

# FILLING OUT THE FAFSA— GETTING STARTED AND PROVIDING BASIC INFORMATION

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## YOU HAVE YOUR FSA ID. YOU'RE READY. LET'S GET SOME MONEY AND FORM YOUR FUTURE!

Go to [FAFSA.gov](https://fafsa.gov) and click on "Start a New FAFSA."

### While you fill out the form keep in mind:

Your name and SSN must match what is written on your Social Security card.

#### Additional security

You can choose a virtual keyboard if you're concerned about providing your personal information.

#### Save key

You will create a save key at the beginning of the FAFSA, which you'll use to access the FAFSA while you work to finish it. The great news is that students and parents can use the save key to help access the FAFSA in different locations.

#### Summer session

If you are applying to enroll in a summer session, contact the financial aid office at your college to find out which school year you should select when you complete your FAFSA.

#### If you've already completed a FAFSA

You can renew your past FAFSA by clicking on "login" on the home page and selecting "FAFSA renewal." You'll save a lot of time, and your nonfinancial questions will be pre-filled for you! But be sure to update any information that has changed.

#### Tax information

Most people who have filed their 2015 federal taxes can use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool (DRT) to automatically import their tax information into the FAFSA.

## As you start to fill out the FAFSA, you will need to provide:

### Email address

Do not use the same email address as your parent. Make sure you have access to the email address you provide so you can check for emails regularly.

### FSA ID username

Don't include personal information in your username, such as date of birth or name. If your username is taken, you will receive a message that says "username taken, create a different username" and you must create a new one.

### FSA ID password

Make sure to store your password in a safe place.

### Social Security Number, date of birth and name

#### Confirm your profile information

Make sure your information is correct. Any errors could result in a delay or a problem in your receiving financial aid (or the repayment of your federal student loans).

#### Challenge questions and answers

You will be asked to select and create challenge questions and provide answers to help identify you when you need to unlock your account or reset your username and password.

- Select by clicking on the dropdown menu and entering your answer. Click the "show text" button if you would like to view what you are typing when you enter your answer.
- The last question will request a significant date in your life.
  - This cannot be your birthday.
  - We recommend using your favorite holiday, birthday of your parent or sibling.

#### Review info and agree to terms

- Review the information you provided.
- Click "previous" if you need to make any changes.
- Agree to the terms and conditions for using your FSA ID.