What's New for the 2017–18 FAFSA?

Basics for Parents and College Students

Topics

- What's Changing
- Benefits to Students
- FAQs About Timing & Reporting Information
- Getting FAFSA Info & Help

What's Changing for 2017–18

Change #1: Earlier FAFSA® Launch

- 2017–18 FAFSA available Oct. 1, 2016, at fafsa.gov
- Change to October 1 launch will be permanent

Change #2: Earlier Income Info Required

- 2015 tax/income information required
- (Normally would have been 2016)

What's Changing for 2017–18

CHANGES TO THE FAFSA PROCESS FOR 2017–18

SUBMIT A FAFSA EARLIER: Students will be able to submit a 2017–18 FAFSA as early as Oct. 1, 2016, rather than beginning on Jan. 1, 2017. The earlier submission date will be a permanent change, enabling students to complete and submit their FAFSAs as early as October 1 every year. (There is NO CHANGE to the 2016–17 schedule. The 2016–17 FAFSA became available Jan. 1, 2016.)

USE EARLIER INCOME AND TAX INFORMATION: Beginning with the 2017–18 FAFSA, students will report income and tax information from an earlier tax year. For example, on the 2017–18 FAFSA, students (and parents, as appropriate) will report their 2015 income and tax information, rather than their 2016 income and tax information.

Here's a summary of key dates for submitting the FAFSA depending on when you plan to go to school:

IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND COLLEGE FROM	YOU WILL SUBMIT This fafsa	YOU CAN SUBMIT The Fafsa from	USING INCOME AND TAX INFORMATION FROM
July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016	2015–16	January 1, 2015–June 30, 2016	2014
July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017	2016–17	January 1, 2016–June 30, 2017	2015
July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018	2017–18	October 1, 2016–June 30, 2018	2015
July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019	2018–19	October 1, 2017-June 30, 2019	2016



Benefits to Students

- Benefit #1: Alignment
 - Many college admissions application deadlines occur in the fall
 - Financial aid application done at same time = less confusion
- Benefit #2: Certainty
 - No need to estimate tax info
 - IRS Data Retrieval Tool available immediately
 - Expected Family Contribution known earlier (helps with assessing net costs)
- Benefit #3: Less Pressure
 - More time before (most) state and school deadlines
 - More time to compare schools before College Signing Day

Will deadlines be earlier?

- Most state and school deadlines won't change
- Note: several states will change from "as soon as possible after January 1" to "as soon as possible after October 1" (for their first-come, first-served state aid)
- State deadlines: fafsa.gov
- School deadlines: see schools' websites

Will 2016–17 FAFSA info be carried over to Renewal FAFSA?

- No; too much could have changed
- IRS Data Retrieval Tool: easily import your tax data to keep process quick

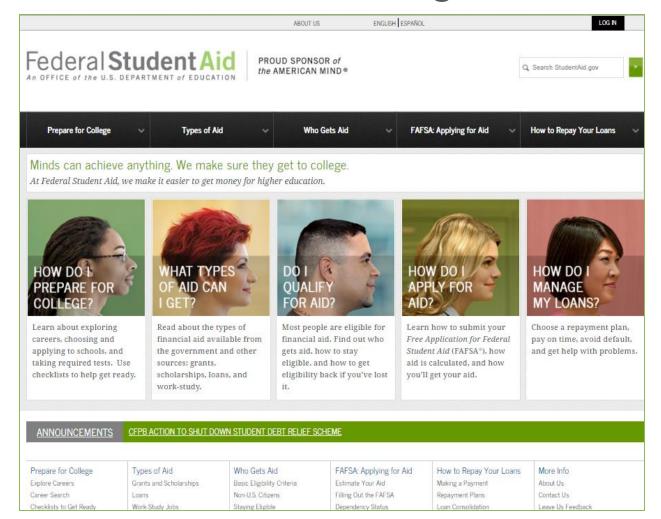
Can a student choose to report 2016 information?

- No; you do not have a choice of which year to report
- Must report info re the year the FAFSA asks for
- Talk to college if big change in financial circumstances
- Remember: Certain items on FAFSA are "as of today," so you must read each question and fill out accordingly

Will students receive aid offers earlier if they apply earlier?

- Not necessarily; some schools will make offers earlier; others won't
- collegescorecard.ed.gov allows for cost comparison of schools based on averages
- Remember: early aid offers will likely be estimates (Pell maximum not announced until early 2017)

StudentAid.gov



FAFSA info section: StudentAid.gov/fafsa



Fact sheets, videos, graphics, etc.: StudentAid.gov/resources#fafsa

Fact Sheets			
What's an FSA ID and Why Do I Need One?	<u>PDF</u>	PDF	
Am I Dependent or Independent?	<u>PDF</u>	<u>PDF</u>	
Who Is My "Parent" When I Fill Out the FAFSA?	<u>PDF</u>	<u>PDF</u>	
College Students and Parents: What You Need to Know About the 2017—18 FAFSA*	<u>PDF</u>	Coming spring 2016	
Myths About Financial Aid	<u>PDF</u>	PDF	

Changes for 2017–18: StudentAid.gov/fafsa-changes

FAFSA® Changes for 2017-18

On Sept. 14, 2015, President Obama announced significant changes to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA*) process that will impact millions of students. Starting with the 2017–18 application cycle, the following changes will be put in place:

- Students will be able to submit a FAFSA* earlier. Students will be able to file a 2017-18 FAFSA as early as Oct. 1, 2016, rather than beginning on Jan. 1, 2017. The earlier submission date will be a permanent change, enabling students to complete and submit a FAFSA as early as October 1 every year. (There is NO CHANGE to the 2016-17 schedule. The FAFSA became available January 1 as in previous years.)
- Students will use earlier income information. Beginning with the 2017-18 FAFSA, students will be required to report income information from an earlier tax year. For example, on the 2017-18 FAFSA, students (and parents, as appropriate) will report their 2015 income information, rather than their 2016 income information.

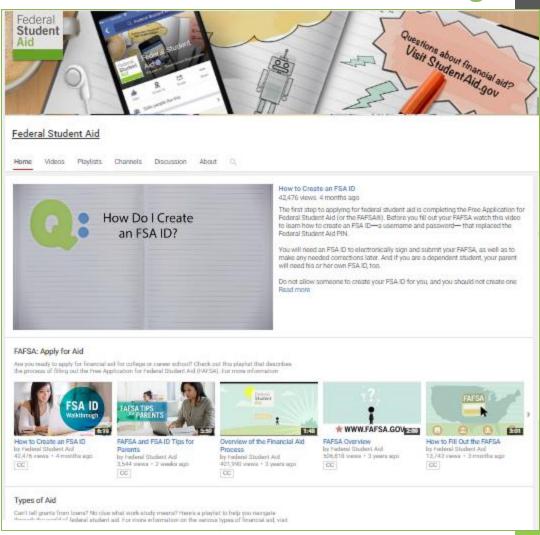
The following table provides a summary of key dates as we transition to using the early FAFSA submission timeframe and earlier tax information.

CHANGES TO THE FAFSA PROCESS FOR 2017-18 SUBMIT A FARSA EARLIER: Students will be able to submit a 2017-18 FARSA as early as Oct. 1, 2016, rather than beginning on Jan. 1, 2017. The earlier submission date will be a permanent change, enabling students to complete and submit their FAFSAs as early as October 1 every year. (There is NO CHANGE to the 2016-17 schedule. The 2016-17 FAFSA became available Jan. 1, 2016.) USE EARLIER INCOME AND TAX INFORMATION: Beginning with the 2017-18 FAFSA, students will report income and tax information from an earlier tax year Here's a summary of key dates for submitting the FAFSA depending on when you plan to go to school: IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND YOU WILL SUBMIT YOU CAN SUBMIT USING INCOME AND TAX COLLEGE FROM THIS FAFSA THE FAFSA FROM INFORMATION FROM July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016 2015-16 January 1, 2015-June 30, 2016 2014 July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017 2016-17 January 1, 2016-June 30, 2017 2015 July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018 2017-18 October 1, 2016-June 30, 2018 2015

Social Media

- Twitter.com/FAFSA
- Facebook.com/
 FederalStudentAid
- YouTube.com/
 FederalStudentAid

Federal Student Aid's YouTube Page



Where to Get Help

- fafsa.gov (help screens; online chat)
- 1-800-4-FED-AID
- studentaid@ed.gov

Questions?