FAFSA® Checklist

Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency

About the FAFSA

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) is the first step in the financial aid process. Students and families use it for federal student aid, such as grants, loans, and work-study. In Pennsylvania, the FAFSA also helps determine your eligibility for the PA State Grant.

The FAFSA asks for information about you and your financial situation. If you're married, you will need the same information for your spouse. **If you're considered a dependent student, you will need your contributor's information, too.**

Before filing the FAFSA, gather the following items:

- ☐ Your StudentAid.gov account username and password (formally FSA ID)

  NOTE: We recommend creating your account several days prior to filing the FAFSA.

  Visit StudentAid.gov/fsa-id to create your account.

- ☐ Your Social Security number
- ☐ Your alien registration number, if you are not a U.S. citizen
- ☐ Your W-2 forms
- ☐ Your federal income tax return 1040 and accompanying schedules

  NOTE: If you complete your FAFSA online, you will automatically retrieve your income and tax data from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and have it transferred into your FAFSA. The Federal Aid Direct Data Exchange is the preferred method to complete the FAFSA.

- ☐ Your current bank statements and records of stocks, child support payments, bonds, 529 plans, and other investments including real estate (but not including the home in which you live)
- ☐ A personal email address (not a school email address)

Now you're ready... Visit **StudentAid.gov/fafsa** to file for **free**!

Need additional help?

Need help with more than just the FAFSA? There are plenty of free resources available to help you with the financial aid process:

pheaa.org | StudentAid.gov | CollegeCost.ed.gov

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