

We have compiled a list of questions that have been frequently asked by your fellow students about the upcoming 2024-2025 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®). Please feel free to reach out to the Office of Student Finance if you have any additional questions.

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### When does the 2024-2025 FAFSA become available?

The U.S. Department of Education has informed students and institutions that the 2024-2025 FAFSA will become available by December 31, 2023. We encourage you to check your portal for updates.

### What is being streamlined with the 2024-2025 FAFSA?

According to <https://studentaid.gov/announcements-events/fafsa-support> applicants will be able to skip as many as 26 FAFSA questions, depending on their individual circumstances. Some applicants will need to complete as few as 18 questions. Additionally, the 2024-2025 FAFSA has removed questions about Selective Service registration and drug convictions.

### How will my financial aid be calculated with the changes to the FAFSA?

The U.S. Department of Education will now calculate a student's awards using the information provided on the FAFSA along with the Student Aid Index (SAI).

### What is the Student Aid Index (SAI) and how is it calculated?

Student Aid Index (SAI) replaces the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) as a formal evaluation of a student's approximate financial resources to contribute toward their postsecondary education for a specific award year. The SAI will assess the student's eligibility for need-based aid, such as a Pell Grant or Direct

### Subsidized Loan.

To calculate a Student Aid Index (SAI), a need-based analysis is conducted. The analysis considers the taxed and untaxed income, as well as assets of the student and their parents or spouse, if applicable. The Federal Student Aid Estimator estimates the SAI, which you can access [here](#).

### How will the Department of Education determine the family size definition on the 2024-2025 FAFSA?

Starting with the 2024-2025 FAFSA, the U.S. Department of Education will replace the term “household size” with “family size.” Family size is based on information transferred from the IRS and includes the taxpayers and the dependents reported on the U.S. tax return. The 2024-2025 FAFSA allows the applicant and/or the parent to adjust the family size on the FAFSA if the current family size is different from the number of individuals reported on the tax return.

### How is my tax information being transferred by direct data exchange with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS)?

The direct data exchange allows the IRS to share relevant information directly with Federal Student Aid (FSA). All parties whose federal tax information (FTI) is included on a student’s FAFSA will be required to provide consent annually. Previously, students would have to utilize the IRS Data Retrieval Tool to provide the information required for FAFSA application completion.

### How will the Pell Grant be awarded in the 2024-2025 FAFSA year?

In 2024-2025 and forward, the annual Pell Grant award must be prorated proportionally based on the student’s enrollment for anything less than full-time enrollment. Pell Grant will now be awarded to students based on their SAI and Enrollment Intensity. Enrollment Intensity is the percentage of full-time enrollment at which a student is enrolled, rounded to the nearest whole percent. For example, if full-time enrollment is 12 or more credit hours and the student is enrolled in 7 credit hours, the student’s enrollment intensity would be  $(7 \div 12) \times 100\% = 58\%$ .

The maximum and minimum Pell Grant award amounts for the 2024-2025 award year will be provided by the Department of Education at a later date.

Additional changes to note for the Federal Pell Grant include:

- The *FAFSA Simplification Act* will expand the Federal Pell Grant to more students and will link eligibility to family size and the federal poverty level (starting with the 2024–2025 award year).
- Federal Pell Grant lifetime eligibility used (LEU) will be restored to students who received an eligible loan discharge due to their school closing while they were enrolled or if the school was found to have misled the student (starting with the 2023–2024 award year).

### Are the Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant (IASG) and Children of Fallen Heroes (CFH) changing?

Yes. Beginning with the 2024-2025 award year, there is a new special rule that allows for maximum Pell Grant eligibility regardless of SAI for what was formerly called IASG and CFH awards. To receive a Pell Grant based on eligibility under the special rule, a student must be:

- The child of a parent or guardian who died in the line of duty while (a) serving on active duty as a member of the Armed Forces on or after September 11, 2001; or (b) actively serving as and performing the duties of a public safety officer; and

- Less than 33 years old as of the January 1 prior to the award year for which the applicant is applying (e.g., for the 2024-25 award year, a student must be less than 33 years old as of January 1, 2024, to be eligible).

**Will I be required to complete a Master Promissory Note (MPN) or loan entrance counseling to borrow federal student loans?**

Yes, the MPN and entrance counseling are required for students who wish to utilize Federal Direct Loans for the 2024-2025 application year and those following.

**Where can I learn more about the upcoming changes to the 2024-2025 FAFSA?**

We encourage you to visit the U.S. Department of Education's website, <https://studentaid.gov/announcements-events/fafsa-support> along with their [2024-25 FAFSA FAQs](#). To get prepared, check out their [Preparing for the FAFSA Form](#) playlist.