows the uAspire website's Financial Aid Resources page. The header includes the uAspire logo and a search icon. Below the header, there is a main heading: "FINANCIAL AID RESOURCES" followed by the sub-heading "Find ways to pay for college and manage costs to stay on your postsecondary path." Below this, there are three columns of links: "COLLEGE COST CALCULATOR", "WEBINARS FOR COUNSELORS", and "VIRTUAL EVENTS FOR STUDENTS". A "Get Started" section follows, with a sub-heading "FINANCIAL AID CHECKLIST" and a brief description of the checklist. Below that, there is a "Prepare" section with sub-sections: "Make a College List", "Create an FSA ID", and "The FSA ID Howto Guide". Finally, there is an "Apply" section with a sub-section "Submit the FAFSA".

Be sure to check out uAspire's resource page which has tons of helpful resources like videos, checklists, blog posts and more that cover topics across the financial aid spectrum.

# How to get follow-up support after today's presentation

u·aspire

Let's also talk about some of the ways you can get further support.

# Additional Financial Aid Virtual Events

uAspire has ongoing financial aid events throughout the year on topics such as:

- Affording College 101
- Financial Aid for Current College Students
- CSS Profile
- Next Steps Post-FAFSA
- Financial Aid Offer Review
- Scholarships Basics and Tips
- Summer Financial Aid Steps
- Loan Repayment and Forgiveness



Scan the [QR code](#) for upcoming events and registration links, or email [studentsupport@uaspire.org](mailto:studentsupport@uaspire.org) for more information



We have ongoing financial aid and college affordability events throughout the year. You can find more information on these events and how to register on our website, [uAspire.org](http://uaspire.org), or send us an email at [studentsupport@uaspire.org](mailto:studentsupport@uaspire.org)

# Reach out to your uAspire Advisor

If you are already receiving text messages from uAspire, please reach out directly to your uAspire advisor for help

For all other inquiries reach out to [studentsupport@uaspire.org](mailto:studentsupport@uaspire.org)



If you are already receiving texts from uAspire, you can always reach out directly to them for help! If you are not sure if you have an advisor, you can email [studentsupport@uaspire.org](mailto:studentsupport@uaspire.org) and we can put you in touch with your advisor.

Please complete this  
brief survey

u·aspire

We will now be launching a poll to get your feedback about this session. Your answers will help us continue to improve our walkthroughs in the future. We appreciate your participation!!!



# Questions?

u·aspire

I have seen the Q&A feature being used so far during this presentation which is wonderful! Now we have time to address any questions that were not able to be answered yet and then we will open the floor for additional questions. Please chat them in, use the Q&A feature, or if you would rather ask out loud, raise your hand and we will unmute you.

# Thank you



[uAspire.org](http://uAspire.org) / [@uAspire](https://twitter.com/uAspire)

Thank you so much for coming to this presentation. We look forward to supporting you as you move through the financial aid process.

Take care