2027 2028 | FAFSA CHECKLIST

Completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) might seem overwhelming, but MI Student Aid is here to help! We're sharing everything you need to fill out your FAFSA. Good news: The new form is easier than ever. Most students and families complete it in less than 30 minutes

The FAFSA unlocks access to loans, work-study programs, grants and scholarships — like the Michigan Achievement Scholarship, which offers tuition-free community college, up to $27,500 at a university or up to $2,000 for career training. Organizing all your information in advance will make filling out the form much easier. When you're ready, head to **FAFSA.GOV** to complete the FAFSA. The sooner you do, the more money you could get!

GATHER THIS INFO BEFORE YOU BEGIN:

REQUIRED STUDENT & PARENT/CONTRIBUTOR INFORMATION

Additional Contributors may include the student's adoptive parents, stepparents or spouse.

☐ StudentAid.gov accounts and passwords	Create StudentAid.gov accounts (both student and parent).
☐ Email addresses	Student: Parent: Additional Contributor:
☐ Social Security numbers	Personal records or call the Social Security Administration at 800-772-1213
☐ Dates of birth	Student: Parent: Additional Contributor:
☐ Checking and savings account balances	Student: $ Parent: $ Additional Contributor: $
☐ 2025 federal income tax forms and W-2s* *You may need 2025 federal income tax forms and W-2s if you changed your marital status since you filed your 2025 taxes or have unique tax circumstances	Personal records or visit irs.gov/transcript
☐ Investments (e.g., stocks, bonds, mutual funds, 529 plans, rental properties), excluding home and retirement	Student: $ Parent: $ Additional Contributor: $
☐ Current net worth of businesses and farms* *Do not include a family business with 100 or fewer full-time employees, farms where the family resides, or a commercial fishing business and related expenses.	$ or contact your accountant
☐ Child support received from the *last* complete calendar year	$ or contact MiChildSupport at 877-543-2660 or micase.state.mi.us
☐ Alien Registration Number/USCIS Number of eligible noncitizens* *Student only	Contact U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services at uscis.gov

DON'T MISS OUT ON FREE MONEY FOR COLLEGE!

Fill out your **FAFSA!**

FAFSA.gov

MI Student Aid | MiLEAP Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential

FAFSA FAQ

WHAT'S THE FIRST STEP IN COMPLETING THE FAFSA?

The first step is creating StudentAid.gov accounts. When a new form is started on FAFSA.GOV, prompts to create a StudentAid.gov account will appear to begin the login process. StudentAid.gov accounts are needed for both the student and their parent/contributor before they can complete the FAFSA.

DO I NEED TO INCLUDE PARENT INFORMATION ON MY FAFSA?

Dependents need to include parental information on the FAFSA. Independent students do not. Students are considered *independent* if they:

- Were born before Jan. 1, 2004.
- Are married.
- Will be working on a master's or doctorate program at the beginning of the 2027-28 school year.
- Are a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces or currently serving on active duty.
- Have children or other dependents who live with them who will receive more than half of their support from the student through June 30, 2028.
- Were a dependent or ward of the court or in foster care, or if both of their parents were deceased anytime since they turned 13.
- Are or were an emancipated minor.[1]
- Are under the legal guardianship of someone other than their parent or stepparent.[1]
- Were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or self-supporting and at risk of being homeless anytime on or after July 1, 2026.[2]

IF I SUBMIT MY FAFSA, AM I MAKING A COMMITMENT TO RECEIVE AID?

No. Filling out the FAFSA doesn't lock you into anything. It just shows you what funding is possible.

IS THERE A DEADLINE FOR COMPLETING THE FAFSA?

While the FAFSA may be completed anytime before or during the school year the student is requesting funding for, applying early is encouraged because some aid sources are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

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1. As determined by a court in your state of legal residence.

2. As determined by the high school or school district homeless liaison, the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program or the director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.