

Common Mistakes to Avoid when Completing the FAFSA

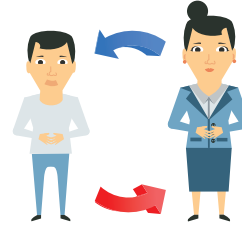
ONE

The student's name and social security number must be as they appear on the student's social security card.



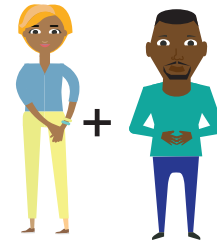
TWO

Parent Section vs. Student Section – don't confuse the two!



THREE

The number of people in the household is often confusing. Be sure the total adds up to the parents and anyone supported by them.

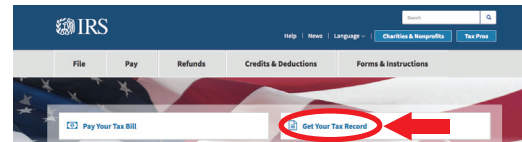


FOUR

If the custodial parent is remarried, you must also include the stepparent.

FIVE

Don't confuse Taxes Paid vs. Taxes Withheld. It is best to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool when possible.



SIX

"Zero" is a number. If the answer is zero or the question does not apply to you, write/type in a zero.

SEVEN

When asked for degree or certificate, fill in which degree or certificate you are working toward that year.



EIGHT

Don't skip the gender question. Federal rules require the answer matches the student's birth certificate.

NINE

Don't forget to sign the application! If you are a dependent student, you and your parents must both sign. If filing online, electronic signatures are accepted by using your individual FSA ID. The student and parent have their own separate FSA ID number.



As with all forms and applications, make sure you read the instructions and questions carefully. If you're unclear about a question or are having trouble filling out the FAFSA, check the FAQ section on the FAFSA website, or call the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243) or your school's financial aid office.

If you need to review or edit your FAFSA, visit www.fafsa.gov and log into your FAFSA application using your FSA ID. While you are there, you can also review and print your individual Student Aid Report (SAR).