UC SANTA BARBARA
Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships

FAFSA SIMPLIFICATION UPDATES
2024-2025

Mixed-Status Families and FSA IDs

There are a number of significant updates that are part of the major redesign of the 2024–25 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). One of those changes includes a new Federal Student Aid (FSA) ID account creation process for those without a Social Security Number. The updated FAFSA form will be available by December 31, 2023.

Who are mixed-status families?
Mixed-status families are households with family members who have different citizenship or immigrant statuses. To apply for the FAFSA, dependent student applicants must be either a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen, even if their parents are undocumented. Dependent students who don't qualify for the FAFSA, but qualify for an AB 540 nonresident tuition exemption, may be eligible to complete the California Dream Act Application. Visit *dream.csac.ca.gov* for information.

How will mixed-status families be impacted by the FSA ID requirement?
In previous years, parent and non-student contributors without a Social Security Number (SSN) could submit a FAFSA by mail and did not need to create an FSA ID. Starting in 2024–25, the new process allows contributors without SSNs to create an FSA ID and complete the 2024–25 FAFSA online.

How will parents and non-student contributors be able to obtain an FSA ID?
All contributors create their Federal Student Aid (FSA) account at StudentAid.gov, where they will answer a series of questions that only they would know (e.g.: current or former home addresses, previous phone number, etc.). Once verified by a credit reporting agency, the contributor will receive their FSA ID and can proceed with the FAFSA.

If identity cannot be verified, the contributor will be advised to contact the FSA Information Center (FSAIC) to begin the manual verification process and will be asked to submit the following documentation:
- Proof of Identity (one of the following):
  - Drivers license
  - State or city identification card
  - Foreign passport

or
- Utility bill (with matching name and address) **and** one of the following:
  - Municipal identification card
  - Community identification card
  - Consular identification card

The Paper FAFSA Form

The paper FAFSA will still be available for 2024–25 and acquiring an FSA ID **is not required** for this option. Like the online FAFSA, all contributors must provide [consent](#) for Federal Student Aid (FSA) to access Federal Tax Information (FTI) from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), regardless of tax filing status. All contributors will still need to answer questions about income and assets.

The paper 2024–25 FAFSA can be accessed at StudentAid.Gov.

Please note that the 2024–25 FAFSA provides a space for contributors to report their Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN), however it is **not required**.

What can you do to prepare for these changes?

- **Create an email account.** An email address unique to each contributor is needed to create an FSA ID account and to complete the FAFSA. If you or your contributor(s) do not have a unique email account, create one before beginning the FSA ID and FAFSA process.

- **Sign up for an FSA ID now.** It can take several days for an FSA ID to be created, once all information has been submitted and verified. If a contributor has to submit documentation to verify their identity, this can prolong the process even further.

- **Gather 2022 income and asset information** to complete the financial sections of the 2024–25 FAFSA.

For additional support, please contact your campus's undocumented student services.

Note: The information collected through the FAFSA is protected by Federal Law and can only be used for calculating federal, state, and institutional financial aid. Information will only be shared with the schools identified on the FAFSA by the student applicant and a few federal and state government agencies that use the information to verify eligibility and accuracy. Any entities with FAFSA data are required to protect it against security threats or unauthorized uses.