

Filing the FAFSA

What students need to know



When to apply

Last year, the traditional **FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) submission date moved to October 1.**

This change gives students and their families more time to fill out the FAFSA with tax information readily at hand, and more time to review schools' financial aid packages.

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.

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

For more information, visit SallieMae.com/CollegePlanning

What's needed

Students enrolling in college for Academic Year 2018-2019 will need their 2016 federal tax return. They can submit a FAFSA at fafsa.ed.gov beginning October 1, 2017.

Students enrolling in college for Academic Year 2019-2020 will need their 2017 federal tax return. They can submit a FAFSA at fafsa.ed.gov beginning October 1, 2018.

Schedule

Class of 2018

College Academic Year
Fall 2018 | Spring 2019

Submit your FAFSA beginning

**October 1, 2017
through June 30, 2018**

Use your income tax info from
2016

Class of 2019

College Academic Year
Fall 2019 | Spring 2020

Submit your FAFSA beginning

**October 1, 2018
through June 30, 2019**

Use your income tax info from
2017