

THIS IS WHY YOU SHOULD FILL OUT THE FAFSA

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- 1 IT'S FREE.**
Doesn't cost you anything.
- 2 IT'S EASY.**
The application has been simplified.
- 3 IT'S FAST.**
It takes most people just 23 minutes to complete.
- 4 MORE PEOPLE QUALIFY...**
for student aid than you think.

Here's what you'll need:

Your Social Security card and driver's license, and/or alien registration card if you are not a US citizen.

Your most recent federal income tax returns (you don't have to wait – you can use the most recent returns you have from last year), W-2s, and other records of money earned. (Note: You may be able to transfer your federal tax return information into your FAFSA using the [IRS Data Retrieval Tool](#).

Your parents income tax returns, W-2 forms and 1040 forms if you are a dependent (and you are unless declared otherwise). If you or your parents have not completed your taxes yet, you can estimate your income and other tax return information, and then correct your application after you have filed your taxes.

Records and documentation of other nontaxable income received such as welfare benefits, Social Security income, veteran's benefits, military or clergy allowances (if applicable).

Any additional applicable financial information, such as taxable work-study, assistant-ships, fellowships, grants and scholarship aid reported to the IRS, combat pay or special combat pay and cooperative education program earnings.

Records of any additional nontaxable income: Examples include: child support received, veterans' non-education benefits, money received or paid on your behalf, etc.

Current bank and brokerage account statements, including records of stocks, bonds, mutual funds and other investments (if applicable).

Business or investment farm records (if applicable).

Records relating to any unusual family financial circumstances, such as anything that changed from last year or anything that distinguishes the family from the typical family in terms of unusual marital situations, living situations, separations, etc. Examples include: high non-reimbursed medical and/or dental expenses, unusually high dependent care costs (e.g., for a special needs child or an elderly parent), death, divorce, salary reductions, job loss and private K-12 tuition.

Title IV Institution Codes for each school you are applying to. You can get this code from the school (some have them listed on their web sites) or you can use [FinAid's Title IV School Code Database](#).

When filling out and submitting your FAFSA electronically, you'll need an [FSA ID](#) to sign the form. If you don't have one, you can [create a FSA ID online](#). If you are applying as a dependent- again, you are unless declared otherwise – one parent is required to sign as well. To electronically fill out your FAFSA online, your parent should also apply for a FAFSA ID at the same site.

Download the [2018-2019 FAFSA information sheet](#) during your preparation process, to doubly ensure you have all of the information you need.