



FAFSA Completion Toolkit

Early FAFSA and Prior-Prior Year

Resource	Description	Source
<u>Changes Impacting the 2017-18 FAFSA</u>	Two page overview about the FAFSA, the changes for 2017-18, and frequently asked questions.	U.S. Department of Education
<u>Changes to the 2017-2018 FAFSA</u>	The National Association for College Admission Counseling has provided a web page filled with resources to help counselors understand the 2017-18 FAFSA changes. The web page includes videos, fact sheets, and frequently asked questions.	NACAC
<u>College Students and Parents: What You Need to Know About the 2017-18 FAFSA</u>	Two page overview about what's changing, how the changes will benefit students, and frequently asked questions.	U.S. Department of Education
<u>Early FAFSA FAQ</u>	These Frequently Asked Questions provide information and guidance pertaining to the 2017-2018 Early FAFSA. This webpage will continue to be updated periodically and will include the date of the update.	Federal Student Aid
<u>Early FAFSA</u>	This video quickly addresses the Early FAFSA changes and why these changes are helpful to students.	NASFAA
<u>Prior-Prior Year: What You need to Know College Counselors</u>	One pager outlining what is Prior-Prior Year, the changes ahead and how counselors can help plan their communication strategy.	NACAC

FSA ID

Resource	Description	Source
<u>Frustrations with the FAFSA's FSA ID</u>	This article addresses the most common problems and solutions involving the FSA ID.	Cappex
<u>FSA ID Information Sheet</u>	This form can be completed by the student in advance to help gather the necessary information to successfully complete the FAFSA.	Access College Foundation
<u>FSA ID Information Tracking Sheet</u>	This form can be completed by the student in advance to help gather the necessary information to successfully create your FSA ID.	Finance Authority of Maine

How to Create an FSA ID (video)	The first step to applying for federal student aid is completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (or the FAFSA®). Before you fill out your FAFSA, watch this video to learn how to create an FSA ID – a username and password – that replaced the Federal Student Aid PIN.	Federal Student Aid
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Filing the FAFSA

Resource	Description	Source
2017-2018 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) English Spanish	Sample PDF versions of the FAFSA are provided as a resources that can be used as a training tool or for financial aid presentations. These versions contain a “DO NOT SUBMIT” watermark and should not be submitted by students for processing.	Federal Student Aid
2017-2018 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on the Web Worksheet English Spanish	The 2017-18 <i>FAFSA on the Web</i> Worksheet provides a preview of questions that students and parents may be asked while completing the FAFSA at www.fafsa.gov . It is not the financial aid application, nor is it part of the application. It is simply an optional tool to help students complete <i>FAFSA on the Web</i> (FOTW), and should not be submitted to Federal Student Aid.	Federal Student Aid
Completing the FAFSA Checklist	This one pager walks you through the steps for completing the FAFSA.	NCAN
What Data do Applicants Provide on the FAFSA?	This document outlines which data elements will likely be affected by the change to prior-prior year income on the 2017-18 FAFSA, to the best of NASFAA’s knowledge.	National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators
Combining 1040 and 1040a Incomes for Newly Married Parents	This worksheet is for parents and stepparents who filed as single or head of household in 2015, with one filing a 1040 and one filing a 1040a, but are now required to report as married parents for the 2017-18 FAFSA.	College Access Fairfax
Combining 1040 Income for Newly Married Parents	This worksheet is for parents and stepparents who filed as single or head of household in 2015, but who are now required to report as married parents for the 2017-18 FAFSA.	College Access Fairfax
Combining 1040a and 1040a Incomes for Newly Married Parents	This worksheet is for parents and stepparents who filed as single or head of household in 2015, where both filed an individual 1040a, but who are now required to report as married parents for the 2017-18 FAFSA.	College Access Fairfax
Individual AGI and Taxes Paid From a Joint IRS 1040 Return	This worksheet is for custodial parents who file married jointly on their 2015 1040 IRS tax return and who are now divorced, widowed, or who have subsequently remarried.	College Access Fairfax

<u>Individual AGI and Taxes Paid From a Joint IRS 1040a Return</u>	<p>This worksheet is for custodial parents who file married jointly on their 2015 1040a IRS tax return and who are now divorced, widowed, or who have subsequently remarried.</p>	<p>College Access Fairfax</p>
<u>Marital Status Change Filing Information</u>	<p>This worksheet outlines how to file the FAFSA with a change in filing status.</p>	<p>College Access Fairfax</p>
<p>Dependent or Independent Student Tip Sheet</p> <u>English Spanish</u>	<p>One pager sharing the 13 questions on the 2017-18 FAFSA that determine whether the applicant is considered to be a dependent or independent student.</p>	<p>Edvisors</p>
<p>Dependent or Independent Student Chart Tip Sheet</p> <u>English Spanish</u>	<p>A flow chart of the 13 questions on the 2017-18 FAFSA that determine whether the applicant is considered to be a dependent or independent student.</p>	<p>Edvisors</p>
<p>Eligibility for Student Financial Aid Tip Sheet</p> <u>English Spanish</u>	<p>One pager outlining basic eligibility requirements, application requirements, requirements concerning previous aid funds, program-specific requirements, maintaining aid eligibility, and limitations on aid for incarcerated students.</p>	<p>Edvisors</p>
<u>Errors to Avoid in Filing the FAFSA Tip Sheet</u>	<p>Two page overview about errors to avoid while filing the FAFSA including general errors, data match errors, errors that may affect aid eligibility, and errors involving unusual circumstances, prior education, dependency status, household size and number in college, marital status, taxes, income and assets.</p>	<p>Edvisors</p>
<p>Introduction to the FAFSA Tip Sheet</p> <u>English Spanish</u>	<p>Two page overview with basic tips like what is the FAFSA?, where to apply online, FAFSA details, special process for students under age 13, FSA ID/Password, and reviews documents needed to successfully complete the FAFSA.</p>	<p>Edvisors</p>
<p>Top 12 FAFSA Errors to Avoid Tip Sheet</p> <u>English Spanish</u>	<p>One pager outlining the top 12 FAFSA errors to avoid.</p>	<p>Edvisors</p>
<p>Who is Considered a Parent on the FAFSA?</p> <u>English Spanish</u>	<p>A flow chart helping students and parents understand who is considered a parent on the FAFSA.</p>	<p>Edvisors</p>
<u>FAFSA Completion Tool by High School and Public School District</u>	<p>A data look-up tool to track the number of FAFSA submissions and completions by high school and by public school district. District completion rates are available for the 2015-16 cycle and to date for the 2016-17. The completion rates are also displayed as color-coded maps by state.</p>	<p>Federal Student Aid</p>

<u>Who Is My “Parent” When I Fill Out the FAFSA?</u>	One pager outlining which parent’s information should be reported, how to ease worries about sharing private information, what to do if the student doesn’t live with their parents, and what to do if parents refuse to provide information or if the student does not have contact with their parents.	U.S. Department of Education
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California Dream Act

Resource	Description	Source
<u>CA Dream Act Application</u>	Link to application site.	CSAC
<u>CA Dream ACT FAQ</u>	Answers to the most common questions from parents and students.	CSAC
<u>Step-by-Step for Dreamers</u>	This step-by-step description helps dreamer students understand what their financial aid process looks like.	Educators for Fair Consideration

Revised College Planning Timelines

Resource	Description	Source
<u>Junior Year - Advisor Timeline</u>	A college planning timeline for college access advisors to use during the junior year.	NCAN
<u>Junior Year – Counselor Timeline</u>	A college planning timeline for counselors to use during the junior year.	NCAN
<u>Junior Year – Student Timeline</u>	A college planning timeline for students to use during their junior year.	NCAN
<u>Senior Year – Advisor Timeline</u>	A college planning timeline for college access advisors to use during the senior year.	NCAN
<u>Senior Year – Counselor Timeline</u>	A college planning timeline for counselors to use during the senior year.	NCAN
<u>Senior Year – Student Timeline</u>	A college planning timeline for students to use during their senior year.	NCAN

General FAFSA Resources

Resource	Description	Source
<u>2017-18 Counselors and Mentors Handbook on Federal Student Aid</u>	A guide for those advising students about financial aid for higher education.	U.S. Department of Education

<p><u>2017-18 FAFSA on the Web Preview Presentation</u></p>	<p>To assist the community with the 2017-2018 <i>Free Application for Federal Student Aid</i> (FAFSA) processing cycle, FSA is pleased to provide the following Microsoft PowerPoint presentation containing information and screen shots pertaining to the 2017-18 <i>FAFSA on the Web</i> (FOTW) site.</p> <p>The purpose of the 2017-18 presentation is to provide financial aid administrators, mentors and counselors with screen shots that can be used as a reference tool for the 2017-18 FOTW site. Use this information for internal staff training or for high school night presentations.</p>	<p>Federal Student Aid – An Office of the U.S. Department of Education</p>
<p><u>College Scorecard</u></p>	<p>U.S. Education Department website where students can search and compare colleges based on programs/degrees, location, size, name and much more.</p>	<p>U.S. Department of Education</p>
<p>Evaluating College Costs and Student Financial Aid Tip Sheet</p> <p><u>English</u> <u>Spanish</u></p>	<p>Two page overview explaining the purpose of financial aid, the flaws with financial aid formulas, and the role of gift aid. Also outlines how to understand the true college costs with the net price, how to calculate net price, and the flows in net price calculators. Included are ten questions to ask the financial aid administrator.</p>	<p>Edvisors</p>
<p>Factors that Affect the Expected Family Contribution</p> <p><u>English</u> <u>Spanish</u></p>	<p>One pager outlining the impact of income and assets on federal student aid for dependent students and special treatment of 529 college savings plans on the FAFSA.</p>	<p>Edvisors</p>
<p>FAFSA vs CSS Profile Tip Sheet</p> <p><u>English</u> <u>Spanish</u></p>	<p>Table chart comparing the financial aid formula used by the FAFSA vs the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE.</p>	<p>Edvisors</p>
<p><u>Federal Student Aid Resources for the 2017-18 FAFSA</u></p>	<p>A compilation of the available Federal Student Aid resources that can be used to support outreach efforts for the 2017-18 FAFSA.</p>	<p>U.S. Department of Education</p>
<p><u>Federal Student Aid ID Tip Sheet</u></p>	<p>One pager outlining seven important reminders about the Federal Student Aid ID.</p>	<p>Edvisors</p>
<p>Glossary of Financial Aid Terms</p> <p><u>English</u> <u>Spanish</u></p>	<p>One pager with key terms and definitions related to financial aid applications.</p>	<p>Edvisors</p>
<p>How to Appeal for More Financial Aid Tip Sheet</p> <p><u>English</u> <u>Spanish</u></p>	<p>Two page overview of how to appeal for more financial aid including a description of professional judgement, special circumstances, unusual circumstances, timing of financial aid appeals, how to request an adjustment, how successful appeals are implemented, and why a financial aid office would refuse to make an adjustment.</p>	<p>Edvisors</p>

How to Host a Financial Aid Event in Your Community	<p>Hosting a financial aid night can be a fun and rewarding undertaking. Here is an easy-to-follow 60-day outline that will assist you in throwing a successful financial aid event in your community.</p>	<p>U.S. Department of Education</p>
<p>Saving for College</p> <p>English Spanish</p>	<p>One pager outline why to save for college, how much to save, when to start saving, easier ways to save, college savings investment strategies, the impact of college savings on student financial aid, and prioritizing savings for college vs. retirement.</p>	<p>Edvisors</p>
<p>Strategies for Increasing Financial Aid for College Tip Sheet</p> <p>English Spanish</p>	<p>Two page overview with tips for increasing aid eligibility including tweaking demographic information, proofreading thoroughly, reducing income, student vs. parent assets, minimizing the impact of assets, and appealing for more financial aid.</p>	<p>Edvisors</p>