FAFSA® Tip Sheet

Complete the FAFSA to get Money for School

PHEAA
Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency

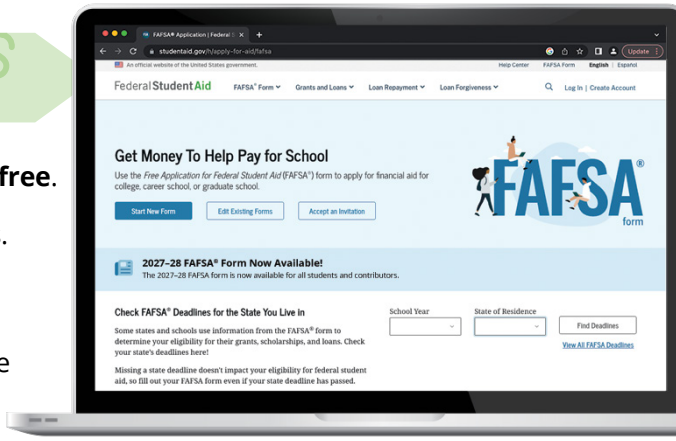
The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) is the most important application you must complete to qualify for almost all types of financial aid (money for school). Colleges and career schools use the FAFSA form to decide how much financial aid you qualify to receive. In Pennsylvania, we also use it to award the PA State Grant. Any student, regardless of family income, should complete a FAFSA to be considered for federal, state, and school financial aid programs.

How to Apply

Visit StudentAid.gov/fafsa to complete and submit your application for **free**.

You may need your 2025 federal tax returns and supporting documents.

The 2027-28 FAFSA will use your 2025 tax information. When you complete your FAFSA online, each contributor will be required to provide consent and approval. The consent and approval will allow the IRS to import relevant tax data for most filers to their FAFSA.

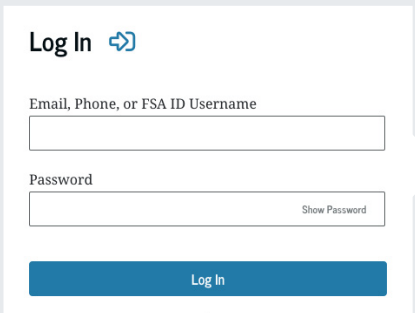


Also Prepare...

- Your Federal StudentAid.gov Account
- Your Social Security number and alien registration number, if applicable
- Records of child support payments, including the total amount received for the last complete calendar year
- Current bank statements, records of stocks, bonds, 529 savings plans, and other investments
- List of colleges or career schools you want to include on your FAFSA
- A personal email address (not your school email!)

Dependent students will also need their contributor's name and email address.

NOTE: A contributor can be a student, student's spouse, biological or adoptive parent, or stepparent.



What is a Federal StudentAid.gov Account?

A Federal StudentAid.gov account is your verified account username and password. You will use the account you create at StudentAid.gov/fsa-id/create-account to log in to and sign the FAFSA. If you are a dependent student, you and all contributors must have their own username and password.

Get Help with the FAFSA!

Visit **pheaa.org/fafsa** for resources, videos, FAQs, and other helpful information to get you started on the FAFSA. Additional resources for students and families can be found at **pheaa.org/fafsaHelp**.

Use the Correct Tax Information

If you plan to attend college from	You can submit the FAFSA from	Using income & tax information from
July 1, 2026–June 30, 2027	October 1, 2025–June 30, 2027	2024
July 1, 2027–June 30, 2028	October 1, 2026–June 30, 2028	2025
July 1, 2028–June 30, 2029	October 1, 2027–June 30, 2029	2026

Once Your FAFSA is Processed

You will be notified by the U.S. Department of Education (ED) that your FAFSA has been processed, and you can view or print your FAFSA Submission Summary online. Check your FAFSA Submission Summary for any errors. If you find mistakes, you will need to make necessary corrections by logging in at StudentAid.gov.

Your FAFSA will be shared with any schools you listed on it. Schools send out financial aid notifications to students once they're accepted. Your school may also require you to fill out additional forms for their school-specific programs. Contact your postsecondary schools for more information about financial aid notifications.

Next Steps for the PA State Grant

Federal Student Aid (FSA) also shares your FAFSA information with PHEAA to determine your eligibility for the PA State Grant. After processing your information, we will email you at the address you provided on the FAFSA. The email will provide details on how to create a PHEAA account.

In addition to completing a PHEAA account, first-time applicants as well as some renewal applicants must complete the PA State Grant Form. Additional details on how to apply for a PA State Grant can be found at pheaa.org.

Did Your Circumstances Change?

Contact the financial aid department at your school for help if your family's income suddenly changed (such as high medical expenses not covered by insurance, divorce, or separation) or is less this year than what you reported on the FAFSA. **You can also contact PA State Grant staff for help reporting changes in your financial situation at 1-800-692-7392 (TTY: Dial 711, for hearing impaired).**

To learn more about the financial aid process, visit pheaa.org.

These materials have been developed and paid for by the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA). The information contained in this document is believed to be accurate at the time of publication.
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