

**2018-19 FAFSA EDITION**

# **DIY FAFSA KIT**

**FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS**



**Please contact us if you have any tough FAFSA situations or questions!**

**Katie: [kwornek@utahsbr.edu](mailto:kwornek@utahsbr.edu), (801) 321-7245 | Jacob: [jnewman@utahsbr.edu](mailto:jnewman@utahsbr.edu), (801) 366-8487**

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# SECTION ONE

**Where to get free, expert help with your FAFSA  
&  
How to win StepUpUtah's \$3,000 in FAFSA Scholarships**

# 2018-19 FAFSA Completion Open Houses

StepUpUtah FAFSA Completion Open Houses are free and open to the public. **Dates, times, and locations are subject change without notification. For the most up to date info, visit [StepUpUtah.com/events](http://StepUpUtah.com/events).**

## WEEK OF 10/2

10/2 (7p-9p) Morgan High  
10/3 (6p-8p) Venture Academy  
10/4 (3p-8p) Delta High  
10/4 (5p-8p) Spanish Fork High  
10/4 (5p-7p) Green Canyon High  
10/5 (5p-8p) Woods Cross High  
10/5 (6p-8p) Skyline High

## WEEK OF 10/9

10/9 (5p-8p) Enterprise High  
10/10 (5p-8p) Taylorsville High  
10/10 (5p-8p) NUAMES  
10/10 (6p-8p) Union High  
10/11 (3p-7p) Uintah High  
10/12 (5p-8p) Wasatch High  
10/12 (5:30p-8p) Brighton High

## WEEK OF 10/16

10/16 (5p-8p) Bear River High  
10/16 (5p-8p) Box Elder High  
10/16 (5p-8p) Pinnacle Canyon High  
10/17 (6p-8p) Green River High  
10/19 (5p-8p) American Leadership Academy

## WEEK OF 10/23

10/24 (5p-8p) Monticello High  
10/24 (6p-8p) Park City High  
10/24 (6:30p-8:30p) Pine View High  
10/25 (7p-8p) Grand County High  
10/26 (5p-8p) San Juan High  
10/26 (5p-7:30p) Itineris Early College High  
10/26 (5:30p-7:30p) American Prep Academy

## WEEK OF 10/30

10/30 (4p-8p) Blue Peak High  
11/1 (3p-8p) Salem Hills High  
11/1 (5p-8p) Riverton High  
11/2 (4p-6:30p) American International School  
11/2 (5p-7p) Ridgeline High  
11/2 (6p-8p) Bingham High  
11/2 (6:30p-8:30p) Skyridge High

## WEEK OF 11/6

11/6 (4p-7p) Salt Lake School for the Performing Arts  
11/6 (6p-8p) Wayne High  
11/7 (5p-8p) Pleasant Grove High  
11/8 (3p-5p) Water Canyon High  
11/8 (4p-7p) Cyprus High  
11/8 (4p-7p) Payson High  
11/8 (6p-8p) Weber Innovation High  
11/8 (6p-8p) Parowan High  
11/9 (5p-8p) Maple Mountain High  
11/9 (6p-8p) Jordan High  
11/9 (6p-8p) West Jordan High  
11/9 (5p-8p) Fremont High  
11/9 (4p-7p) Hillcrest High

## WEEK OF 11/13

11/13 (5p-8p) Herriman High  
11/13 (5p-8p) Olympus High School  
11/14 (10a-12p) Utah Connections Academy  
11/14 (5p-8p) West High  
11/14 (5p-8p) Timpview High  
11/14 (6p-9p) Corner Canyon High  
11/14 (6p-8p) Highland High  
11/14 (6p-8p) Millard High  
11/14 (6:30p-8:30p) Logan High  
11/15 (5p-8p) Granger High  
11/15 (5p-8p) Kearns High  
11/15 (5p-8p) Cottonwood High  
11/15 (5p-8p) Whitehorse High  
11/15 (5p-7p) Weber High  
11/15 (5p-8p) Hunter High  
11/15 (5:30p-7:30p) Desert Hills High  
11/15 (6:30p-8:30p) Timpanogos High  
11/16 (4p-7p) Davis High  
11/16 (5:30p-8:30p) Alta High  
11/16 (5:30p-8p) American Fork High  
11/16 (6p-8p) SUCCESS Academy  
11/16 (6p-8p) Diamond Ridge High

## WEEK OF 11/20

11/20 (5p-9p) Carbon High

## WEEK OF 11/27

11/28 (6p-8p) South Summit High  
11/29 (5p-8p) East High  
11/29 (6:30p-8:30p) Murray High  
11/30 (3:30p-6:30p) Hurricane High  
11/30 (5p-8p) Provo High

## WEEK OF 12/4

12/4 (3p-7p) Viewmont High  
12/4 (3:30p-6:30p) Syracuse High  
12/4 (5p-7p) Layton High  
12/4 (6p-8p) Cedar High  
12/4 (3:15-6:45) Clearfield High  
12/6 (5p-8p) Mountain Crest High  
12/6 (5p-8p) Mountain View High  
12/7 (5p-7p) Innovations Early College High  
12/7 (7p-9p) Kanab High  
12/7 (5p-8p) Copper Hills High

## WEEK OF 1/15

1/18 (5p-8p) Polaris High

## WEEK OF 1/22

1/22 (5p-7p) Grantsville High  
1/24 (5p-8p) Granite Park Junior High  
1/24 (5p-8p) Orem High

## WEEK OF 2/19

2/22 (5p-7:30p) Westlake High

## WEEK OF 2/26

2/28 (5p-7p) Richfield High



# 2018-19

## FAFSA SCHOLARSHIPS

**We award \$3,000 in FAFSA Scholarships to Utah high school seniors EACH YEAR!**

Three individual awards of \$1,000 are available to Utah high school seniors who:

- Attend a StepUp FAFSA Completion Open House (calendar at [StepUpUtah.com/events](http://StepUpUtah.com/events)),
- Submit a **Scholarship Golden Ticket** Application at the event,
- and complete/submit their 2018-19 FAFSA.

**More information at [StepUpUtah.com](http://StepUpUtah.com) or at [Facebook.com/StepUpUtah](https://www.facebook.com/StepUpUtah)**



# WE'LL HELP YOU FILE YOUR FAFSA!

(FAFSA = FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID - FAFSA.GOV)

**The FAFSA. It's what you fill out in order to apply for college money  
(like grants, work-study, and federal student loans).**

*Get free help with your FAFSA from StepUP Utah Financial Aid Experts at our school's FAFSA Open House:*

DATE/TIME/LOCATION

**\$3,000 in scholarships up for grabs for those who attend**  
See more info and all events at [StepUpUtah.com/events](http://StepUpUtah.com/events)

# Prepare to scale new heights.



## Open a UESP account today.

A dollar saved is one less dollar of student debt.

- Free to open
- No minimum contributions required
- Flexible investment options
- Federal and Utah state income tax advantages
- Participation in the Regents' Scholarship could earn you a UESP Supplemental Award

Learn More

800.418.2551 | [uesp.org](https://uesp.org)



**Utah Educational Savings Plan®**

SAVE FOR COLLEGE. INSPIRE THEIR FUTURE.®

*Read the Program Description for more information and consider all investment objectives, risks, charges, and expenses before investing. Call 800.418.2551 for a copy of the Program Description or visit [uesp.org](https://uesp.org). Investments in UESP are not guaranteed by UESP, the Utah State Board of Regents, the Utah Higher Education Assistance Authority or any other state or federal agency. However, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) insurance is provided for the FDIC-insured accounts. Please read the Program Description to learn about the FDIC-insured accounts. Your investment could lose value. Non-Utah taxpayers and residents: You should determine whether the state in which you or your beneficiary pays taxes or lives offers a 529 plan that provides state tax or other benefits not otherwise available to you by investing in UESP. You should consider such state tax treatment and benefits, if any, before investing in UESP. UESP does not provide legal, financial, investment, or tax advice, and the information provided in this document does not contain legal, financial, investment, or tax advice and cannot be construed as such or relied upon for those purposes. You should consult your own tax or legal advisor to determine the effect of federal and state tax laws on your particular situation.*

Reach your goals with UtahFutures!

UtahFutures.org



**IDENTIFY INTERESTS**  
Take interest assessments



**EXPLORE OCCUPATIONS**  
Find exciting careers



**DEVELOP PARTNERSHIPS**  
Benefit from community connections



**DISCOVER SCHOOLS**  
Seek education opportunities



**STRENGTHEN SKILLS**  
Practice with LearningExpress Library

Take a Reality Check

Make College and Career Plans

Find support materials at  
[UtahFuturesOnRamp.org](http://UtahFuturesOnRamp.org)

# SECTION TWO

**How to Correctly Fill Out  
& Submit Your FAFSA**

# Why Should I File The FAFSA?

**It's the only way to apply for ALL federal and most states' financial aid.**

This includes Pell grants, work-study programs, federal student loans, and grant programs you might have never heard about.

Even if you have a full ride scholarship or savings to help pay for college,

**filing the FAFSA is a good backup plan to cover unexpected expenses.**

**Many scholarships require you to file the FAFSA**

as part of the application process.

**You never know what financial aid you might end up getting!**

Many students file the FAFSA and are surprised to find they qualify for a grant, work-study, or a need-based scholarship.

**It doesn't take as long as you think.**

Usually less than 30 minutes from start to finish!

**It's not as difficult as you think.**

FAFSA on the web ([www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov)) has "Help and Hints" on every section, as well as online chat, phone help, and a frequently asked questions section. You can also come to a StepUpUtah FAFSA Completion Open House or ask your school counselor for help. Don't hesitate to contact the financial aid office at the college or university you want to attend to ask for school-specific financial aid information.

**You aren't required to accept loans.**

The FAFSA is just an application.

**There's no reason not to file the FAFSA every year you're in college...**

It's FREE!

**Please contact us if you have any tough FAFSA situations or questions!**

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# HOW TO CREATE YOUR FSA ID

## **Please read these bullet points before creating your FSA ID!**

- In order to fill out and submit the FAFSA, you need a FSA ID, which is a username and password that you create.
- **You are the only person who should create your FSA ID.** This is true for both the student and parent(s).
- Since you will use this FSA ID in the years to come, **use a permanent email address** (not your school email address).
- **If you are considered a dependent student**, one of your parents will have to provide some info on the FAFSA and sign it as well.
- **Any parent who wants to be the one to electronically sign your FAFSA will need to create his or her own FSA ID.**

## **How do I get an FSA ID? Go to [fsaid.ed.gov](https://fsaid.ed.gov) with...**

- your Social Security Number (you must have an SSN to get an FSA ID)
- your full name (must match your Social Security card)
- your date of birth

Although you're not required to provide your e-mail address when you set up your FSA ID, it'll make retrieving your username and password easier if you forget them. Just make sure you use a permanent email address and **DO NOT** use the same e-mail address as someone else (your parent, for instance). Each e-mail address can be associated with only one FSA ID.

**If you do experience issues, select "Forgot Password" or call FSA at 1-800-4-FED-AID.**

## **In addition to signing the FAFSA, you can use your FSA ID to do things like:**

- import your tax information into your FAFSA from the Internal Revenue Service,
- view and print an online copy of your Student Aid Report (SAR), and
- sign your master promissory note (for student loan acceptance).

**Creating an FSA ID is simple and only takes a few minutes. To save time when you and your parent are filling out the FAFSA, create your own FSA ID before you begin the application. For more information, visit [fsaid.ed.gov](https://fsaid.ed.gov).**

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# Missionaries and the FAFSA

## **What we recommend:**

File the FAFSA the fall of your senior year of high school even if you are planning to go on a mission right after you graduate.

## **Why we recommend it:**

Filing your FAFSA as a senior makes the renewal process much easier when you come home from your mission.

If you have time to fit a semester of college in before you leave for your mission, you may be eligible for financial aid.

If your plans change suddenly (for example, due to an unexpected injury) you will be ready to attend college.

Because of the important role the FAFSA can play in some scholarships, you should file early in order to be considered for those awards. You may be able to defer your scholarships.

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# DIY FAFSA KIT

## Online resources

### **Step Up Utah FAFSA Data Site: [fafsa.stepuputah.com](https://fafsa.stepuputah.com)**

The Step Up Utah FAFSA Data Site allows a designated FAFSA Data Steward at each school to see list of students who have completed the FAFSA and whether they have been selected for verification. This is a great tool for FAFSA interventions!

### **Official FAFSA Website: [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov)**

There are many helpful resources on the official FAFSA website. Click the “help” icon near the top of the homepage for access to live chat, frequently asked questions, FAFSA phone agents, and e-mail assistance.

### **\$3,000 in StepUp FAFSA Scholarships!**

Application, information, and details can be found at [StepUpUtah.com/FAFSA-Scholarship](https://StepUpUtah.com/FAFSA-Scholarship). Students will only be able to eligible for this scholarship if they attend your FAFSA Completion Open House or an official StepUp Utah FAFSA Completion Open House.

### **StepUp FAFSA Completion Open House Calendar: [StepUpUtah.com/events](https://StepUpUtah.com/events) or [Facebook.com/stepuputah/events](https://Facebook.com/stepuputah/events)**

**Ask us (StepUpUtah) questions on the Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter:  
Facebook: [FB.com/StepUpUtah](https://FB.com/StepUpUtah), Twitter and Instagram - Follow [@StepUpUtah](https://@StepUpUtah)**

**Watch financial aid, FAFSA, and scholarship videos on YouTube:  
[YouTube.com/StepUpUtah](https://YouTube.com/StepUpUtah)**

**Official Twitter feed of the Dept. of Education – Federal Student Aid:  
Follow [@FAFSA](https://@FAFSA)**

Attend an #AskFAFSA chat on Twitter to have your FAFSA questions answered by the Dept. of Education Federal Student Aid staff members.

**Official website and Facebook page for Federal Student Aid:  
[StudentAid.ed.gov](https://StudentAid.ed.gov), [Facebook.com/FederalStudentAid](https://Facebook.com/FederalStudentAid)**

# What You'll Need To Complete The FAFSA

To complete the 2018-19 FAFSA, you will need this info from 2016:

- ✓ Social Security card\*, alien registration or permanent resident card
- ✓ Driver's license
- ✓ 2016 W-2 forms and other records of income
- ✓ 2016 Federal Income Tax Return\*\* (for you and your spouse)
- ✓ Your parents' 2016 Federal Income Tax Return, if you are a dependent student\*\*
- ✓ Your current bank statements
- ✓ Your 2016 untaxed income records
- ✓ Your current business & investment mortgage information, business & farm, stock, bond and other investment records

\*Entering your Social Security Number correctly is very important

\*\*IRS 1040, 1040A, 1040EZ, Foreign Tax Return, or Tax Return for Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the US Virgin Islands, the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, or Palau

**KEEP THESE RECORDS! You may need them again.**

**Do NOT mail your records to Federal Student Aid.**

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# COMPLETING THE FAFSA: Order of Operations

## **STEP ONE:**

Gather required paperwork and create both parent and student FSA IDs at [FSAid.ed.gov](https://fsaid.ed.gov)

## **STEP TWO:**

The FAFSA is available on October 1. File at [FAFSA.gov](https://fafsa.gov) and use IRS Data Retrieval\*

## **STEP THREE:**

FAFSA sends info to colleges you selected on your application

## **STEP FOUR:**

Colleges will contact you (through your student account) for any extra info needed

## **STEP FIVE:**

Colleges will send you award letters/email notifications

## **STEP SIX:**

Decide what aid you want to accept

## **STEP SEVEN:**

Notify your college of your aid acceptance decision

\*When using the IRS Data Retrieval Tool, your personal information will not be displayed for all to see - you will see "Imported from IRS" in any fields that have been retrieved from the IRS.

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# Do's and Don'ts

## Common FAFSA mistakes

### **DON'T leave blank fields:**

Enter a '0' or 'not applicable' instead of leaving it blank. Too many blanks may cause miscalculations and an application rejection.

### **DON'T a FSA ID for anyone but yourself!**

Parents and students must create their own individual FSA IDs.

### **DON'T include the value of your primary home or vehicles, value of family farm, or retirement accounts as assets.**

### **DO use the right primary identifiers:**

Double check your Social Security Number and Driver's License Number and have someone else check them too. Triple check to be sure. If your parents do not have Social Security Numbers, list 000-00-0000. Do not make up a number or include a Taxpayer ID Number (TIN).

**DO Enter YOUR CORRECT address.** Use your permanent home address! Do not list a temporary campus or summer address as your permanent address.

### **DO use your FULL legal name.**

Your name must be listed on your FAFSA as it appears on your Social Security Card - make sure you double check instead of assuming you know for sure what is on your card. Entering nicknames or other variations on your name will cause processing delays.

### **DO count yourself as a student:**

The student completing the FAFSA must count himself or herself as a member of the household attending college during the award year.

### **DO register with the Selective Service:**

If you were born male and are currently 18-25 years old, you must register with Selective Service. Failure to do so will make you ineligible for federal student aid.

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# Dependency

## Am I a dependent student?

If you can answer "Yes" to any of the questions below, you are considered an independent student and you won't need your parents' financial information to complete your FAFSA.

Otherwise, you are considered a dependent student and you will need your parents' financial info to complete your FAFSA. If the FAFSA determines that you are dependent but special circumstances may dictate otherwise, speak with the financial aid office at your college as soon as possible. Your college may review your dependency status through professional judgment.

Were you born before January 1, 1995?    **YES**    **NO**

As of today, are you married? (Also answer "Yes" if you are separated but not divorced)    **YES**    **NO**

At the beginning of the 2018-19 school year, will you be working on a master's or a doctorate degree program (such as an M.B.A., M.A., J.D., Ph.D., Ed.D., graduate certificate, etc.)?    **YES**    **NO**

Are you currently serving on active duty in the U.S. armed forces for purposes other than training?    **YES**    **NO**

Are you a veteran of the U.S. armed forces?    **YES**    **NO**

Do you now have or will you have children who will receive more than half of their support from you between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019?    **YES**    **NO**

Do you have dependents (other than your children or spouse) who live with you and who receive more than half of their support from you, now and through June 30, 2019?    **YES**    **NO**

At any time since you turned age 13, were both your parents deceased, were you in foster care or were you a dependent or ward of the court?    **YES**    **NO**

As determined by a court in your legal state of residence, are you or were you an emancipated minor?    **YES**    **NO**

Does someone other than your parent or stepparent have legal guardianship of you, as determined by a court in your state of legal residence?    **YES**    **NO**

At any time after July 1, 2017, were you determined to be an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self supporting and at risk of being homeless, as determined by (a) your high school or district homeless liaison, (b) the director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, or (c) the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program?    **YES**    **NO**

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# WHO IS MY PARENT?

One of the biggest questions that families have about the FAFSA is “Whose information do I need to list on the FAFSA?” This infographic will help you decipher the answer.

## WHO'S MY PARENT WHEN I FILL OUT MY FAFSA?

Dependent students are required to report parent information on the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)*. For reporting purposes, “PARENT” means your legal (biological or adoptive) parent or stepparent, or a person that the state has determined to be your legal parent.

Use this guide to figure out which parent's information to include (depending on your family situation).

**Are your parents married to each other?**

- Yes**: Report information for both parents on the FAFSA.
- No**: Do your parents live together?
  - Yes**: Report information for both parents on the FAFSA, even if they were never married, are divorced, or are separated.
  - No**: Did you live with one parent more than the other over the past 12 months?
    - Yes**: Report information on the FAFSA for the parent you lived with more.
    - No**: Report information on the FAFSA for the parent who provided more financial support over the past 12 months or in the last year you received support.

**Has this parent remarried?**

- Yes**: Also report information for your stepparent on the FAFSA.
- No**: You do not need to report additional parent information.



Widowed Stepparent



Grandparents



Foster Parents



Legal Guardians



Older Brothers or Sisters



Aunts or Uncles

**The following people are not your parents unless they have legally adopted you:**

- Stepchildren
- Blended families
- Stepchildren

**If you're not sure whom to report as a parent, you can visit [StudentAid.ed.gov/faisa/filling-out/parent-info](http://StudentAid.ed.gov/faisa/filling-out/parent-info) or call 800-4-FED-AID (800-433-3243).**

**If you're not sure whether you are a dependent student, go to [StudentAid.gov/faisa/filling-out/dependency](http://StudentAid.gov/faisa/filling-out/dependency)**

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# Glossary:

## Decoding the FAFSA

**Confirmation Number:** The number you get when you finish your FAFSA that confirms your FAFSA submission was successful. You may need it if you have to call later with questions.

**Dependent/Independent Student:** Determined by criteria set by the Department of Education. Dependent students need parental financial information in order to complete the FAFSA. Dependency is not determined by whether or not the student lives with parent(s), if parents claim the student on their taxes, or whether parents are contributing to the student's educational expenses.

**EFC - Expected Family Contribution:** This is an index number that represents the amount you and your family are expected to put towards your education which can be cash, housing, food, transportation, or supplies/books. Again, this is only an index number, not the dollar amount you or your family are expected to contribute.

**FAFSA - Free Application for Federal Student Aid:** An application for federal and most state grants, work-study aid, and student loans. Filing a FAFSA does not obligate you to accept any aid.

**Federal School Code:** This tells the FAFSA where it should send your financial information for processing. You will be able to search during the FAFSA process for the federal school codes of colleges where you are interested in attending. You can choose to send your information to up to 10 schools on the FAFSA.

**IRS Data Retrieval Tool (IRS DRT):** A tool that allows you to import tax data from the IRS rather than typing it in by hand in each field. Students who use this tool will speed up the aid process by avoiding tax verification.

**FSA ID:** Both you and one parent will need to have your own Federal Student Aid IDs to sign the FAFSA electronically and to use the IRS Data Retrieval tool.

**Student Aid Report (SAR):** This is a summary of your FAFSA application and tells you what types of federal aid you may be eligible for.

**Selective Service:** If you were born male and are between ages 18 and 25, you are required to register with the Selective Service before receiving federal student aid. You can select "Register Me" and you will be registered.

**Verification (or FAFSA "Audit"):** During verification, the college financial aid administrator may ask you to supply copies of documentation such as income tax returns, tax transcript, W-2 statements and 1099 forms, to verify the data that was submitted on the FAFSA.

**Professional Judgement:** Professional Judgment refers to the authority of a school's financial aid administrator to make adjustments to the data elements on the FAFSA and to override a student's dependency status. The school does not have the authority to change the need analysis formula itself or to make direct adjustments to the EFC. Instead, the school may make adjustments to the inputs to the formula. The changes to the inputs are dictated by the impact of the special circumstances on the family's income and assets. The standard formula is then applied to the new data elements, yielding a new EFC figure.

**Please contact us if you have any tough FAFSA situations or questions!**

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## Students in Unique Situations: Tips for Completing the 2018–19 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®)



Questions on the 2018–19 FAFSA that may cause difficulty for students in unique situations, such as wards of the court or foster youth, are listed below. Question **numbers** refer to the paper FAFSA. **Sections** refer to the FAFSA on the Web (FOTW) Worksheet. Please note that some questions on the paper FAFSA do not appear on the FOTW Worksheet. Answering yes to any question in Step Three on the FAFSA and/or checking the corresponding box in Section Two on the FOTW Worksheet means that you will be treated as an independent student and will not need to provide parental information on the FAFSA.

### Question #44 Section 4

Free childcare

**Q:** I am a single mom with one child and will get free day care for my child (from a grandmother, aunt, or free day care center) while I go to college. Does the value of this free childcare have to be reported on the FAFSA?

**A:** No, this service is not income and the information is not collected on the FAFSA. However, note that you need to let the financial aid administrator at your college know that you are receiving free dependent care; an allowance for dependent care may not be added to your cost of attendance.

### Question #51 Section 2

“Do you now have or will you have children who will receive more than half of their support from you between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019?”

**Q:** I have a child who will be living with me and I will receive assistance from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. Do I answer “Yes” to Question #51? Are TANF or welfare benefits considered to be like earned income?

**A: TANF benefits count as support that you provide to your child.** You should answer “Yes” to this question, as long as you provide more than half of the child’s support.

### Question #53 Section 2

“At any time since you turned age 13, were both of your parents deceased, were you in foster care or were you a dependent or ward of the court?”

**Q:** I am a ward of the court who graduated from high school and then went to live with my mother for two months. Did I lose my independent status?

**A:** A student is considered independent if he or she is a ward of the court, or was a ward of the court, at any time when the individual was age 13 or older. If your ward of the court status changed before you reached age 13, you may be considered dependent on your parent. You should talk about your situation with the financial aid administrator at your college who will help you determine your correct dependency status.

### Question #53 Section 2

“At any time since you turned age 13, were both of your parents deceased, were you in foster care or were you a dependent or ward of the court?”

**Q:** I am a dependent child of the court of my county. Is this the same as a “ward” of the court?

**A:** The term “ward” is used to mean “dependent” of the court. You are a ward of the court (regardless of whether this status is determined by the county or state) if the court has assumed custody of you. You should have court ordered documents that designate you a ward of the court.

### Question #53 Section 2

“At any time since you turned age 13, were both of your parents deceased, were you in foster care or were you a dependent or ward of the court?”

**Q:** I am no longer under the court because my foster parents took legal guardianship of me a few years ago. However, my foster parents do not support me with their own financial resources. They still get a foster care check each month for me. How do I answer question #53?

**A:** If you were in foster care at any time when you were 13 or older, answer “Yes” to Question #53. If you are in a legal guardianship, answer “Yes” to Question #55.

Note: Neither legal guardians nor foster parents are considered parents when completing the FAFSA. This means you do not list their income and household size information on your FAFSA.

### Question #53 Section 2

“At any time since you turned age 13, were both of your parents deceased, were you in foster care or were you a dependent or ward of the court?”

**Q:** I turned 18 and graduated, so my court case was closed. My college is saying I am no longer an independent student because I am no longer a ward of the court. Am I considered dependent or independent?

**A:** You are considered independent if you were a ward of the court, **at any time**, when you were age 13 or older. This means you should check “Yes” to Question #53, if you were a ward of the court when you were age 13 or older.

### Question #54 Section 2

“As determined by a court in your state of legal residence, are you or were you an emancipated minor?”

**Q:** I was emancipated at age 15, but lived with my aunt and uncle during my last semester of high school. How should I complete the FAFSA?

**A:** If you have a copy of a court order stating you are an emancipated minor, answer “Yes” to Question #54 and complete the FAFSA as an independent student. The court must be located in your state of legal residence. If the court order is no longer in effect and you have not reached the age of majority for your state of legal residence, answer “No” to Question #54. Complete the FAFSA as a dependent student if you answer “No” to the remaining questions on the paper FAFSA and none of the other boxes in Section Two of the FOTW Worksheet apply to you.

### Question #55 Section 2

“As determined by a court in your state of legal residence, are you or were you in legal guardianship?”

**Q:** My grandparents are my court-appointed, legal guardians. They have provided support for me all my life. How do I complete the FAFSA?

**A:** If you have a copy of a court order stating you are in a legal guardianship, answer “Yes” to Question #55 and complete the FAFSA as an independent student. The court must be located in your state of legal residence. If the court order is no longer in effect and you have not reached the age of majority for your state of legal residence, answer “No” to Question #55. Complete the FAFSA as a dependent student if you answer “No” to the remaining questions on the paper FAFSA and none of the other boxes in Section Two of the FOTW Worksheet apply to you.

## Question #56 Section 2

“At any time on or after July 1, 2017, did your high school or school district homeless liaison determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?”

**Q:** I became homeless during my senior year in high school. Am I considered an independent student?

**A:** You are considered an independent student if you received a determination any time on or after July 1, 2017, that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless. The financial aid administrator at your college may require you to provide a copy of the determination or other documentation.

If you are not sure you have a determination, but you believe you are an unaccompanied youth who is homeless or are an unaccompanied youth providing your own living expenses who is at risk of being homeless, contact your high school’s homeless liaison for assistance. Contact your college’s financial aid office for assistance if your high school’s homeless liaison did not make a determination.

“Youth” means that you are 21 years of age or less or are still enrolled in high school as of the day you sign the FAFSA.

“Unaccompanied” means you are not living in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

“Homeless” means lacking fixed, regular, and adequate housing, including living in shelters, motels, cars, and temporarily with other people because you have nowhere else to go.

## Question #57 Section 2

“At any time on or after July 1, 2017, did the director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?”

**Q:** I lived in an emergency shelter last year. How do I complete the FAFSA?

**A:** Answer “Yes” to Question #57 if you received a determination any time on or after July 1, 2017, that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless. The financial aid administrator at your college may require you to provide a copy of the determination or other documentation.

If you are not sure you have a determination, but you believe you are an unaccompanied youth who is homeless or are an unaccompanied youth providing your own living expenses who is at risk of being homeless, contact the director of the emergency shelter for assistance. Contact your college’s financial aid office for assistance if the shelter director did not make a determination.

“Youth” means that you are 21 years of age or less or are still enrolled in high school as of the day you sign the FAFSA.

“Unaccompanied” means you are not living in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

“Homeless” means lacking fixed, regular, and adequate housing, including living in shelters, motels, cars, and temporarily with other people because you have nowhere else to go.

## Question #58 Section 2

“At any time on or after July 1, 2017, did the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?”

**Q:** My mom died a few years ago and I have no contact with my dad. I am in a transitional living program. How do I complete the FAFSA? Am I an independent student?

**A:** Answer “Yes” to Question #58 if you received a determination any time on or after July 1, 2017, that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or at risk of being homeless. The financial aid administrator at your college may require you to provide a copy of the determination or other documentation.

If you are not sure you have a determination but you believe you are an unaccompanied youth who is homeless or are an unaccompanied youth providing your own living expenses who is at risk of being homeless, contact the director of the youth center or transitional housing program for assistance. Contact your college’s financial aid office for assistance if the director of the youth center or transitional housing program did not make a determination.

“Youth” means that you are 21 years of age or less or are still enrolled in high school as of the day you sign the FAFSA.

“Unaccompanied” means you are not living in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

“Homeless” means lacking fixed, regular, and adequate housing, including living in shelters, motels, cars, and temporarily with other people because you have nowhere else to go.

## Question #95

“How many people are in your household?”

**Q:** I live with my foster parents and their children. Are they my “family members?”

**A:** No. If you are considered independent (for example, because you are in foster care), and you have no dependent children of your own, you are a family of **one** (yourself).

## Question #105

Signatures

**Q:** I have filled out this form as an independent student because I am a ward of the court. Do I need my father’s or mother’s signature? I do not live with them, but I see them sometimes.

**A:** No. Because of your status as a ward of the court, you are considered an independent student and a parental signature is not required.

# FAFSA Tips

## for Undocumented Students

### **Can I go to college if I am undocumented?**

Generally speaking, your status won't prevent you from being admitted or enrolling in classes at a college or vocational school. However, being undocumented limits the type of financial aid you receive and possibly impacts cost of tuition.

### **If I discuss my undocumented status with the counselor at my school, or the financial aid advisor at the college I want to attend, are they required to report me to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS or ICE)?**

No. They are not required by law to report undocumented students.

### **I'm undocumented but have lived in the US since I was YOUNGER. Am I eligible for financial aid?**

Undocumented students aren't eligible for federal financial aid such as Pell grants, work-study, and Direct loans. However, financial aid is possibly available through private organizations and scholarships, grants, loans and work programs at the school you want to attend. Contact the college's financial aid office directly to find out what aid is available to you.

### **I was born in the US but my parents are undocumented. Does that affect my eligibility for federal financial aid?**

Your parents' status doesn't affect your eligibility for federal financial aid. However, your parents will not be eligible for PLUS loans to help you pay for college. For more info, contact your college's financial aid office.

### **I am undocumented but have lived in Utah since I was younger. If I attend a public college in Utah, am I eligible for in-state tuition?**

Yes, if you meet certain requirements. Utah enacted House Bill 144 which allows undocumented students to be eligible for in-state tuition rates if they:

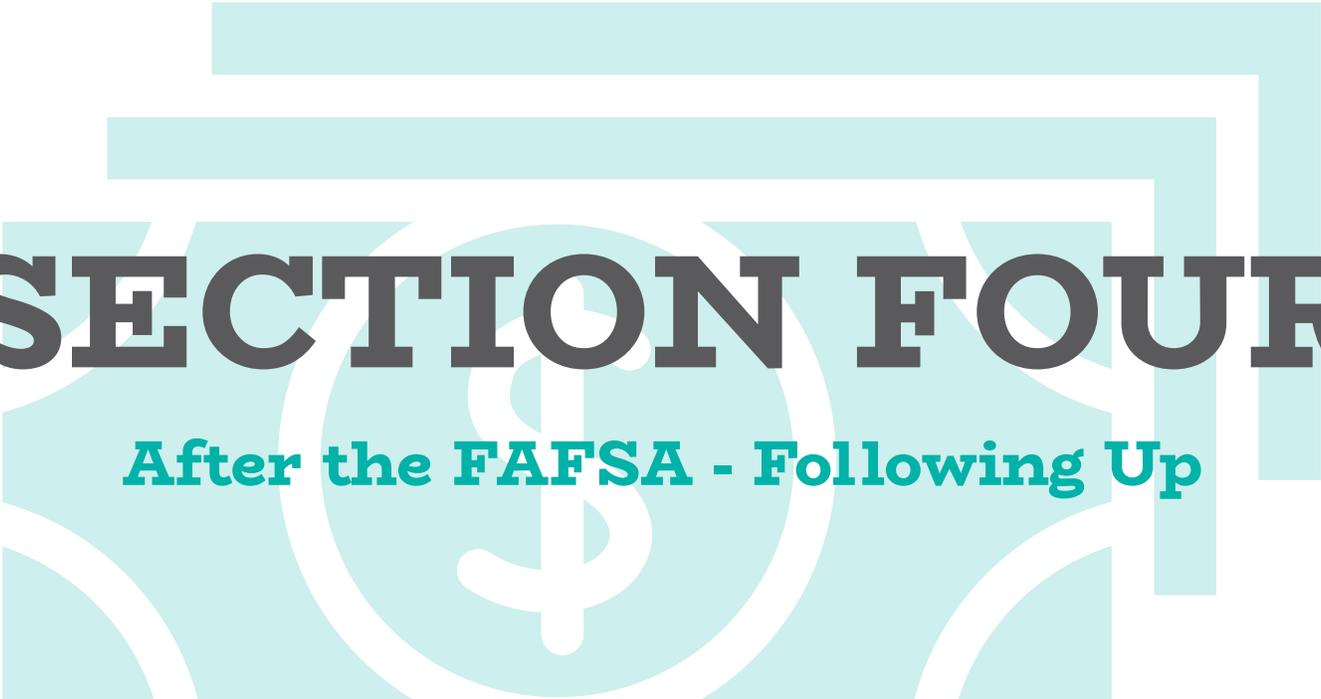
- attend a Utah high school for 3 years,
- obtain a high school diploma from a Utah high school
- enroll in a public postsecondary institution in Utah, and file an affidavit stating intent to legalize immigration status and become a permanent resident.

### **Where can I find private scholarships?**

- United States Hispanic Leadership Institute - [ushli.org](http://ushli.org)
- Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund - [maldef.org](http://maldef.org)
- Get Ready for College - [getreadyforcollege.org](http://getreadyforcollege.org)
- Latino College Dollars - [latinocollegedollars.org](http://latinocollegedollars.org)
- Scholarships for Hispanics - [scholarshipsforhispanics.org](http://scholarshipsforhispanics.org)
- Local colleges and universities

**Please contact us if you have any tough FAFSA situations or questions!**

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# SECTION FOUR

**After the FAFSA - Following Up**

# Following Up on the FAFSA

After you've finished filing your FAFSA, you probably still have some things to do before you can get your financial aid...

**One: Your college may not contact you directly.** Follow up with your college to make sure you've turned in ALL the paperwork they require. There is usually an extra form or two to apply for financial aid from your school specifically, and without it they can't process your financial aid awards. Contact the financial aid office if you are not sure if your school requires additional paperwork.

**Two: Make sure you're hitting the right deadlines** - each school sets its own priority filing deadline for when you should have your FAFSA completed. The earlier you file, the better. Don't miss your school's deadline!

## Utah College/University Follow Up Phone Numbers and Priority Filing Deadlines for 2018-19



Priority Financial Aid Deadline: N/A  
Institutional Scholarship Deadline: 2/1/18  
801.422.4104



Priority Financial Aid Deadline: 6/1/18  
Institutional Scholarship Deadline: 3/1/18  
435.283.7130



Priority Financial Aid Deadline: N/A  
Institutional Scholarship Deadline: 2/1/18  
801.863.8442



Priority Financial Aid Deadline: N/A  
Institutional Scholarship Deadline: 3/1/18  
435.652.7575



Priority Financial Aid Deadline: 6/1/18  
Institutional Scholarship Deadline: 12/1/17  
435.586.7735



Priority Financial Aid Deadline: 4/1/18  
Institutional Scholarship Deadline: 12/8/17  
801.626.7569



Priority Financial Aid Deadline:  
8 wks before class  
Institutional Scholarship Deadline: 3/1/18  
801.524.8111



Priority Financial Aid Deadline: 2/1/18  
Institutional Scholarship Deadline: 12/1/17  
801.581.6211



Priority Financial Aid Deadline: Rolling  
Institutional Scholarship Deadline: Rolling  
801.832.2500



Priority Financial Aid Deadline: Rolling  
Institutional Scholarship Deadline: Rolling  
801.957.4410



Priority Financial Aid Deadline: Rolling  
Institutional Scholarship Deadline: 1/10/18  
435.797.0173

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# After the FAFSA Checklist

- Review Your Student Aid Report (SAR)
- Fill out any additional forms your college requires for financial aid
- Complete any verification paperwork
- Log back in to [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov) to make any necessary changes or updates to your FAFSA
- Double check that you are receiving the correct award amounts based on your current enrollment status
- Accept your financial aid awards
- Keep in contact with your school's financial aid office

**Please contact us if you have any tough FAFSA situations or questions!**

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