

Filing the FAFSA

What students need to know



When to apply

The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is available to file beginning October 1 each year.

Remember: Financial aid deadlines aren't the same as college admission deadlines. The FAFSA must be filed every year a student is in school.

Why FAFSA matters

FAFSA gives families and students access to not just federal loans, but also state aid if it's available. Many colleges offer their own aid too, although it's usually limited.

Students should check fafsa.ed.gov for their state's deadlines and their colleges' websites for those deadlines.

What tax information is needed

Students enrolling in college for Academic Year 2020 – 2021 will need their 2018 federal tax return. They can submit a FAFSA at fafsa.ed.gov beginning October 1, 2019.

Students enrolling in college for Academic Year 2021 – 2022 will need their 2019 federal tax return. They can submit a FAFSA at fafsa.ed.gov beginning October 1, 2020.

Students enrolling in college for Academic Year 2022 – 2023 will need their 2020 federal tax return. They can submit a FAFSA at fafsa.ed.gov beginning October 1, 2021.

FAFSA submission time frames and tax information*

College Academic Year Fall 2020 Spring 2021	College Academic Year Fall 2021 Spring 2022	College Academic Year Fall 2022 Spring 2023
Submit your FAFSA beginning October 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020	Submit your FAFSA beginning October 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021	Submit your FAFSA beginning October 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022
Use your income tax info from 2018	Use your income tax info from 2019	Use your income tax info from 2020

For more information, visit SallieMae.com/CollegePlanning

*Source: <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa>. FAFSA application submission time frames and required tax information are projected based on information provided in the September 14, 2015 IFAP FAFSA filing date change announcement (also referenced as the Dear Colleague letter). Please check StudentAid.Ed.Gov/Sa/FAFSA prior to each academic year for the most up-to-date FAFSA information. Sallie Mae, the Sallie Mae Logo and other Sallie Mae names and logos are service marks or registered service marks of Sallie Mae Bank. All other names and logos used are the trademarks or service marks of their respective owners. SLM Corporation and its subsidiaries, including Sallie Mae Bank, are not sponsored by or agencies of the United States of America. ©2019 Sallie Mae Bank. All rights reserved. MKT14304A 0519