

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)



Table of Contents

I’m not a U.S. citizen and I’m not an eligible noncitizen, can I apply for any other type of financial aid? 2

I am a U.S. Citizen but I live in Mexico, can I still apply for the FAFSA?..... 2

I am a DACA student. Can I complete a FAFSA? 2

What is Federal Work-Study and why is that better than a regular job? 2

What is Selective Service and why should I register? 3

I support myself, do I still need my parent’s information?..... 3

If you do not meet any of those criteria, you are required to report parental information on your FAFSA, meaning you are classified as a dependent student. 3

My parents live in Mexico and I live here with a family member, do I put my family member on my FAFSA? 4

Which parent(s) do I include on the FAFSA? 4

My parents work in Mexico, do I need to include their income information?..... 5

My parents do not have a Social Security Number (SSN), can I complete the FAFSA? 5

My parents do not have a Social Security Number (SSN), how will they sign the FAFSA?..... 5

I'm not a U.S. citizen and I'm not an eligible noncitizen, can I apply for any other type of financial aid?

Yes - Students that are classified as a Texas Resident who cannot apply for federal financial aid using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) are encouraged to complete the TASFA (Texas Application for State Financial Aid). The Texas state priority deadline is January 15th. It is recommended that applicants complete and submit this application and any other required documentation to the Office of Student Financial Aid via email or fax prior to the state priority deadline date.

I am a U.S. Citizen but I live in Mexico, can I still apply for the FAFSA?

Yes – U.S. Citizens are eligible to apply for the FAFSA even if they do not live in the U.S. The FAFSA question that asks for the student's state of legal residence, you can select "Mexico".

I am a DACA student. Can I complete a FAFSA?

No, undocumented students, including DACA students, are not eligible for federal student aid. However, you may be eligible to apply for the Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA) in addition to private scholarships.

What is Federal Work-Study and why is that better than a regular job?

The Federal Work-Study Program provides part-time employment on-campus for undergraduate and graduate students with financial need, allowing them to earn money to help pay for educational expenses. At UTEP, work-study employment is limited to 19 hours a week.

There are many benefits to participating in the work-study program (if eligible):

- Apply to any department on-campus (Recreational Center, Financial Aid, Housing, etc.)
- Flexibility in work schedule – Our students' education is our priority. Students can choose their work schedule around their class schedule.
- Students can work on-campus reducing the stress of traveling to an outside job.
- Income earned from work-study employment will not negatively affect future FAFSA's. For example, a student works at a fast food restaurant and earns \$10,000 for the year. The \$10,000 will need to be reported on a future FAFSA and can affect your financial aid eligibility. If the student earns \$10,000 in work-study employment, the \$10,000 is considered financial aid and does not count against your financial aid eligibility.

What is Selective Service and why should I register?

Registration is a way our government keeps a list of names of men from which to draw in case of a national emergency requiring rapid expansion of our Armed Forces. By registering all young men, Selective Service ensures that a future draft will be fair and equitable.

Males 18 to 26 years of age are not required to register with the Selective Service System to be eligible for federal financial aid. However, it will be a requirement for State and some institutional financial aid. This requirement applies to any person assigned the sex of male at birth. For more information visit www.sss.gov.

NOTE: Registering with Selective Service does **not** mean you are joining the military.

Who Must Register Chart: <https://www.sss.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/WhoMustRegisterChart.pdf>

I support myself, do I still need my parent's information?

Are you:

- Working on a master's or doctorate degree?
- Married (or separated but not divorced)?
- At least 24 years old?
- A veteran of the United States Armed Forces?
- Currently on active duty in the Armed Forces for other than training purposes?
- At any time since you turned 13, both your parents were deceased, you were in foster care, or were a ward of the court?
- An emancipated child as determined by a court judge
- Homeless or at risk of homelessness as determined by the director of a HUD approved homeless shelter, transitional program, or high school liaison
- Do you have a child or children, or other legal dependents, who receive more than half their financial support from you?

If you do not meet any of those criteria, you are required to report parental information on your FAFSA, meaning you are classified as a dependent student.

My grandparents have a notarized document showing that they are my legal guardians. Do I include my grandparents as my parents on the FAFSA?

No, unless your grandparents legally adopted you. A document signed by a notary is not sufficient to consider them your legal parents. Grandparents, foster parents, legal guardians, older brothers or sisters, widowed stepparents, and aunts and uncles are **not** considered parents **unless they have legally adopted you**. Legal adoption must be officiated by the state court.

My parents live in Mexico and I live here with a family member, do I put my family member on my FAFSA?

“Parent” means your legal (biological or adoptive) parent or stepparent, or a person that the state has determined to be your legal parent (determined by court).

The following people are **not** your parents unless they have legally adopted you:

- Widowed Stepparent
- Grandparents
- Foster Parents
- Legal Guardians
- Older Brothers or Sisters
- Aunts or Uncles

Which parent(s) do I include on the FAFSA?

Parents’ Marital Status:	Provide Information for:
Never Married	The parent that you lived with most during the last 12 months. If you did not live with one parent more than the other, provide information about the parent who provided more financial support during the last 12 months.
Unmarried and both legal parents living together	Both of your legal parents
Married /Common-law-married	Both of your parents
Remarried (after being widowed or divorced)	Parent and Stepparent
Divorced or Separated	The parent that you lived with most during the last 12 months. If you did not live with one parent more than the other, provide information about the parent who provided more financial support during the last 12 months.
Widowed	The surviving parent

My parents work in Mexico, do I need to include their income information?

Parents must report their earned income even if they earned income from a different country. The Mexico tax form used to report income is called the Hacienda. If your parent does not file an Hacienda, any income earned must still be reported.

Students are required to convert the currency to dollars before entering them on the FAFSA.

<https://www.xe.com/currencytables/>

My parents do not have a Social Security Number (SSN), can I complete the FAFSA?

If your parent does not have a Social Security Number, enter all zeros (e.g., 000000000).

Note: Do not enter an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) in the “Social Security number” field. ITIN is a tax processing number that is available to certain nonresidents and resident aliens with foreign status or undocumented immigrants.

My parents do not have a Social Security Number (SSN), how will they sign the FAFSA?

If your parent does not have a Social Security Number, you may print, sign, and mail a signature page. The signature page is a document that is generated by FAFSA.gov. It includes your student ID, name, address, the type of application you completed, and a randomly generated identification number.