



The FAFSA on the Web

December 2001

GENERAL INFORMATION

What is it?

The FAFSA is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. It is the form that the federal government uses to determine your eligibility for federal aid. This aid can include grants, scholarships, work-study and loans. FAFSA on the Web is a web-based version of the paper application form.

Why complete the FAFSA on the Web?

Completing your FAFSA on the Web can speed up the FAFSA process. Using the Web version of the FAFSA can cut down on postal service delays. It also allows the federal processor to do a "final check" of your information to make sure your FAFSA is ready for processing before it is submitted.

BEFORE YOU COMPLETE THE FAFSA ON THE WEB

Can I save my FAFSA on the Web?

If you don't have immediate access to a printer or you are worried about keeping your Internet connection while online, you can save your FAFSA application online by clicking the Save button at the bottom of each step. Saved steps will be stored for 45 days. (You should also print a completed FAFSA for your records. You can print just before you click the submit button at the end of your FAFSA on the Web.)

Be sure you remember the password that you entered at the beginning of your application. If you forget it, you cannot look it up. You will have to start your FAFSA again from the beginning.

How do I sign a FAFSA on the Web?

Whether you complete a paper or electronic FAFSA, you will be required to provide your signature (and parent's signature if you are a dependent student).

There are several ways to complete this signature:

1. Print off the signature page, get the required signatures and mail the form to the address listed on your signature page.
2. Use your 4-digit PIN issued by the Department of Education to electronically sign your FAFSA. (Note that your parents will need their own PIN to electronically sign your FAFSA.)
3. The third option is the slowest and is not recommended. You can wait until you receive your Student Aid Report (SAR), get the required signature(s) and then return it to the federal processor through the U.S. Postal Service.

What is a PIN?

The Personal Identification Number (PIN) is the code that the U.S. Department of Education uses to identify you online. You do not need a PIN to complete your FAFSA on the Web. Having a PIN will allow you to electronically sign your FAFSA, check the status of your electronic FAFSA and/or make any changes necessary to your personal information online. Using a PIN as your signature for the FAFSA can speed up your processing time.

It is important to keep your PIN private because it allows you (or someone else) to electronically sign documents and access confidential information. Treat it as you would treat your bank/credit card codes.

How do I get a PIN?

Students and parents who are eligible to receive a PIN can visit www.pin.ed.gov and click on "Apply for PIN" at the bottom of the page. If you provide a valid email address, you will be emailed directions to access your PIN online. If you do not provide a valid email address, your PIN will be mailed through the U.S. mail 7-10 days after you complete your application.

Important Sites

FAFSA on the Web:
www.fafsa.ed.gov

More about your PIN:
www.pin.ed.gov

Federal School Code Search:
www.fafsa.ed.gov
Click "Federal School Code Search" at the top of the page.

If you have any questions about FAFSA on the Web or the PIN call 1-800-4-FED-AID.

To search over 600,000 scholarships, visit www.fastweb.com!