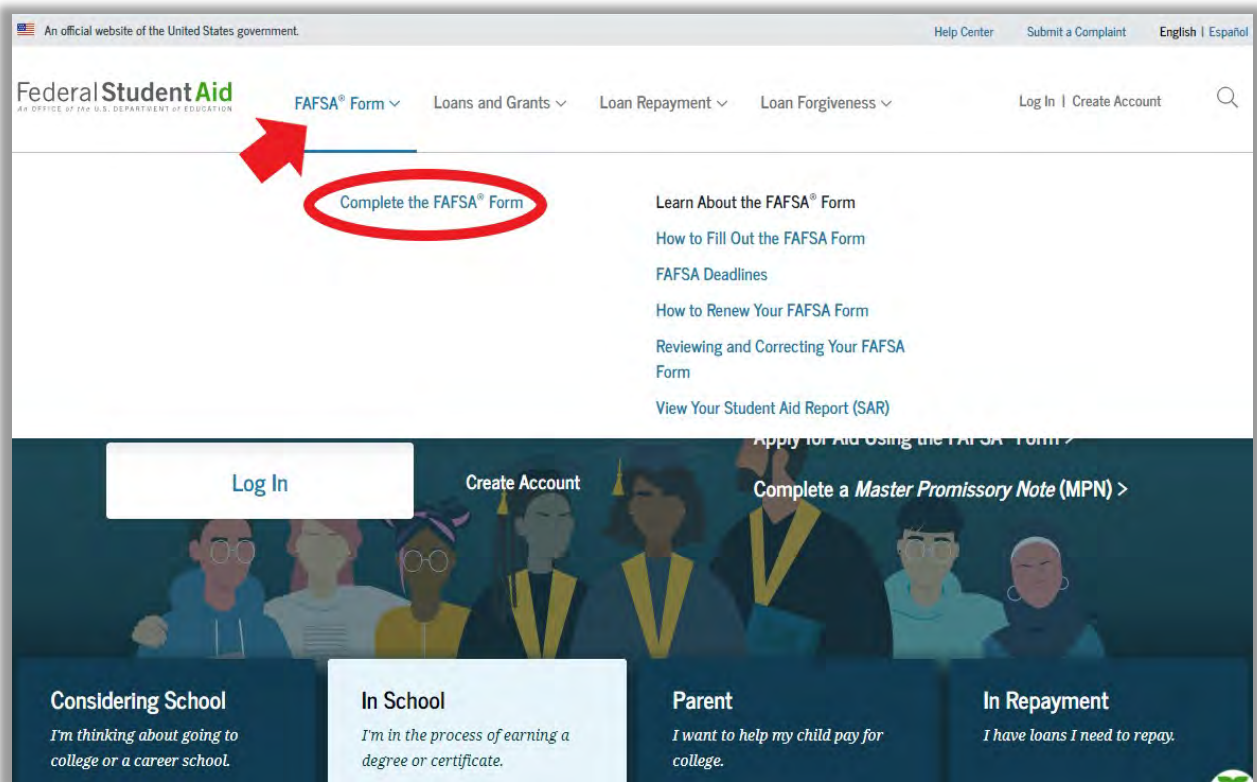


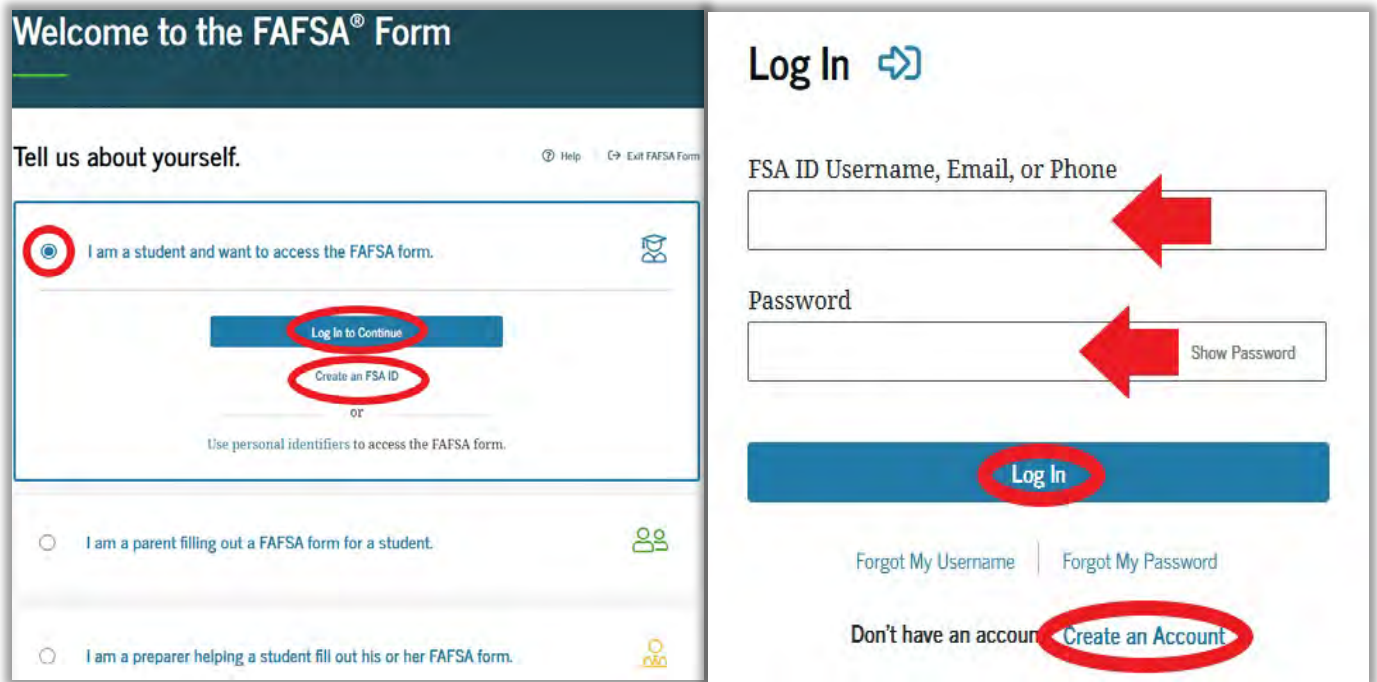
The Student is the person who needs to be completing this section. We highly recommend the student completes their section before any Parent or Spouse Contributor sections are completed. The student needs to go online to studentaid.gov



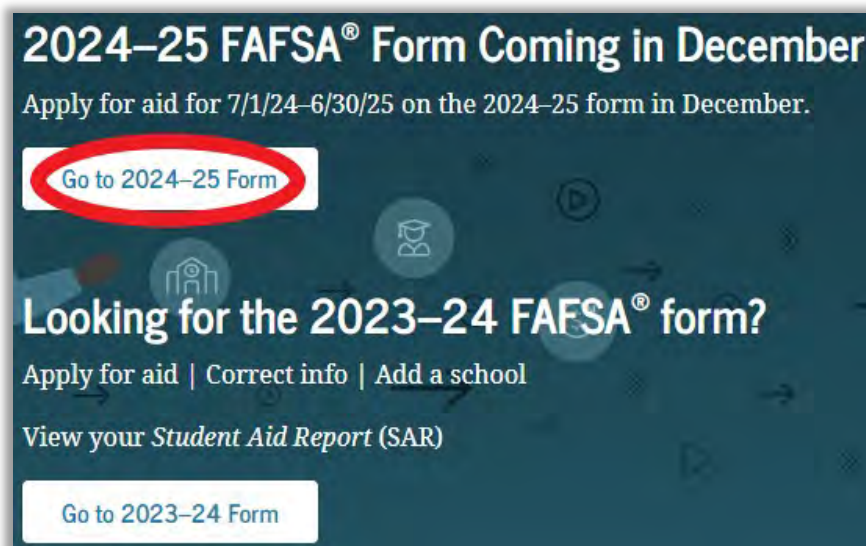
Move your cursor over “FAFSA Form” then click on “Complete the FAFSA Form.”

Select “I am a student and want to access the FAFSA form.”

If this is your first time completing a FAFSA click on “Create an FSA ID.” If you have completed a FAFSA in a prior year click “Log In” to Continue.



The student needs to log in with their FSA-ID and password. If the student does not have one set up already, they will need to create one. You can find a guide here: https://www.niu.edu/financial-aid/_pdf/tutorials/fsa-id.pdf



Click on “Go to 2024-2025 Form.”

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the Federal Student Aid website. The logo "Federal Student Aid" is in green and black, with "OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION" in smaller text below it. To the right are links for "FAFSA", "Loans & Grants", and "Repayment". The main heading is "Get Money To Help Pay for School" in large black font. Below it is a sub-heading: "Use the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) form to apply for financial aid for college, career school, or graduate school." Underneath, it says "2024–25 FAFSA® Form". There are two blue buttons: "Start New Form" (circled in red) and "Edit Existing Form". At the bottom, there is a link: "Need to access last year's form? Start or Edit a 2023–24 FAFSA Form".

Make sure you select the correct application year. For Fall 2024, Spring 2025, or Summer 2025 enrollment at NIU, complete a 2024-2025 FAFSA.

Click on “Start a New FAFSA Form” if this is your first time filing for the academic year.

You may click on “Edit Existing Form” if you need to make an update to your FAFSA.

Select “Student.”

I am starting the FAFSA form as a

Student 

Parent 

Previous Continue

Then click on “Continue.”

Understanding the FAFSA® Form

1 of 4

What is the FAFSA® form?

Use the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) form to apply for grants, scholarships, work-study funds, and loans for college or graduate school.




Previous Continue

Click on “Continue.”

Understanding the FAFSA® Form


2 of 4

Contributors to the FAFSA® Form



Parents or Spouses

Your answers on the FAFSA form will determine if any contributors need to be identified. These contributors will complete their own sections of the form and are asked to provide personal and financial information, but will not become financially responsible for your education.



How to Invite

Contributors will need to log in with their own FSA ID to provide their information. To invite a contributor to your FAFSA form, you'll need to provide their name, date of birth, Social Security number, and email address.

Information or Documents You May Need ▾

Previous Continue

Click on “Continue.”

Understanding the FAFSA® Form

3 of 4

What To Expect

How long will this take? 🕒 1 hour

Every contributor must provide consent and approval for you to be eligible for federal student aid. With your consent and approval, we can obtain your federal tax information automatically from the IRS to help you complete the FAFSA® form. You can save the form and return to it later if you need more time.

Previous Continue

Click on “Continue.”

Understanding the FAFSA® Form

4 of 4

After Submitting the FAFSA® Form

After submission, you'll need to check on the status of your FAFSA® form and make corrections, if required.

- After January 2024, your form will be processed within 3 days.
- You'll receive a FAFSA Submission Summary. It will include the Student Aid Index (SAI), a number used to determine federal student aid eligibility.
- Schools will use your SAI to create your financial aid offer that explains the types and amounts of aid they are offering you. Most schools will wait to send you an aid offer only after they accept you for admission.

Previous

Start FAFSA form

Click on “Start FAFSA form.”

Please note, this application uses smart logic, so depending on your responses some pages on this guide will be skipped over and not displayed to you.

Review the Student Identity Information and Permanent Mailing Address to confirm everything is accurate.

Name

Date of Birth
5/5/2003

Social Security Number
•••••-1234

Email Address

Mobile Phone Number
(555) 555-5555

To update this information for all U.S. Department of Education communications, go to [Account Settings.](#)

Permanent Mailing Address
Include apartment number.

123 Sesame Street

City
DeKalb

State
Illinois (IL)

Zip Code
60115

Country
United States

[Previous](#) [Continue](#)

Click on “Continue.”

Enter the state for your current legal residence.
Enter the date you became a legal resident of
that state.

Student State of Legal Residence

State
Illinois (IL)

Date the Student Became a Legal Resident of Illinois (IL)

Month Year

Previous Continue

Click on “Continue.”

Provide Consent and Approval or Be Ineligible for Federal Student Aid

If you do not provide consent to disclose
Federal Tax Information (FTI) the FAFSA will
be considered incomplete and the student will
be ineligible for federal aid.

Summary

Your consent and approval is needed to retrieve and disclose federal tax information (FTI). With your consent and approval, we can obtain tax return information automatically from the IRS to help you complete the FAFSA[®] form. If you don't provide consent and approval, you will not be eligible for federal student aid, including grants and loans. You must provide consent and approval even if you didn't file a U.S. federal tax return or any tax return at all.

→ Get your 2022 tax return information for the 2024–25 FAFSA form.

→ Tax return information is required to complete the FAFSA form.

→ FTI is used to determine your eligibility for federal student aid.

By accepting below, I consent to the disclosure of information about me, as described below, and further affirmatively approve of the receipt and use of my Federal tax information (FTI) and to the U.S. Department of Education's redisclosure of my FTI, as described below. By accepting below, I consent to and affirmatively approve of, as applicable, the following:

1. The U.S. Department of Education may disclose my Social Security number (SSN)/ Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)/, last name, date of birth, unique identifier, the tax year for which FTI is required, and the date and timestamp of my approval for the use of my FTI in determining eligibility by ED for which approval is provided to the U.S. Department of the Treasury, Internal Revenue Service (IRS). I understand that in response to such a request from the U.S. Department of Education, the IRS shall then disclose my FTI to "authorized persons" (i.e., specifically designated officers and employees of the U.S. Department of Education and its contractors (as defined in 26 U.S.C. § 6103(l)(13)(E)) for the purpose of determining eligibility for, and the amount of, Federal student aid under a program authorized under subpart 1 of part A, part C, or part D of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, for myself or an applicant for Federal student aid who has requested that I share my FTI on their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA[®]) form.
2. Authorized persons at the U.S. Department of Education and its contractors (as defined in 26 U.S.C. § 6103(l)(13)(E)) may use my FTI for the purpose of determining the eligibility for, and amount of, Federal student aid under a program authorized under subpart 1 of part A, part C, or part D of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, for myself or a FAFSA applicant who has requested that I share my FTI on the FAFSA form.

3. The U.S. Department of Education may redisclose my FTI received from the IRS pursuant to 26 U.S.C. § 6103(l)(13)(D)(iii) to the following entities solely for the use in the application, award, and administration of financial aid:

- Institutions of higher education participating in the Federal student aid programs authorized under subpart 1 of part A, part C, or part D of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended;
- State higher education agencies;
- Scholarship organizations designated prior to December 19, 2019, by the Secretary of Education; and
- Contractors of institutions of higher education and State higher education agencies to administer aspects of the institution's or State agency's activities for the application, award, and administration of such financial aid.

4. The U.S. Department of Education may redisclose my FTI to another FAFSA applicant's FAFSA form(s) for which I elect to participate. By accepting an invitation and affirmation to participate in another individual's FAFSA form, my FTI will be redisclosed to the additional application. I understand that I may decline an invitation to participate, which will prevent the transfer of my FTI to that FAFSA form.

By consenting and providing my affirmative approval, I further understand that:

1. My consent and affirmative approval are required, as a condition of my eligibility or the eligibility of a FAFSA applicant who has requested that I share my FTI on their FAFSA form, for Federal student aid under a program authorized under subpart 1 of part A, part C, or part D of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, even if I did not file a U.S. Federal tax return.
2. I am providing my written consent for the redisclosure of my FTI by the U.S. Department of Education to include, but not limited to, institutions of higher education, State higher education agencies, designated scholarship organizations, their respective contractors and auditors, other family members participating in the FAFSA form, Office of Inspector General, under 26 U.S.C. § 6103(l)(13)(D), and with my further express written consent obtained by an institution of higher education, the redisclosure of FAFSA information pursuant to the terms and conditions of 20 U.S.C. § 1098h(c).
3. Any FTI received from the IRS at a later date shall supersede any manually entered financial or income information on the FAFSA form.

4. The U.S. Department of Education may request updated FTI from the IRS once my consent is provided. If FTI has changed (e.g., amended tax return filed with revised information), then eligibility for, and amounts of, Federal, State, and institutional financial aid may change.

5. If I do not consent to the redisclosure of my FTI to institutions of higher education, State higher education agencies, designated scholarship organizations, and their respective contractors, the U.S. Department of Education will be unable to calculate my eligibility for Federal student aid or the eligibility of a FAFSA applicant who has requested that I share my FTI on their FAFSA form.

By accepting below, I consent electronically to the use of my FSA ID (username and password) as my signature and certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America, that the foregoing is true and correct. I understand that any falsification of this statement is punishable under the provisions of 18 U.S.C. § 1001 by a fine, imprisonment of not more than five years, or both, and that the knowing and willful request for or acquisition of records pertaining to an individual under false pretenses is a criminal offense under the Privacy Act of 1974, subject to a fine of not more than \$5,000 fine (5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(i)(3)). By accepting and submitting my part of the FAFSA, my execution (including date and time) of consent and approval will be logged in the U.S. Department of Education's Person Authentication Service (PAS) System of Record (18-11-12).

Click on “Approve.”

Frequently Asked Questions

Who should provide consent and approval? ⌵

If I'm married and didn't file a joint tax return with my current spouse, does my spouse have to provide consent and approval for you to access their tax information? ⌵

Yes, your spouse will also need to provide consent and approval.

What happens after I provide consent and approval? ⌵

Once you give consent and approval, the transfer of your tax information will begin. Your consent and approval will remain in place.

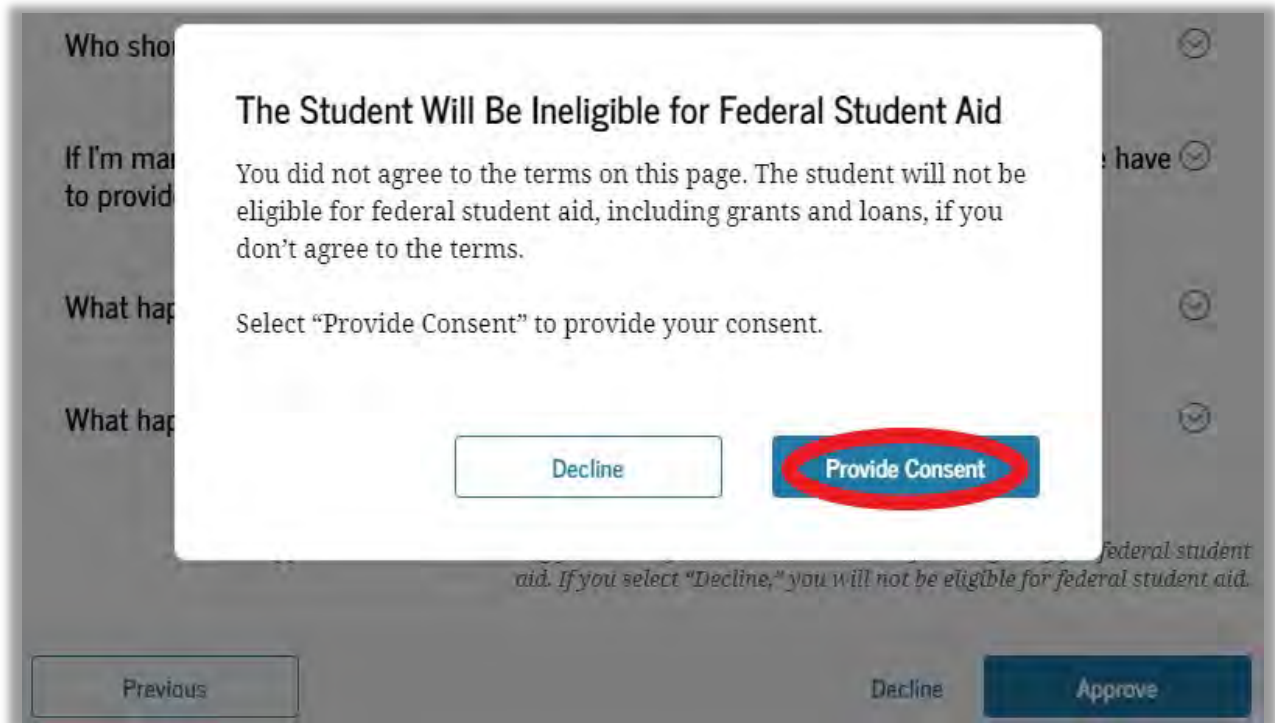
What happens if I decline consent and approval? ⌵

If you decline consent and approval, you must manually provide your income information and the student will not be eligible for federal student aid. Declining consent and approval prevents us from requesting your federal tax information from the IRS. This information would have been used for the purpose of completing the FAFSA form.

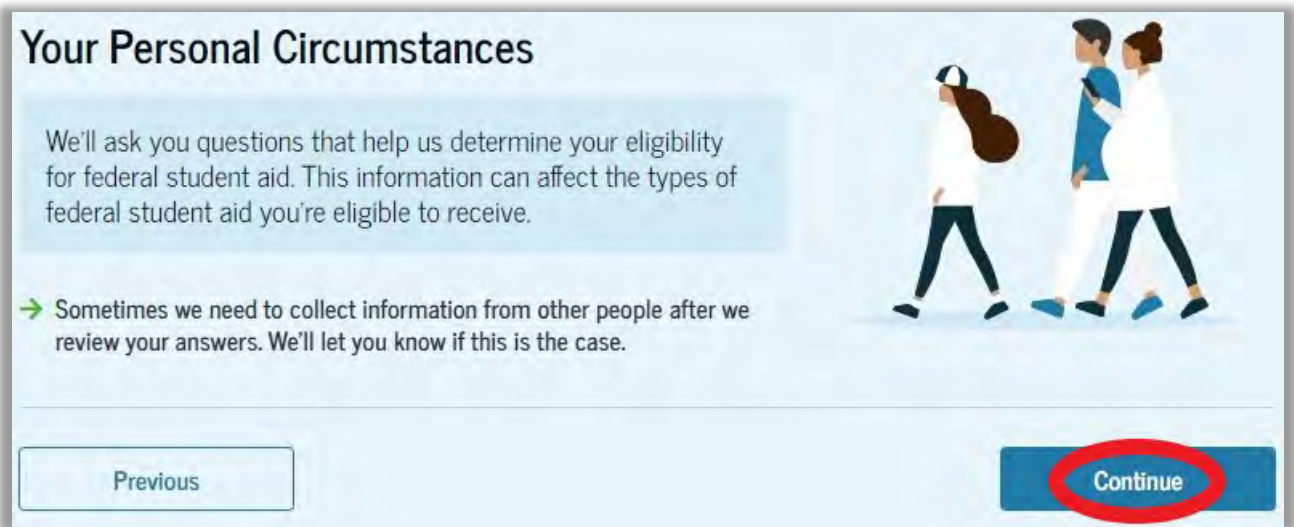
Select "Approve" to consent to using your tax information to determine the student's eligibility for federal student aid. If you select "Decline," the student will not be eligible for federal student aid.

[Previous](#) [Decline](#) [Approve](#)

If you click on “Decline” you will be prompted again. Click on “Provide Consent.”



The next section will be “Your Personal Circumstances.”



Click on “Continue.”

Select your current marital status.

The screenshot shows a web form with a progress bar at the top containing five steps: 1. Personal Circumstances, 2. Demographics, 3. Financials, 4. Colleges, and 5. Signature. The current step is 'Personal Circumstances'. The main heading is 'Student Current Marital Status'. Below the heading is a list of radio button options: 'Single (never married)', 'Married (not separated)', 'Remarried', 'Separated', 'Divorced', and 'Widowed'. The 'Single (never married)' option is selected. At the bottom of the form, there are two buttons: 'Previous' on the left and 'Continue' on the right. The 'Continue' button is highlighted with a red circle.

Click on “Continue.”

Select your educational status.

The screenshot shows a web form with five navigation tabs at the top: 1 Personal Circumstances, 2 Demographics, 3 Financials, 4 Colleges, and 5 Signature. The current page is titled "Student College or Career School Plans".

Question 1: "When the student begins the 2024–25 school year, what will their college grade level be?"

- First Year (freshman)
- Second Year (sophomore)
- Other undergraduate (junior and beyond)
- Master's or doctorate program (such as MA, MBA, MD, JD, PhD, EdD, etc.).

Question 2: "When the student begins the 2024–25 school year, will they have their first bachelor's degree?"

- Yes
- No

At the bottom, there are two buttons: "Previous" and "Continue".

If you are a transfer student who has only obtained an associate degree, then the second response should be “No.”

Click on “Continue.”

Check a box for any situation that applies to you. If you do not have a Circumstance the check the box for “None of these apply.”

Student Personal Circumstances

Select all that apply.

- The student is currently serving on active duty in the U.S. armed forces for purposes other than training.
- The student is a veteran of the U.S. armed forces.
- The student has children or other people (excluding their spouse) who live with them and receive more than half of their support from the student now and between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025.
- At any time since the student turned 13, they were an orphan (no living biological or adoptive parent).
- At any time since the student turned 13, they were a ward of the court.
- At any time since the student turned 13, they were in foster care.
- The student is or was a legally emancipated minor, as determined by a court in their state of residence.
- The student is or was in a legal guardianship with someone other than their parent or stepparent, as determined by a court in their state of residence.
- None of these apply.

[Previous](#) [Continue](#)

Click on “Continue.”

Select “No” if the circumstance does not apply to you. Or select “Yes” if it does.

The screenshot shows a web form with a progress bar at the top containing five steps: 1. Personal Circumstances, 2. Demographics, 3. Financials, 4. Colleges, and 5. Signature. The current step is 'Personal Circumstances'. Below the progress bar is the section title 'Student Other Circumstances'. The question is: 'At any time on or after July 1, 2023, was the student unaccompanied and either (1) homeless or (2) self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?'. There are two radio button options: 'Yes' and 'No'. The 'No' option is selected. At the bottom of the form, there are two buttons: 'Previous' and 'Continue'. The 'Continue' button is highlighted with a red oval.

Click on “Continue.”

You may be prompted with an additional question about Unusual Circumstances.

Select the appropriate response for your situation.

1 Personal Circumstances 2 Demographics 3 Financials 4 Colleges 5 Signature

Student Unusual Circumstances

This information will help us evaluate the student's ability to pay for school.

Do unusual circumstances prevent the student from contacting their parents or would contacting their parents pose a risk to the student?

A student may be experiencing unusual circumstances if they

- left home due to an abusive or threatening environment;
- are abandoned by or estranged from their parents;
- have refugee or asylee status and are separated from their parents, or their parents are displaced in a foreign country;
- are a victim of human trafficking;
- are incarcerated, or their parents are incarcerated and contact with the parents would pose a risk to the student; or
- are otherwise unable to contact or locate their parents.

If the student's circumstances resulted in not having a safe and stable place to live, they may be considered a homeless youth and should review the answer to the previous question about being unaccompanied and homeless.

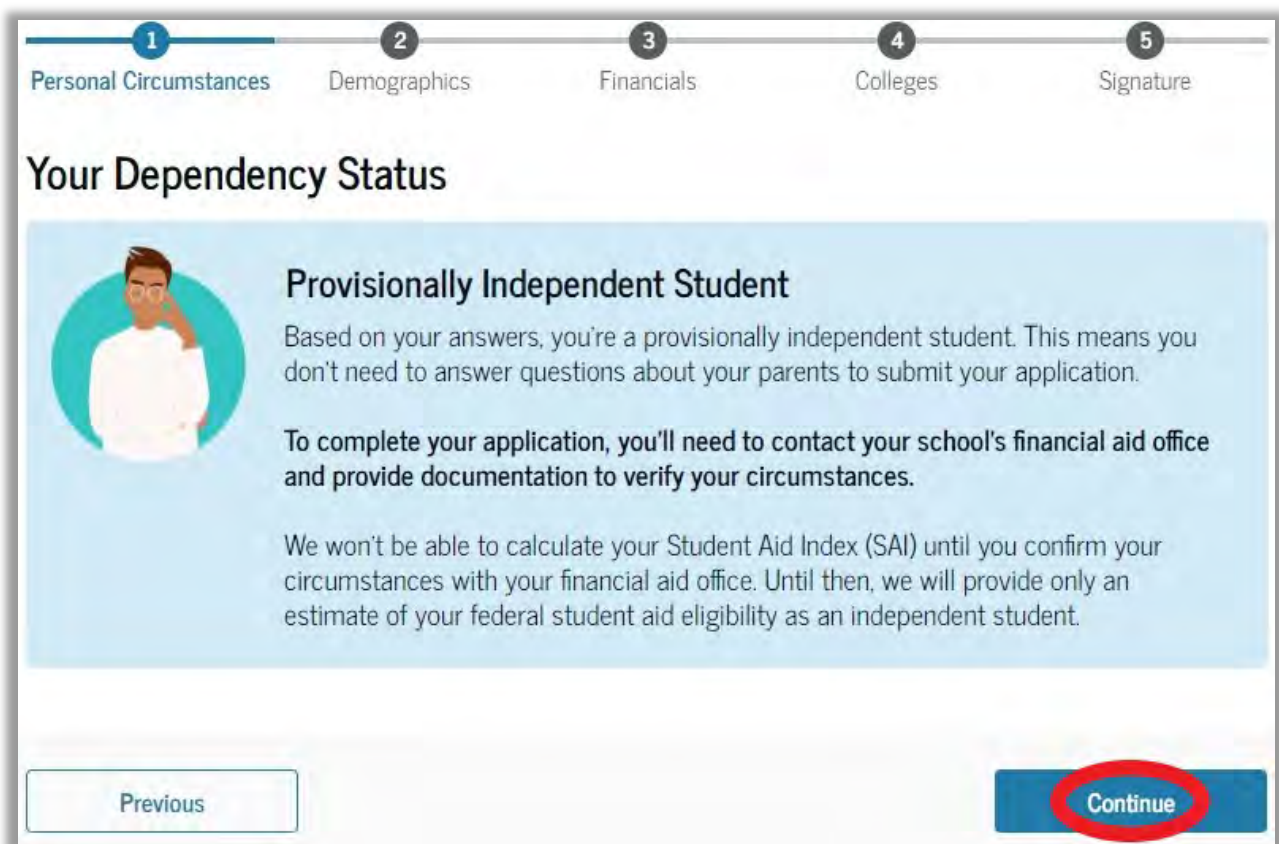
Yes No

[Previous](#) [Continue](#)

Click on “Continue.”

Depending on your responses to all the previous questions, you will see one of three different screens.

1. If you are a “Provisionally Independent Student” you will be required to provide additional documentation to the college before your FAFSA is considered Official.




The screenshot shows a progress bar at the top with five steps: 1. Personal Circumstances, 2. Demographics, 3. Financials, 4. Colleges, and 5. Signature. The current step is 'Your Dependency Status'. Below the title, there is a circular icon of a man on the left. To the right of the icon, the text reads: 'Provisionally Independent Student. Based on your answers, you're a provisionally independent student. This means you don't need to answer questions about your parents to submit your application. To complete your application, you'll need to contact your school's financial aid office and provide documentation to verify your circumstances. We won't be able to calculate your Student Aid Index (SAI) until you confirm your circumstances with your financial aid office. Until then, we will provide only an estimate of your federal student aid eligibility as an independent student.' At the bottom, there are two buttons: 'Previous' on the left and 'Continue' on the right. The 'Continue' button is highlighted with a red circle.

Click on “Continue” and then skip to page 22 of this guide.

2. If you are an “Independent Student” you are not required to provide parent information on the FAFSA.

1 Personal Circumstances 2 Demographics 3 Financials 4 Colleges 5 Signature

Your Dependency Status


 **Independent Student**
Based on your answers, you're an independent student. This means you don't need to answer questions about your parents to complete your FAFSA[®] form.

Previous Continue

Click on “Continue” and then skip to page 22 of this guide.

3. If you are a “Dependent Student” you are required to provide parent information on the FAFSA.

Your Dependency Status



Dependent Student
Based on your answers, you are a dependent student. This means you must provide parent information on your FAFSA® form. This information helps determine how much federal student aid you're eligible to receive.

Apply for a Direct Unsubsidized Loan Only

Are the student's parents unwilling to provide their information, but the student doesn't have an unusual circumstance that prevents them from contacting or obtaining their parents' information?

If you select "Yes," a financial aid administrator at the student's school will determine their eligibility for a Direct Unsubsidized Loan only.

Yes No

[Previous](#) [Continue](#)

If your parent is willing to provide their information, select the “No” option and then click on “Continue.”

Answer questions about your Parent’(s) marital status.

1 Personal Circumstances 2 Demographics 3 Financials 4 Colleges 5 Signature

Tell Us About the Student's Parents

On the FAFSA® form, the "parent" is the student's legal (biological or adoptive) parent.

Are the parents married to each other?

Yes No

Provide Information for Both Parents
Based on your answers in the previous section, you'll need to provide information about both parents on the FAFSA® form. You can invite them to complete their required sections.

Previous

Depending on the responses you may be required to answer additional questions.

Click on "Continue" and skip to page 24.

On the FAFSA® form, the "parent" is the student's legal (biological or adoptive) parent.

Are the parents married to each other?

Yes No

Do the parents live together?

Yes No

Did one parent provide more financial support than the other parent over the past 12 months?
If both parents provided an exact equal amount of financial support or if they don't support the student financially, select "No," and refer to the parent with the greater income or assets in the next question.

Yes No

Has the parent you identified in the previous question remarried?

Yes No

Provide Information for This Parent Only
Based on your answers in the previous section, you'll need to provide information about only this parent on the FAFSA® form. You can invite this parent to the form and have them complete their required sections.

Previous **Continue**

If you are an Independent student who is married, you will need to send an invite to your Spouse so that they can complete the spouse section of the FAFSA. If you are not married, skip to page 26.

The screenshot shows a progress bar at the top with five steps: Personal Circumstances (checked), Demographics (checked), Financials (3), Colleges (4), and Signature (5). Below the progress bar is the heading "Invite Your Spouse to the FAFSA® Form". The main content area has a light green background and contains the following text:

We Need Information About Your Spouse

Your spouse's information is needed for you to receive federal student aid, including grants and loans. This does not make them financially responsible for your education. Invite your spouse to the FAFSA® form now and have them complete their required section.

Enter information about your spouse and we'll send an email on your behalf.

Please provide your spouse's full legal name as it appears on their Social Security card. Their email does not have to match their account username and password (FSA ID).

You will not be able to continue with the application until an invite has been sent.

Enter all your spouse's identifying information along with their current, valid email address. Then click on "Send Invite."

The image shows a web form titled "Spouse" with a green icon of two people. The form contains the following fields and options:

- First Name:** Taylor
- Last Name:** Barber
- Date of Birth:** Month: 09, Day: 21, Year: 1986
- Social Security Number (SSN):** 456-32-7718 (with a "Hide" link)
- My spouse doesn't have an SSN.
- Email Address:** tb7712@gmail.com
- Confirm Email Address:** tb7712@gmail.com
- Buttons:** "Send Invite" (circled in red), "Previous", and "Continue" (circled in red).

When you are ready to move to the next step click on "Continue" and then skip to page 26.

You will need to send an invite to your Parent(s) so that they can complete the parent section of the FAFSA.



1 Personal Circumstances 2 Demographics 3 Financials 4 Colleges 5 Signature

Invite Parent(s) to This FAFSA® Form

We Need Information for One of Your Parents Now

Based on your answers in the previous section, you'll need to provide information about both of your parents on your FAFSA® form. This does not make them financially responsible for your education. Right now, you can invite one or both of your parents to your form and have them complete their required sections.

Enter information about the parent(s) identified on the prior page, and we'll send emails on your behalf.

Provide the parent's full legal name as it appears on their Social Security card. The email does not have to be the same as their account username and password (FSA ID).

You will not be able to continue with the application until an invite has been sent.

Enter all the parent identifying information along with a current, valid email address. Then click on “Send Invite.”


The screenshot displays a two-column form interface. The left column, titled 'Parent', shows a green icon of a person, the name 'Sam Teacher', and a green button labeled 'Invite sent to Sam Teacher'. The right column, titled 'Parent Spouse or Partner' (with 'optional' in italics), contains several input fields: 'First Name' (Alex), 'Last Name' (Teacher), 'Date of Birth' (Month: 05, Day: 06, Year: 1977), 'Social Security Number (SSN)' (987-12-4563 with a 'Hide' link), a checkbox for 'My parent doesn't have an SSN.', 'Email Address' (alex129@gmail.com), and 'Confirm Email Address' (alex129@gmail.com). A 'Send Invite' button is located at the bottom of the right column. At the bottom of the form are two buttons: 'Previous' and 'Continue'.

When you are ready to move to the next step click on “Continue.”

The next section is “Student Demographics.”

Student Demographics

We'll ask questions about you and your parent(s). Some of these questions will help determine how much federal student aid you may be eligible to receive for school.



[Previous](#) [Continue](#)

Click on “Continue.”

Personal Circumstances **Demographics** Financials Colleges Signature

Student Demographic Information

Questions Used for Research Purposes Only and Do Not Affect Federal Student Aid Eligibility

Your answers will not

- affect the student's eligibility for federal student aid,
- be used in any calculations, and
- be shared with the schools to which the student applies.

What is the student's gender?

Male

Female

Nonbinary or another gender

Prefer not to answer

[Previous](#) [Continue](#)

Answer the survey questions about your Gender. You can choose “Prefer not to answer.” Your response does **NOT** affect your federal student aid eligibility. Click on “Continue.”

Student Race and Ethnicity

Questions Used for Research Purposes Only and Do Not Affect Federal Student Aid Eligibility

Your answers will not

- affect the student's eligibility for federal student aid,
- be used in any calculations, and
- be shared with the schools to which the student applies.

Is the student of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?

Select all that apply.

<input type="checkbox"/>	No, not of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, Mexican, Mexican American, or Chicano
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, Puerto Rican
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, Cuban
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, another Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Prefer not to answer

Answer the survey questions about your Ethnicity and Race. You can choose “Prefer not to answer.” Your response does **NOT** affect your federal student aid eligibility. Click “Continue” to move on.

What is the student's race?

Select all that apply.

- White
- Black or African American
- Asian
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- Prefer not to answer

Previous Continue

Select a response for your current citizenship status.

1 Personal Circumstances 2 Demographics 3 Financials 4 Colleges 5 Signature

Student Citizenship Status

- U.S. citizen or national
- Eligible noncitizen
- Neither U.S. citizen nor eligible noncitizen

Previous Continue

Click on “Continue.”

Select a response for your parent’s educational status. Click on “Continue.”

The screenshot shows a progress bar at the top with five steps: 1. Personal Circumstances (checked), 2. Demographics (active), 3. Financials, 4. Colleges, and 5. Signature. The main heading is "Parent Education Status". Below it is the question: "Did either of the student's parents attend college or complete college?". There are four radio button options: "Neither parent attended college", "One or both parents attended college, but neither parent completed college", "One or both parents completed college", and "Don't know". The "Don't know" option is selected. A red box highlights the entire list of radio button options. At the bottom right, a blue "Continue" button is circled in red. A "Previous" button is visible at the bottom left.

Indicate if a parent was killed in the line of duty.

The screenshot shows the same progress bar as the previous form. The main heading is "Parent Killed in Line of Duty". Below it is the question: "Was the student's parent or guardian killed in the line of duty while either (1) serving on active duty as a member of the armed forces on or after the events of 9/11, or (2) performing official duties as a public safety officer?". A note below the question states: "Public safety officers include law enforcement officers, firefighters, and emergency service workers." There are two radio button options: "Yes" and "No". The "No" option is selected. A red box highlights the "Yes" and "No" radio button options. At the bottom right, a blue "Continue" button is circled in red. A "Previous" button is visible at the bottom left.

Click on “Continue.”

Indicate what your High School completion status will be for the upcoming 2024-2025 school year.

The screenshot shows a form with a progress bar at the top. The progress bar has five steps: 1. Personal Circumstances (checked), 2. Demographics (active), 3. Financials, 4. Colleges, and 5. Signature. Below the progress bar is the title 'Student High School Completion Status' and the question 'What will the student's high school completion status be at the beginning of the 2024-25 school year?'. There are four radio button options: 'High school diploma' (selected), 'State-recognized high school equivalent (e.g., GED certificate)', 'Homeschooled', and 'None of the above'. At the bottom left is a 'Previous' button, and at the bottom right is a 'Continue' button. A red box highlights the radio button options, and another red circle highlights the 'Continue' button.

Personal Circumstances Demographics Financials Colleges Signature

Student High School Completion Status

What will the student's high school completion status be at the beginning of the 2024-25 school year?

- High school diploma
- State-recognized high school equivalent (e.g., GED certificate)
- Homeschooled
- None of the above

Previous Continue

Click on “Continue.”

If you select anything other than “High school diploma,” skip to page 30 (Your Finances).

Enter the State, City, and name of your High School.

Personal Circumstances Demographics Financials Colleges Signature

Student High School Information

From what high school did or will the student graduate?

State
Illinois (IL) ×

City
Union ×

High School Name - optional
Connecticut Farms

Search

Then Click “Search.”

i To add a high school to this application, choose a school from the following list, and select “Continue.”

Search Results 1 to 1 of 1

SORT BY: MOST RELEVANT A-Z

Connecticut Farms
Union, IL

Is the student's school not listed? **Add school manually**

< Previous **1** Next >

Previous **Continue**

Once you have found your school in the search results, check the box, and click “Continue.” You can add your school manually if it does not appear in the search results.

The screenshot shows a progress bar at the top with five steps: 1. Personal Circumstances (checked), 2. Demographics (active), 3. Financials, 4. Colleges, and 5. Signature. Below the progress bar is the heading "Confirm Your High School" and a sub-heading "Verify that your high school information below is correct. Once you're ready, select 'Continue' and we'll add it to your FAFSA® form." The form fields are: High School Name (Connecticut Farms), City (Union), and State (Illinois (IL)). There is an "Edit" link with a pencil icon next to the High School Name field. At the bottom, there are two buttons: "Previous" and "Continue". The "Continue" button is circled in red.

Confirm your High School is correct then click “Continue.”

The screenshot shows the "Your Finances" section. It includes an illustration of a person in a teal hoodie holding a pen, with dollar signs and a line graph above them. The text reads: "The FAFSA® form helps determine your ability to pay for school. In this section, we ask about your financial information." Below this is a question: "What if you have special financial circumstances?" A yellow warning box contains a warning icon and the text: "The Student Will Be Ineligible for Federal Student Aid. If you proceed without providing consent and approval to using IRS information in this FAFSA® form, you will need to provide financial information manually and will not be eligible for federal student aid, including grants and loans." To the right of the warning box is a "Provide Consent" button. At the bottom, there are two buttons: "Previous" and "Continue". The "Continue" button is circled in red.

The next section will be “Your Finances.” Click on “Continue.”

If you are a Dependent Student for FAFSA skip to page 37. This section applies to Independent students.

Federal Benefits Received

Responses Don't Affect Federal Student Aid Eligibility
Your answers to these questions will not negatively affect the student's eligibility for federal student aid or these federal benefits.

At any time during 2022 or 2023, did the student or anyone in their family receive benefits from any of the following federal programs?
Select all that apply.

- Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)
- Federal Housing Assistance
- Free or Reduced Price School Lunch
- Medicaid
- Refundable Credit for Coverage Under a Qualified Health Plan (QHP)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
- None of these apply

[Previous](#) [Continue](#)

Check the boxes for any federal benefits received in 2022 or 2023. If you did not receive any benefits, select “None of these apply.” Then click “Continue.”

If you chose not to provide consent to the FTI you will need to manually input your tax information. If you consented to FTI skip to page 35.

The screenshot shows a multi-step form titled "Student Tax Filing Status". At the top, there is a progress bar with five steps: "Personal Circumstances", "Demographics", "Financials" (the current step, marked with a '3'), "Colleges", and "Signature". Below the progress bar, the title "Student Tax Filing Status" is displayed. The first question is "Did or will the student file a 2022 IRS Form 1040 or 1040-NR?". Below this question, there are two radio button options: "Yes" (which is selected) and "No". The second question is "Did or will the student file a 2022 joint tax return with their current spouse?". Below this question, there are two radio button options: "Yes" (which is selected) and "No". At the bottom of the form, there are two buttons: "Previous" on the left and "Continue" on the right. Red circles are drawn around the "Yes" radio buttons for both questions and the "Continue" button.

Enter your 2022 federal tax filing status.

Enter information about your family size.

Personal Circumstances Demographics **3 Financials** 4 Colleges 5 Signature

Family Size

Is the student's family size different from the number of individuals claimed on their 2022 tax return?

Family size includes: The student (and their spouse), other people, if they now live with the student and the student will provide more than half of their support between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025. This includes dependent children who meet these criteria, even if they live apart because of college enrollment.

Yes No

The student's family size is **2**
Student: 1 Student's Children and Other Dependents: 1

Enter the number of children or other dependents who live with the student and will receive more than half of their support from the student between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025.
Do not include the student applicant.

1

Previous **Continue**

If you select “Yes” you will need to enter a number for the additional dependents. Click on “Continue.”

From the total family size on the previous page enter in how many of them will be enrolled in college for the 2024-2025 academic year. You should enter at least “1” for yourself.

The screenshot shows a multi-step form. At the top, a progress bar indicates five steps: Personal Circumstances (checked), Demographics (checked), Financials (current step, marked with a '3'), Colleges (marked with a '4'), and Signature (marked with a '5'). Below the progress bar, the title 'Number in College' is displayed. The main question asks: 'How many people in the student's family, including the student, will be in college between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025?'. A red arrow points to the empty input field below the question. At the bottom, there are two buttons: 'Previous' on the left and 'Continue' on the right. The 'Continue' button is circled in red.

Click on “Continue.”

If you chose not to provide consent to the FTI skip to page 38. If you consented to FTI skip to page 41.

If you chose not to provide consent to the FTI you will need to manually input your tax information. If you consented to FTI skip to page 41.

The screenshot shows a web form with a progress bar at the top. The progress bar has five steps: 'Personal Circumstances' (checked), 'Demographics' (checked), 'Financials' (3, active), 'Colleges' (4), and 'Signature' (5). Below the progress bar is the title 'Student Tax Filing Status'. The main question is 'Did or will the student file a 2022 IRS Form 1040 or 1040-NR?'. There are two radio button options: 'Yes' (selected) and 'No'. At the bottom left is a 'Previous' button, and at the bottom right is a 'Continue' button. Red circles highlight the 'Yes' radio button and the 'Continue' button.

Enter your 2022 federal tax filing status.

If you chose not to provide consent to the FTI you will need to manually input your tax information. If you consented to FTI skip to page 41.

Personal Circumstances Demographics Financials Colleges Signature

Student 2022 Tax Return Information

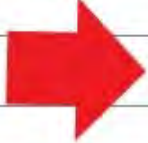
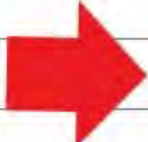
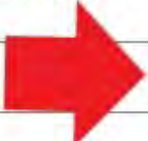
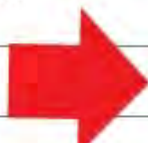
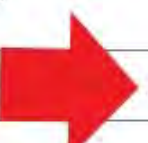

Refer to the student's 2022 tax return to answer the following questions.
Convert all currency to U.S. dollars.

Where to find this information on the tax form

Filing Status

- Single
- Head of household
- Married filing jointly
- Married filing separately
- Qualifying surviving spouse

Enter any relevant information from your 2022 Federal Tax Return. If any responses are zero you must type “0” in the appropriate field.

Income Earned From Work		
\$		5,000 .00
Tax Exempt Interest Income		
\$		0 .00
Untaxed Portions of IRA Distributions		
\$		0 .00
Untaxed Portions of Pensions		
\$		0 .00
Adjusted Gross Income		
\$		25,000 .00
Income Tax Paid		
\$		100 .00

Make sure to complete all responses.

Depending on your responses you may be required to answer additional tax questions not shown in this guide.

Did the student receive the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)?

Yes No

Don't know

IRA Deductions and Payments to Self-Employed SEP, SIMPLE, and Qualified Plans

\$.00

Education Credits (American Opportunity tax credit and Lifetime Learning tax credit)

\$.00

Did the student file a Schedule A, B, D, E, F, or H with their 2022 IRS Form 1040?

Yes No

Don't know

Net Profit or Loss From IRS Form 1040 Schedule C

\$.00

Amount of College Grants, Scholarships, or AmeriCorps Benefits Reported as Income to the IRS (optional)

The student paid taxes on these grants, scholarships, or benefits. These usually apply to those renewing their FAFSA® form, not to first-time applicants.

\$.00

Foreign Earned Income Exclusion

\$.00

[Previous](#) [Continue](#)

Click on “Continue” and then skip to page 42.

Enter any relevant information from your 2022 Federal Tax Return. If any responses are zero you must type “0” in the appropriate field before clicking “Continue” to move on.

Student 2022 Tax Return Information

Refer to the student's 2022 tax return to answer the following questions.

Convert all currency to U.S. dollars.

IRA rollover into another IRA or qualified plan

\$.00

Pension rollover into an IRA or other qualified plan

\$.00

Amount of College Grants, Scholarships, or AmeriCorps Benefits Reported as Income to the IRS (optional)

The student paid taxes on these grants, scholarships, or benefits. These usually apply to those renewing their FAFSA® form, not to first-time applicants.

\$.00

Foreign Earned Income Exclusion

\$.00

Previous

Continue

If you have any children, enter information about any child support you received for them. Enter information about your current assets. Do **NOT** list the value of your primary home in question 3. If any responses are zero you must type “0” in the appropriate field.

Annual Child Support Received
Enter the total amount of child support the student received for the last complete calendar year.

\$.00

Student Assets

Current Total of Cash, Savings, and Checking Accounts
Don't include student financial aid.

\$.00

Current Net Worth of Investments, Including Real Estate
Don't include the home the student lives in. Net worth is the value of the investments minus any debts owed against them.

\$.00

Current Net Worth of Businesses and Investment Farms
Enter the net worth of the student's businesses or for-profit agricultural operations. Net worth is the value of the businesses or farms minus any debts owed against them.

\$.00

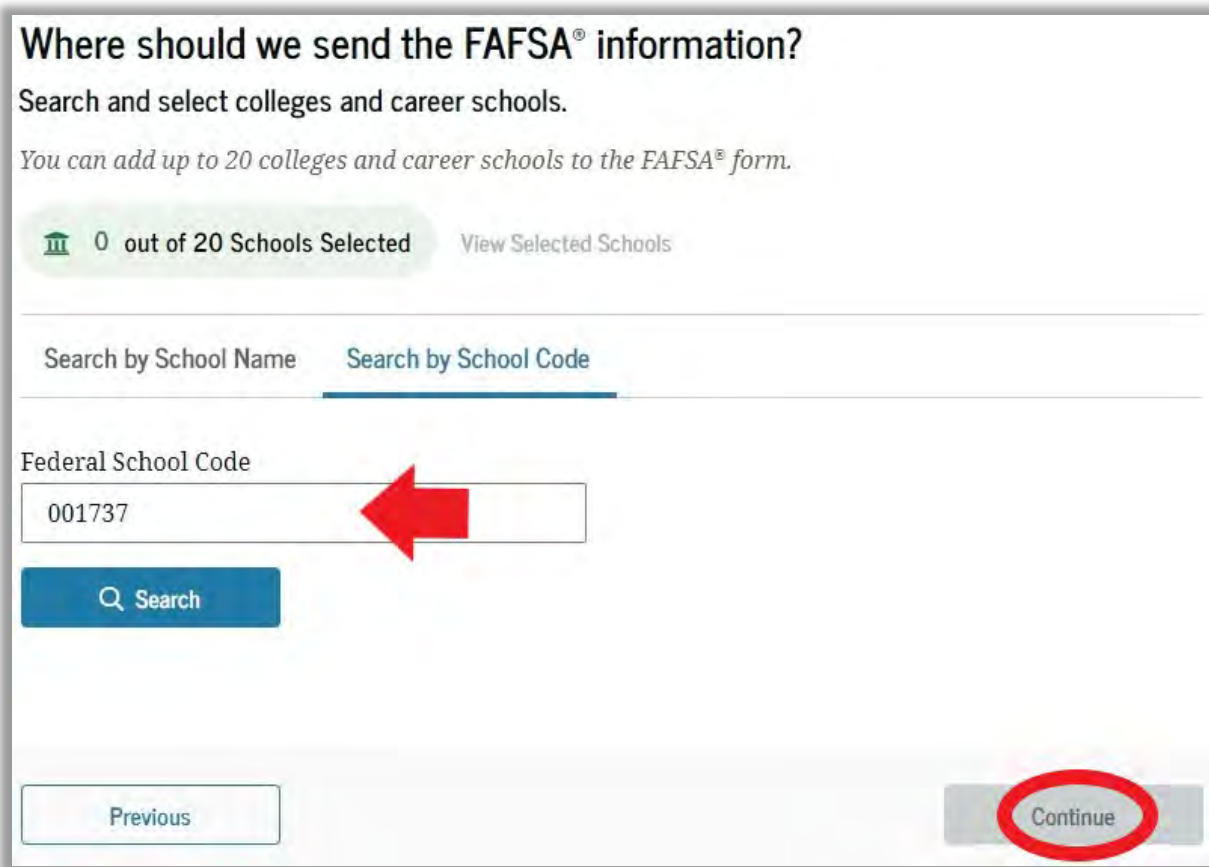
[Previous](#) [Continue](#)

Click “Continue” to move on.

In the next section you will select the college you want to receive your FAFSA.



Click on “Continue.”



Enter in the information for the college(s) the student wants to receive their FAFSA information. If you know the school code you can enter it, otherwise you will have to search. NIU's School code is 001737. The student can list up to 20 schools at a time. The student can also correct the FAFSA at a later date if they want to add or change a school.

Search

1 out of 10 schools selected.

Search Results 1 to 2 of 2 SORT BY: Best Match A-Z

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Northern Illinois University Federal School Code: 001737 Dekalb, IL View College Info
<input type="checkbox"/>	Debutantes School of Cosmetology and Nai Federal School Code: 042299 Dekalb, IL View College Info

< Previous 1 Next >

Previous Continue

Check the box next to the schools you want to receive your FAFSA to and then click “Continue.”

Review the information to ensure it is true and accurate. Click on “Continue.”

Take a Moment To Review Before Signing

Expand the sections below to review and edit the information you've entered before you sign your portion of the form.



Student Sections Expand All ▾

- Introduction
Personal Identifiers ⌵
- Section 1
Personal Circumstances ⌵
- Section 2
Demographics ⌵
- Section 3
Financials ⌵
- Section 4
Colleges ⌵
- Section 5
Signature ⌵

Personal Circumstances ✓ Demographics ✓ Financials ✓ Colleges ✓ **5** Signature

Sign and Submit the FAFSA Form

Summary

This page confirms that you understand the terms and conditions of the FAFSA® form and filled out the form accurately to the best of your ability.

The FAFSA form is a legal document you will electronically sign with your account username and password (FSA ID). Because your FSA ID is associated with your personal information, do not share it with anyone.

By signing this application electronically using your account username and password, you certify that all of the information you provided is true and complete to the best of your knowledge and you agree, if asked, to provide

- information that will verify the accuracy of your completed form, and
- U.S. or foreign income tax forms that you filed or are required to file.

You also certify that you understand that the secretary of education has the authority to verify information reported on your application.

If you sign this application or any document related to the federal student aid programs electronically using a username and password, and/or any other credential, you certify that you are the person identified by the username and password, and/or any other credential and have not disclosed that username and password, and/or any other credential to anyone else. If you purposefully give false or misleading information, including applying as an independent student without meeting the unusual circumstances required to qualify for such a status, you may be subject to criminal penalties under 20 U.S.C. 1097, which may include a fine up to \$20,000, imprisonment, or both.

Sign Your FAFSA Form

, agree to the terms outlined above.

Cancel **Sign and Submit**




Read the information, check the “Agree” box, and then click “Sign.”

If you are Independent and no other information is needed, you should see the following confirmation screen when done.



Print out the page or write down the Data Release Number (DRN.) You may need to provide it to a school at a later date.

What Happens Next

-  **Check Your Email**
You will receive an email version of this confirmation page at the following email address:
-  **Receive Notification of Processing**
After January 2024, in one to three days, you will receive a notification by email that your FAFSA form was processed and sent to your schools.
-  **You Will Receive School Communications**
We use the information collected on your FAFSA form to calculate your Student Aid Index (SAI). The SAI lets schools determine the aid you're eligible to receive. Your schools will reach out to you if they need more information. They will also contact you with your financial aid offers. Once received, you can contact their financial aid offices directly to ask questions about their student aid packages.

Track and Manage Your FAFSA® Form [View Status](#)

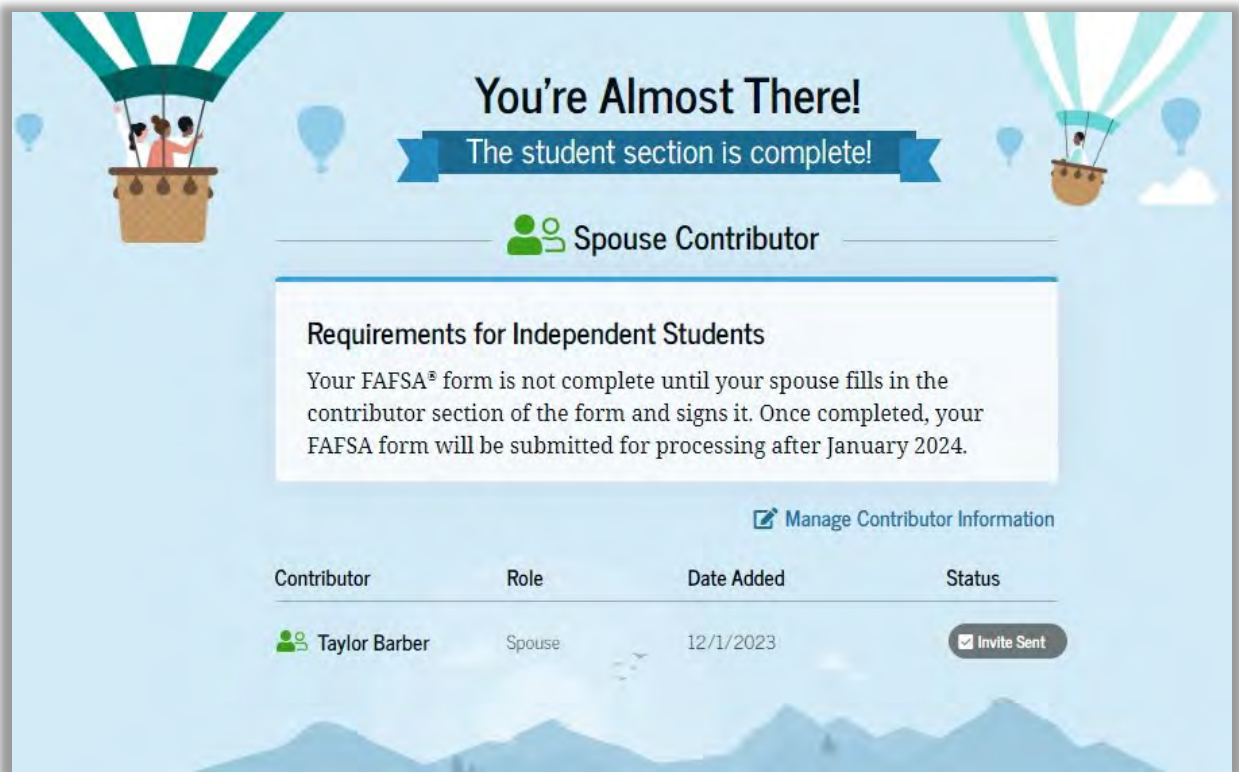
You can check the status of your application in the "My Activity" section of your StudentAid.gov account. We will let you know if we need anything more from you.

If you are Provisionally Independent and no contributor information is needed, you should see the following confirmation screen when done.



Print out the page or write down the Data Release Number (DRN.) You may need to provide it to a school at a later date.

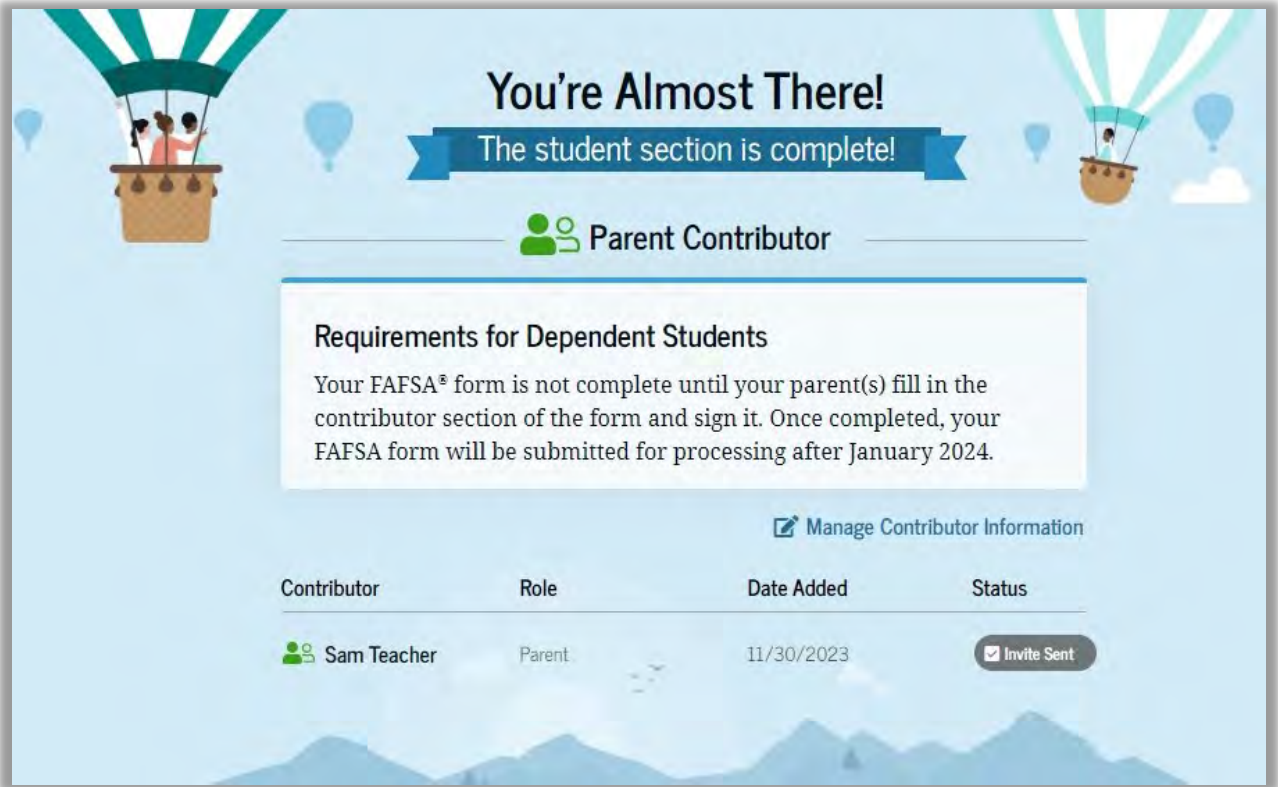
If you are Independent and your spouse or partner needs to submit their information, you should see the following confirmation screen when done.



Your spouse can find a guide for their section here: https://www.niu.edu/financial-aid/_pdf/tutorials/2425-fafsa-guide-spouse1.pdf

An incomplete FAFSA will be deleted after 45 days of inactivity by the US Department of Education. The student and all contributors will have to start over from the beginning.

If you are Dependent and your parent(s) needs to submit their information, you should see the following confirmation screen when done.



Your parent can find a guide for their section here: https://www.niu.edu/financial-aid/_pdf/2425-fafsa-guide-parent1.pdf

An incomplete FAFSA will be deleted after 45 days of inactivity by the US Department of Education. The student and all contributors will have to start over from the beginning.