



Questions frequently asked by parents and students.

<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/>

## **Where does my FAFSA® information go once I submit it?**

Your FAFSA information is shared with the colleges or career schools you listed on your form, and with state higher education agencies. Here's why:

- The financial aid office at each school to which you applied for admission uses your FAFSA information to determine how much federal student aid you may receive at that school.
- If the school provides its own funds to students as nonfederal aid, it might use your FAFSA information to determine your eligibility for that aid. (You might need to fill out other forms to apply for aid there, so check with the school's financial aid office).
- All North Carolina students who complete the FAFSA and list a North Carolina college or university are automatically considered for North Carolina's state grants. Completing the FAFSA early is suggested, as state funds are limited.

## **Can I find out how much I'll get before I apply?**

If you're not ready to apply for federal student aid, but would like to estimate your aid, visit [StudentAid.gov/fafsa/estimate](https://StudentAid.gov/fafsa/estimate) to learn about and use FAFSA4caster, an early eligibility estimator.

## **Do I need to apply for financial aid every year?**

Yes, you must reapply for aid every year that you are in a college/university. Remember, the FAFSA is available for completion every year on October 1. Example: On October 1, 2019 for the 2020-2021 academic year, the FAFSA covers Fall of 2020 and Spring of 2021.

## **If I complete a FAFSA® am I obligated to pay student expenses?**

No, the information reported on the FAFSA is only used to determine a student's eligibility for financial aid. By completing the FAFSA parents are not obligated to pay their student's expenses. And, if they don't complete it their dependent student is only eligible for unsubsidized loans from Federal Student Aid.

## **If I am selected for verification, does that mean I have done something wrong?**

No, verification does not mean the parent/student is in trouble. Provide the financial aid office with requested info by the school's deadline. Have students and parents prepare for possible verification even before selection by making sure they have any letters and/or court documents to prove dependency/residency/family status and/or IRS tax transcripts from [irs.gov/transcript](https://irs.gov/transcript) or a signed copy of income tax return if unable to use Internal Revenue Service Data Retrieval Tool (DRT).