

6 THINGS YOU NEED BEFORE YOU FILL OUT THE FAFSA

The 2018–19 FAFSA is available now. You can fill it out for FREE on the official government site, www.fafsa.gov. To speed up the FAFSA process, get prepared early. Here is what you'll need to fill out the FAFSA:

1. **Your Federal Student Aid ID** — In order to sign your FAFSA electronically, you'll need a Federal Student Aid ID. You can help to prevent processing delays by establishing your username and password before you begin the FAFSA.
2. **Your social security number*** — If you don't know it, it can be found on your social security card. If you don't have access to that, it may be on your birth certificate or permanent resident card. If you don't have one of those, or don't know where it is, ask your parent or legal guardian. If you're a dependent student, you'll need their help with portions of the FAFSA anyway. If you are not a U.S. citizen, you'll also need your Alien Registration Number.
3. **Your tax records*** — If you are filling out the 2018–19 FAFSA, you will need 2016 tax information. If you filed your taxes, you may be able to automatically import your tax information into the FAFSA using the IRS Data Retrieval Tool.
4. **Records of your untaxed income*** — This includes a whole bunch of variables that may or may not apply to you, like child support received, interest income and veterans non-education benefits.
5. **Records of all your assets (money)*** — This includes savings and checking account balances, as well as investments like stocks and bonds and real estate.
6. **List of the school(s) you are interested in attending** — The schools you list on your FAFSA will automatically receive your FAFSA results electronically. They will use your FAFSA information to determine the types and amounts of financial aid you may receive. You can list up to 10 schools on your FAFSA. If you're applying to more than 10 schools, you can add more later. Be sure to list any school you're considering, even if you're not sure yet.