



# Your Path Through FAFSA

## ► Before You Start

**Is applying for FAFSA really free?  
Who qualifies?**

Yes! The FAFSA form is free to fill out and submit. We encourage all students to file a FAFSA form because not all financial aid is based on need.

**When should I apply?**

It's never too early to start planning! Complete your FAFSA each year between October 1 – June 30 of the school year you're seeking financial aid for. Complete the FAFSA form as soon as possible to ensure you receive the maximum amount of aid. SDSU's federal school code is 001151.

**What documents do I need to gather to complete this?**

Before you fill out the FAFSA, gather all appropriate documents to make the process easier. U.S. citizens typically need their Social Security number, driver's license number, and tax and income records. Visit [studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/filling-out](https://studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/filling-out) to determine exactly what you'll need.

## ► In the Process

**Am I a dependent or independent student?**

Visit [studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/filling-out/dependency](https://studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/filling-out/dependency) to find out your dependency status. You're considered an independent student if you answered "yes" to any of the dependency status questions on the student aid website. Be sure to choose the correct dependency status because this will impact how much aid you may receive.

**Is there a way to know how much aid I will receive?**

Use the Federal Student Aid Estimator tool ([studentaid.gov/aid-estimator/](https://studentaid.gov/aid-estimator/)) to estimate the type and amount of aid you may be eligible to receive.

**I'm already attending college, do I need to complete another FAFSA?**

Yes! You'll have to apply for financial aid every year if you want to keep getting federal aid.

**My household hasn't filed taxes this year. What info should I use?**

Don't wait to fill out the FAFSA until taxes are filed. Filers must report taxes from two years prior to the year they're applying for. For example, on the 2023–24 FAFSA form, you'll need to report 2021 tax information.

## ► After Submitting Your Application

**Take a moment to celebrate!**

Congrats on taking this step toward your education! You've made it this far — and that's no small feat!

**Do I have any other financial aid options?**

Did you know that SDSU offers more than 700 scholarships to our students? Check out our available scholarships using the Aztec Scholarship Portal at [sacd.sdsu.edu/financial-aid/scholarships/sdsu-aztec-scholarships](https://sacd.sdsu.edu/financial-aid/scholarships/sdsu-aztec-scholarships). You can learn about other types of financial aid at [sacd.sdsu.edu/financial-aid/financial-aid](https://sacd.sdsu.edu/financial-aid/financial-aid).

**How do I track my financial aid status?**

Visit the [my.SDSU](https://my.sdsu.edu) portal to access your financial aid information.

**When will I receive my FAFSA results?**

Your Student Aid Report will arrive by email or mail between three days to three weeks after you submit the form. Once you receive your results, ensure all the information is accurate and if you find any inaccuracies, be sure to update your FAFSA.

**Can I make changes to my FAFSA?**

Yes! Sign into your account on [fasfa.ed.gov](https://fasfa.ed.gov) to update information if you find any errors, if your household's financial situation changes or if you want to send your Student Aid Report to more schools. You can make changes until the FAFSA deadline – June 30 after the school year you need aid. For the 2023-24 award year the deadline is June 30, 2024.

## ► Next Steps

For more information, please visit the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships website at [sacd.sdsu.edu/financial-aid](https://sacd.sdsu.edu/financial-aid).