



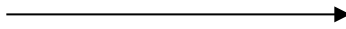
## **What is a StudentAid.gov Account – also called an FSA ID?**

The **studentaid.gov account or Federal Student Aid ID (FSA ID)** is a unique username and password you create and use to log into studentaid.gov to fill out the FAFSA form, and more.

**FAFSA** stands for **Free Application for Federal Student Aid**. This form is always FREE to complete. Colleges and universities use the FAFSA information to determine what gift aid (grants and scholarships) and federal loans a student is eligible for. If a student does not fill out the FAFSA, they will not be offered any federal financial aid and may experience delays with institutional aid. **Both the student and parent(s) will need to create a unique StudentAid.gov account to complete the FAFSA; this is the first step.**

## **How to Create Your StudentAid.gov Account/FSA ID**

Start by going to [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov).



Scan to Start

1. From the homepage, click **“Create Account”**.

If using a mobile device, click on the menu at the top right to choose **“Create Account.”**

2. On the next screen click **“Get Started”**.
3. Type in your full legal name, date of birth, and social security number\*, then click **“Continue.”**

\*No social security number? No problem! Federal Student Aid will offer you an alternative way to verify your identity.

4. On the next page, create your unique username, password, and enter your PERSONAL\*\* email.

\*\*It is especially important for students to use a personal email, NOT their school email address, as The FAFSA and federal loan information will need to be accessed for years to come.

5. On the following page, enter your home address and cell phone number, then click **“Continue”**.
6. On the Communications Preferences Page, select if you prefer email or postal mail notifications – *email is recommended*.
7. On the next page, set your challenge questions and answers, then click **“Continue”**.
8. On the two-step verification page, verify your email and cell phone number by clicking **“Verify”** and enter the unique code that will be sent to you. Click **“Continue”**.
9. On the next page, a backup code will appear. Please save this for security if you ever get locked out of your account. Then, click **“Continue”**.

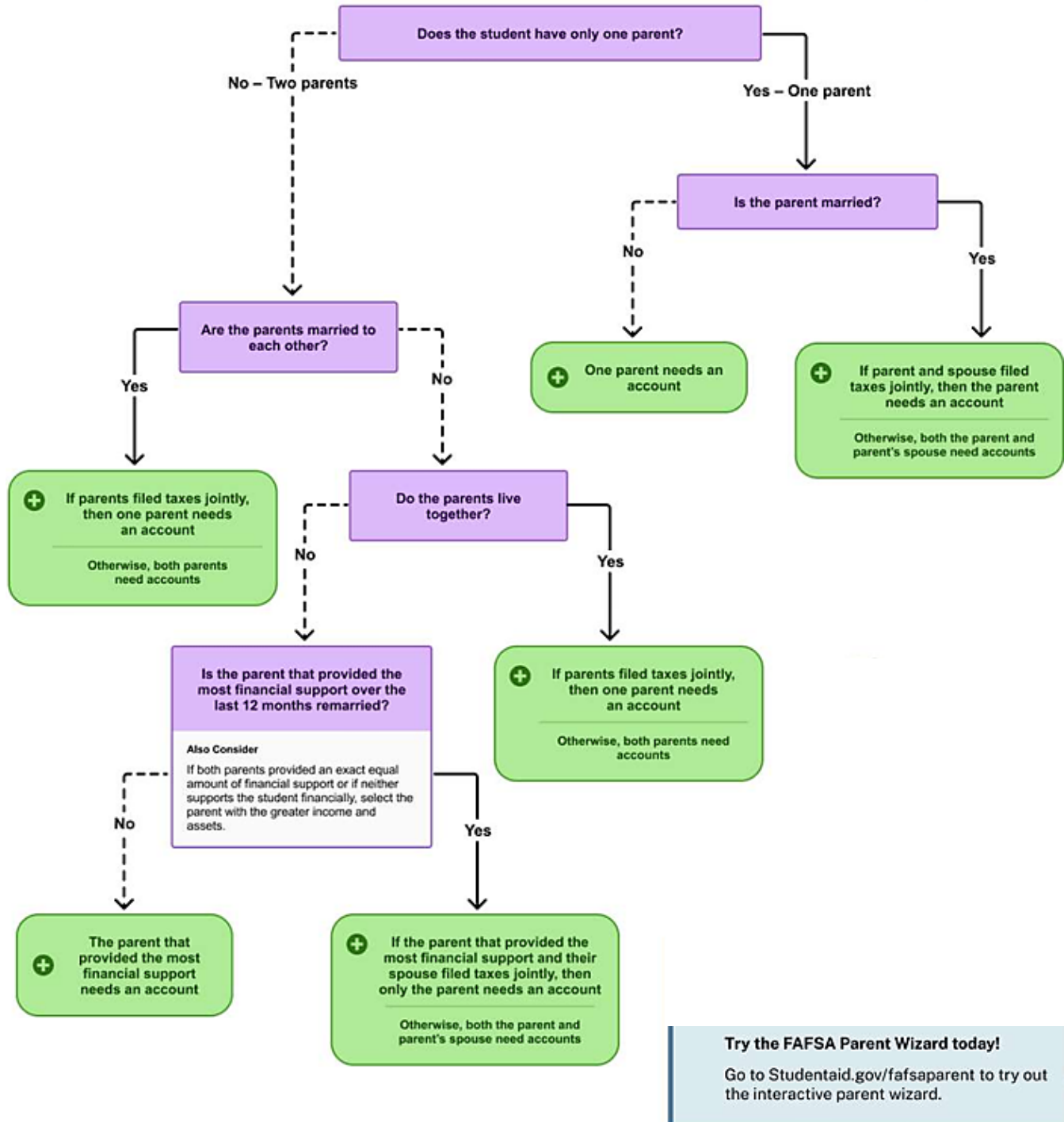


## Congratulations! You have successfully created your account.

A confirmation message will be sent to your email shortly.

**Make sure to repeat these steps for BOTH the student and parent(s).**

To determine who needs to create a StudentAid.Gov Account, refer to the chart below:



Source: FSA. Effective August 2025

Explore events and opportunities for one-on-one assistance at [vsac.org/events](https://vsac.org/events).