



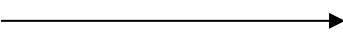
## What is a StudentAid.gov Account?

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

The **FAFSA** stands for **Free Application for Federal Student Aid**. This form is always FREE to complete. Colleges, universities, and many training programs use the FAFSA information to determine what gift aid (grants and scholarships) 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. **The student and contributor(s) will each need to create a unique StudentAid.gov account to complete the FAFSA\*.**

## How to Create Your StudentAid.gov Account

**\*To allow time for your account to be verified, you must create it one week prior to filling out the FAFSA.**

1. Start by going to [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov). 
2. From the homepage, click "**Create Account**".
3. On the next screen click "**Get Started**".
4. Type in your **full legal name, date of birth, and social security number\***, then click "Continue".
  - a. \*No social security number? You will be offered an alternative way to verify your identity.
5. On the next page, create your **unique username, password**, and enter your **PERSONAL\* email**.
  - a. \*It is especially important for students to use a **personal email**, NOT school email address, as this account will need to be accessed in years to come.
6. On the following page, enter your **home address and cell phone number**, then click "Continue".
7. On the Communications Preferences Page, select if you prefer **email or postal mail** notifications – *email is recommended*.
8. On the next page, set your **challenge questions and answers**, then click "Continue".
9. 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".
10. 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".











Scan to Start

# Congratulations!

## You have successfully created your StudentAid.gov account.

A confirmation message will be sent to your email shortly.

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

Are your biological or adoptive parents married to each other?	Do your biological or adoptive parents live together?	Did one parent provide more financial support than the other over the past 12 months?
<div style="text-align: center;">  <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;">✘</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">  <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;">✘</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">  </div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">  </div> <p style="font-size: 0.9em;">Your parents' marital status is married (not separated), and both of your parents' information must be included on the FAFSA® form. If your parents did not file taxes jointly, then both of your parents are contributors. Their individual information, consent and approval, and signatures will be required on the FAFSA form. If your parents filed taxes jointly, only one parent is required as a contributor and will report information for both parents.</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin-top: 20px;"><i>Note: Dependent students are required to report parent information on the FAFSA® form, and in most cases, a parent will be identified as a contributor for these students. All contributors are required to provide their information, signature, and consent and approval to have their federal tax information transferred directly from the IRS into the FAFSA form. Being a contributor on the FAFSA form does not mean an obligation to pay for the student's education.</i></p>	<div style="text-align: center;">  <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;">✘</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">  </div> <p style="font-size: 0.9em;">Your parents' marital status is unmarried (both legal parents living together), and both of your parents are contributors, even if they were never married, are divorced, or are separated. Their individual information, consent and approval, and signatures will be required on the FAFSA® form.</p>	<div style="text-align: center; margin-bottom: 10px;">  </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center; width: 45%;"> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: green; margin: 0;">✔</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">The individual information, consent and approval, and signature of the parent who provided more financial support over the past 12 months will be required on the FAFSA® form, and this parent will be identified as a contributor.</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center; width: 45%;"> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;">✘</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">The individual information, consent and approval, and signature of the parent who has the greater income or assets will be required on the FAFSA® form, and this parent will be identified as a contributor.</p> </div> </div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;">  <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.9em;">Has this parent married/remarried?</p> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="text-align: center; width: 45%;"> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: green; margin: 0;">✔</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Your parent's marital status is married/remarried. Your stepparent will also be identified as a contributor on the FAFSA® form if they didn't file their taxes jointly with your parent.</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center; width: 45%;"> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;">✘</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Your parent's marital status is single (never married), separated, divorced, or widowed. An additional parent will not be identified as contributor.</p> </div> </div>

Source: FSA, Effective September 2023

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