

2021-2022 FAFSA PREPARATION CHECKLIST

BEFORE YOU CAN COMPLETE YOUR FAFSA:

- ❑ Create your FSA ID at fsaid.ed.gov. The student and one custodial parent will need an FSA ID. This is how you will electronically sign the FAFSA.
- ❑ If you need help, this video created by the U.S. Department of Education will walk you through the process: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yj1Pn-shze8>.
- ❑ If you (parent) have already created an FSA ID for another student's FAFSA or any other reason, you will NOT be able to create a new one. A social security number can only be tied to one FSA ID. You can use the existing information.
- ❑ If you have created an FSA ID, but forgotten your username and/or password, click on the link for Forgot My Username or Forgot My Password. This video will walk you through the recovery process: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=llwnEbOXSGg>.

INFORMATION TO YOU WILL NEED TO COMPLETE THE FAFSA:

It is recommended that you gather all of the following before beginning the FAFSA application.

- **Student and parent** FSA ID
- **Student and parent(s)** social security numbers
 - If parents are married or unmarried, but living together, you will need social security numbers for both parents
- **Student** driver's license number (if you have one)
- 2019 Federal tax returns (form 1040 and Schedules 1-3) for **student** and **parent(s)**
- 2019 W2 forms from employers for **student** and **parent(s)**
- Bank statements and records of investments for **student** and **parent(s)** (if applicable)
 - The FAFSA will ask for the following:
 - Current balance of cash, savings, and checking accounts
 - Net worth of investments (including real estate, but NOT the house you live in)
 - Net worth of current business and/or investment farms
- Records of untaxed income for **student** and **parent(s)**
 - These could include:
 - Child support received
 - Interest income
 - Veterans non-education benefits

2021-2022 FAFSA PREPARATION CHECKLIST

AM I AN INDEPENDENT STUDENT?

If you can answer “yes” to any of the questions below, you are considered an independent student for the FAFSA, and do not need to provide parent information:

- Were you born before Jan. 1, 1998?
- As of today, are you married? (Also answer “Yes” if you are separated but not divorced.)
- At the beginning of the 2021–22 school year, will you be working on a master’s or doctorate program (such as an M.A., MBA, M.D., J.D., Ph.D., Ed.D., graduate certificate, etc.)?
- Are you currently serving on active duty in the U.S. armed forces for purposes other than training? (If you are a National Guard or Reserves enlistee, are you on active duty for other than state or training purposes?)
- Are you a veteran of the U.S. armed forces?
- Do you now have—or will you have—children who will receive more than half of their support from you between July 1, 2021, and June 30, 2022 [during the award year]?
- 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, 2022?
- 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?
- Has it been determined by a court in your state of legal residence that you are an emancipated minor or that someone other than your parent or stepparent has legal guardianship of you? *(You also should answer “Yes” if you are now an adult but were in legal guardianship or were an emancipated minor immediately before you reached the age of being an adult in your state. Answer “No” if the court papers say “custody” rather than “guardianship.”)*
- At any time on or after July 1, 2020, were you determined to be an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless, as determined by (a) your high school or district homeless liaison, (b) the director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, or (c) the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program?