

FAFSA – www.fafsa.gov

Before sitting down to complete the FAFSA, please read through this helpful list and gather the required paperwork. This will save you time & grief.

FSA-ID (Federal Student Aid – ID)– This is the first thing you will create prior to filling out FAFSA. The FSA-ID is a username and password and must be used to log in to certain U.S. Department of Education websites. Your FSA-ID confirms your identity when you access your financial aid information and electronically sign Federal Student Aid documents. You can create this ID on the FAFSA website.

- Both the student and parent will need separate FSA-ID's
- Both the student and parent will need an e-mail address (you cannot use the same one)
- Both the student and parent will need to answer 5 security questions and have a special date used for their privacy and verification of ID.

THIS IS A LITTLE TRICKY, SO I SUGGEST YOU CREATE YOUR I.D. IN SEPT or OCTOBER

On October 1st you may begin to file FAFSA:

Things you'll need to fill out the FAFSA:

- Your FSA-ID (both you and your parents)
- Your Social Security card number
- Your driver's license or identification card
- Your income information (bank statements and your last year's tax return if you filed taxes)
- Your parents' financial information (bank statements, last year's tax return, investment information)
- Your parents' social security numbers, if they have one
- Your parents' birthdates and anniversary date (if married)
- Any additional financial information (such as child support statements, welfare information, real estate, stock or bond investments, family business or farm information, 529 savings/GET investment value, etc.)

Things to know:

- You and your parents will use your completed **2015** income tax reports for the **2017-18** school year. This is called "prior-prior" year taxes in order to keep people from having to estimate their adjusted gross income. Using the prior-prior year means you can link to the IRS website.
- You must be a U.S. citizen or legal resident with DACA to submit FAFSA. However, your parents do not need to be citizens or legal residents. All others file WAFSA (state aid)
- Young men turning 18 need to register for selective service at www.sss.gov

NOTE these common mistakes:

1. All students under the age of 24 are considered a **DEPENDENT** of their parents for FAFSA & tax purposes. Please ask for the special circumstances that may allow you to declare yourself an **INDEPENDENT**. **DO NOT** choose **INDEPENDENT** without verifying. By doing so you could hold up your FAFSA for months.
2. You are **NOT an international student** if you went to school in the United States during your high school years. This is another mistake that could hold up your FAFSA.