

Starting in December, the 2024-2025 FAFSA will have many changes. Here is a summary:

The FAFSA will be streamlined and easier to complete. There will be fewer questions and income information will be automatically retrieved from the IRS.

The EFC (Expected Family Contribution) calculation will be replaced by the SAI (Student Aid Index). The new calculation will allow more students to qualify for the Pell Grant.

Pell Grants will no longer be paid in only 4 levels (Full-time, $\frac{3}{4}$ -time, $\frac{1}{2}$ -time, or less-than- $\frac{1}{2}$ -time). Pell Grants will now be awarded per credit:

| Credit Hours | Enrollment Category (Old) | Enrollment Intensity (New) |
|--------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 12 (or more) | Full-Time | 100% |
| 11 | 3/4-Time | 92% |
| 10 | | 86% |
| 9 | | 75% |
| 8 | 1/2-Time | 67% |
| 7 | | 58% |
| 6 | | 50% |
| 5 | Less-than-1/2-Time | 42% |
| 4 | | 33% |
| 3 | | 25% |
| 2 | | 17% |
| 1 | | 8% |

Starting with the 2024–25 FAFSA, **all people (students, spouses, and parents)—even those without a Social Security number—must create an FSA ID.** In prior years, parents without an SSN would have to sign and mail the FAFSA signature page which could take several weeks to process. Now parents will need to create an FSA ID and sign the FAFSA electronically. There is no longer an option for a signature page. If a parent does not have an SSN or ITIN, they will be directed through a knowledge-based identity authentication process. This will allow anyone, including undocumented individuals, to create an FSA ID. If a student or parent is still unable to create an FSA ID a paper FAFSA will need to be completed, signed, and mailed. This should be extremely rare.

All people contributing information to the FAFSA must have FSA IDs and provide information on the FAFSA. The student's spouse and the parent's spouse/partner may also need to have an FSA ID and provide consent if needed depending on the tax filing status. Each person will only see the questions pertaining to them. One person can no longer complete the information for another person. It will be important for students and parents to work together to make sure emails, birthdays, SSN's, etc. are correct and FSA IDs have been created so everyone will have access to complete the new FAFSA.

The IRS Data Retrieval Tool is gone starting in 2024-25. Tax information will automatically be transferred from the IRS for everyone. All contributors must consent to having their tax information transferred from the IRS, even if they did not file taxes. Otherwise the FAFSA will be incomplete.

The FAFSA is still available in PDF and can be printed out, completed and signed by all parties, and mailed directly to the Department of Education. Note, because it is 14 pages, it will require extra postage.

Family size will now be automatically calculated from the exemptions on the tax forms. This can be updated if the family size has changed since the 2022 tax return was filed.

Number in College is no longer part of the calculation. This will cause some families with more than one child in college who are currently eligible for a Pell to no longer be eligible.

The 2024-25 FAFSA will be available in December, not in October this year. No firm date has been provided. The FAFSA will go back to being available in October starting October 2024.