

FAFSA on the Web: Q & A

What is FAFSA on the Web?

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on the Web is an Internet-based version of the paper FAFSA. The federal government uses this form to determine your eligibility for aid, which includes grants, scholarships, work-study and loans.

How do I fill it out?

Visit www.fafsa.ed.gov and click "Before Beginning a FAFSA" to get started.

If you want a paper copy to use as a guide, use the pre-application worksheet, not a paper FAFSA. To download a copy, click "Print a Pre-Application Worksheet."

Also, **print a completed FAFSA** for your records! Click "Print" before you click the "Submit" button at the end of your FAFSA.

Can I save my FAFSA on the Web?

- Yes! To do so, you must remember the password that you entered at the beginning of your application. If you forget it, you cannot look it up. You will have to start your FAFSA over.

- To save your FAFSA application online, click the "Save" button at the bottom of each step. Your info will be saved for 45 days.

What are the benefits of FAFSA on the Web?

By completing the FAFSA on the Web, you can:

- Allow the federal processor to do a "final check" of your information and alert you of any mistakes.
- Speed up the FAFSA process. Receive your SAR in 1-2 weeks (or 3-5 days if you include an e-mail address) vs. 4-6 weeks if you fill out the paper version.
- Cut down on postal service problems or delays

Important Sites:

FAFSA on the Web:
www.fafsa.ed.gov

Pre-Application Worksheet:
www.fafsa.ed.gov
Click "Before Beginning a FAFSA"

More about your PIN:
www.pin.ed.gov

Federal School Code Search:
www.fafsa.ed.gov
Click "Find my school codes"

What else should I know?

* *Whether you complete a paper or electronic FAFSA, you will be required to provide your signature (and parent's signature if you are a dependent student).* There are three different ways to do this:

1. Use your 4-digit PIN (read more on the PIN below) issued by the U.S. Department of Education to electronically sign your FAFSA. (Your parents will also need their own PINs to electronically sign your FAFSA.)
2. Print the signature page, get the required signatures and mail the form to the address listed on your signature page.
3. The third option is the slowest and is not recommended. Wait until you receive your Student Aid Report (SAR), get the required signature(s) and return it via the U.S. Postal Service using certified mail.

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What is a PIN?

The Personal Identification Number (PIN) is the code that the U.S. Department of Education uses to identify you online. A PIN allows you to:

- Electronically sign your FAFSA to speed up the process
- Check the status of your electronic FAFSA
- Make corrections to your personal information online

* **Keep your PIN private, as it allows you (or someone else) to electronically sign federal documents and access confidential information.**

How do I get a PIN?

Students and parents who are eligible to receive a PIN can visit www.pin.ed.gov and click on "Apply for PIN" at the bottom of the page. You can choose to receive your PIN via e-mail or regular mail. You will need to submit your name, date of birth and Social Security number. It takes about three business days to receive your PIN electronically.

Questions about FAFSA on the Web or your PIN? Call 800-4-FED-AID.