

FAFSA/ORSA Training—Q&A Summary

DECEMBER 13, 2023

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Questions in this Reference Guide were asked during the 2024-25 FAFSA/ORSAAs Training, which was held on December 13, 2023. All questions were answered by volunteers from the Education Credit Management Corporation (ECMC), the Oregon Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (OASFAA), and the Office of Student Access and Completion (OSAC).

Find more information about the changes to the FAFSA and ORSAAs, as well as recordings of the training at <https://oregongoestocollege.org/fafsa-orsaa>

This training was made possible by a generous grant from The Ford Family Foundation.



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Students, Dependents, FAFSA Parents, Guardians, Contributors:

Who is Who, and How to Know?

Figuring out the FAFSA parent

What if parents are still legally married but are separated and not living together?

If they're living in different places and don't consider themselves a married couple, they don't have to be legally separated. Until they are divorced, they may file taxes as married filing jointly or married filing separately. The spouse who is supporting the children may file as head of household if the other spouse doesn't live in the household.

Here is what FSA says: "If your parents are divorced, separated, or never married, and don't live together, the parent who provided more financial support during the last 12 months is the contributor and must provide their information. If both parents provided an exact equal amount of financial support or if they don't support you financially, the parent with the greater income or assets is the contributor and must provide their information."

Link here: <https://studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/filling-out/parent-info>

If parents are not married and not living together, how is the FAFSA parent decided?

If a student's biological or adoptive parents are not or never have been legally married, the process for determining the FAFSA parent is the same. It is the parent who provided the most financial support over the last 12 months. If that is equal, then it is the parent who has the greater income or assets.

What if the student does not live with either parent?

Unless the student qualifies as independent under the FAFSA guidelines, the parent who provided the most financial support in the previous year is their FAFSA parent, regardless of whether the student lives with either parent.

Student lives full-time with a stepparent. Their biological parent is not in the picture and is divorced from stepparent. Would this student use their stepparent as their FAFSA parent?

A FAFSA parent can only be a biological or adoptive parent.

If there is not a second biological or adoptive parent to serve as FAFSA parent, the student should contact the financial aid office for a possible dependency override.

What if the student lives in Oregon with a sibling, but the parent lives outside Oregon? Can the sibling serve as contributor?

The student can use the sibling's address as their permanent address; however, the contributor will still be the parent and not the sibling.



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Student lives with an aunt. Biological parents and stepparent live outside of Oregon. Who is the FAFSA parent in this case?

A FAFSA parent can only be a biological or adoptive parent, not another relative. In this case, you'd still need to ask which of the biological parents provided more financial support to the student over the past 12 months. If it's the same—or zero from both parents—then you'd use the parent with the greater income or assets.

If it is the parent who is married to the stepparent—and they consider themselves married even though they appear to currently live apart—the stepparent also needs to provide tax/financial information for FAFSA.

If the parent and stepparent are separated or divorced, then only the biological parent is on the FAFSA.

What if one parent is the FAFSA parent in terms of support, but the other parent claims the student on their tax return?

FAFSA and ORSA are not concerned with which parent claims the student on their taxes.

What if the student chooses the wrong FAFSA parent and realizes this after submitting FAFSA?

The student will be able to make a correction to their FAFSA after submitting their application if an error occurred.

What if the student qualifies as a dependent, but provided 50 percent of their own support through survivor's benefits?

The student would still be dependent and need to provide their living parent as the contributor. It is important to note that if the parent died in the line of duty, the FAFSA application has a question where the student can provide this information. Doing so may help the student qualify for a maximum Pell Grant.

Where is the "Who Is My Parent" graphic?

You can find the "Who is my parent" graphic here: <https://studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/filling-out/parent-info>

Student's dependency status

What are the circumstances under which a student is considered independent?

Many factors determine whether a student is dependent or independent, including age, marital status, degree being pursued, military/veteran status, and circumstances such as foster care, legal guardianship, homelessness, and/or being a ward of the court or a legally emancipated minor. A full list is available at <https://studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/filling-out/dependency>

What is the age a student can be to be considered independent?

The age is typically 24, but a number of other circumstances could identify a student younger than 24 as independent. You can review the list here: <https://studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/filling-out/dependency>



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What if a student is 23 at the time of filing FAFSA, but will turn 24 in the fall? Are they automatically considered independent or must they also qualify under other conditions?

A student 24 or older by December 31 of the filing year will automatically be considered independent. FAFSA determines this by the student's birthdate.

What are the key changes to FAFSA this year (2024) for students ages 24 and older, i.e., independent?

The most significant change is if the independent student is married and did not file taxes jointly, they will need to invite their spouse as a contributor.

Is a student who is McKinney-Vento considered an independent student?

Yes.

If a student enters yes for Homeless, what documentation are they required to provide?

The student must request a homeless youth determination from the financial aid office at the college they plan to attend. Below is a list of individuals from whom supporting information could be requested; however, this is dependent on each college's requirements:

- Local school district personnel
- State homeless education coordinators
- The National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE)
- Third parties such as private or publicly funded homeless shelters and service providers
- Financial aid administrators from colleges other than the school to which you're presenting the documentation
- Staff from college access programs such as TRIO (e.g., Talent Search or Upward Bound) or GEAR UP
- College or high school counselors
- Mental health professionals, social workers, mentors, doctors, or clergy

How does a student establish that they are an "unaccompanied youth at risk of being homeless"?

They can get documentation through their high school liaison/FAN advocate, a shelter director, or a financial aid administrator at the college they plan to attend.

I work with a high population of students who may live with family members, and sometimes have no contact with the bio parents, but there may not be a legal guardianship set up. What kind of documentation could they provide to show they have no contact with parents?

If it is harmful for the student to be in contact with their biological or adoptive parent, the financial aid office will usually ask for documentation confirming this. Students are usually asked to provide three letters of documentation:

1. Letter from a professional on letterhead, such as the high school counselor,
2. Letter from another family member or close friend, and
3. A statement from the student.



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If a student qualifies for dependency override on the FAFSA application, do they still need to submit that same paperwork to the institution's financial aid office?

It depends. Most institutions will need to document their status in the first year but can roll that status forward to subsequent years.

Does FSA offer resources that support/guide students who are applying as independents (without any parental/guardian support)?

The FAFSA does have information in the application to guide students through the process of determining whether parental information is needed, and lists other options if it cannot be obtained.

One parent is deceased and the other has been incarcerated since the student's birth. Student lives with a friend and has no next of kin. No one living claims them as a dependent. Would they file the FAFSA as an unaccompanied youth?

The student would be considered an unaccompanied youth. They can also indicate they are unable to contact their parent. They would be considered provisionally independent and would work with their financial aid office to confirm and document their situation.

What if a student lives with roommates and not family members? Do they just list "Self" on FAFSA?

If the student is under 24 and does not qualify as independent through other factors, the student will still need provide their parents' information.

What if a 19 year old student is unaccompanied, and their parents live in Mexico?

If the student is an unaccompanied youth at risk of being homeless, they will be considered independent and will not be required to provide parental information.

What if parents are deceased or student has no access to them, and student lives with other relatives who have legal guardianship?

If the student is in a legal guardianship with a court in Oregon, they are considered an independent student and do not have to provide any parental information.

FSA ID: Who needs one?

Do both parents need to have their own FSA IDs?

This is dependent on how the parents/contributors file their taxes. If both biological/adoptive parents file jointly, only one parent needs to create an FSA ID. If the parents file separately, both need to create an FSA ID.

Here is a link for reference: <https://studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/filling-out/parent-info>

Student's bio mom and dad are divorced, mom has remarried but is now separated and files taxes as head of household. How many FSA IDs does this family need?

First, find out which bio parent provided more financial support over the past 12 months. If it's mom, since she's separated, only mom goes on the FAFSA.



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If parents are not married to each other, but live together and are filing separately, would each parent have to provide consent? What if one parent does not have an SSN?

Here is what FSA says: If your parents are not married to each other and live together, both of your parents are contributors and their information must be included on the FAFSA form, regardless of whether your parents are of the same or opposite sex.

Mixed-status families and FAFSA completion

Has the Dept. of Ed. confirmed for undocumented parents that their info will only be used for federal aid eligibility for their student? Have they provided a statement we can share?

They have not provided a specific statement addressing this concern. In general, the purpose of allowing parents without an SSN to get an FSA ID is to streamline the process for these families. Also, the FUTURE Act had to be passed to allow IRS to share information with the Department of Education because these are two different agencies. This means the Department of Education is technically not allowed to share information with ICE without approval from Congress.

FAFSA parent: Will this be verified for accuracy?

How do you determine which parent provides the most financial support? Is it just based on trusting the student's word?

The parents should make the determination of who has provided the most financial support. Essentially, there isn't a verification process for this decision.

If a student claims the parent who makes less money provided the most financial support, what happens then?

There will not be a verification process. However, this is a federal form and contributors (student and parent) are asked to fill it out honestly and to the best of their ability. Any intentional deception could cause a student to lose access to federal aid.



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Application Information

Application availability/timing/deadlines

When should FAFSA be submitted? When can students make edits/corrections?

We recommend submitting the FAFSA in early January. The student will be able to edit and re-submit their FAFSA between early February 2024 and June 2025 (end of active period with FSA).

When will students have access to their FAFSA Submission Summary Landing Page?

Students will have access at the end of January. If the student completes the FAFSA after January, they should have access in 1-3 days.

When can the parent start their portion of the FAFSA application?

The parent can create their FSA ID now in preparation for completing their portion of the FAFSA. Once the student begins their FAFSA application, they will be asked to invite their parent to complete their portion of the FAFSA.

How long do parents have to finish their portion of the FAFSA? Will both student and parent be notified if the parent does not complete their portion?

The Department of Education will only delete the current FAFSA after 45 days of inactivity on the account. The student will receive an email after they submit their portion, and will be able to see when the parent submits their portion.

What happens if a required contributor misses their deadline due to a medical emergency?

The FAFSA application will essentially be cancelled and the student will have to begin a new application. The parent can contribute at that time.

Availability in other languages

Will the FAFSA application and support from FSA be available in languages other than English?

The Department of Education has indicated that the FAFSA and support resources will be available in multiple languages.

If a document is not available in Spanish, can we translate it for our families?

Yes, for any of the Oregon Goes To College resources. We try to make most of our resources available in both Spanish and English and will also be providing additional languages for the FAFSA/ORSAAs information.

Will the parent get the ORSAAs email in Spanish if needed?

While the emails are in English only right now, a Spanish-language version is being planned.

Are the ORSAAs website and application available in languages other than English?

The ORSAAs website will be in English, but there are preparation resources in Spanish at <https://oregonstudentaid.gov/fafsa-orsaa/fafsaorsaa-information/>



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The ORSAA application itself is available in both English and Spanish.

Will a Spanish-speaking person be available on FSA calls?

Yes, FSA calls should have Spanish support.

Does OSAC have bilingual staff to support ORSAA filers who prefer or need Spanish language support?

Yes, OSAC does have bilingual support. More information can be found at

<https://oregonstudentaid.gov/fafsa-orsaa/fafsaorsaa-information/>

Application: Specific field/content Qs

Does the new FAFSA have a data retrieval question?

There is no separate data retrieval question. Once the contributor consents, their tax information will automatically be retrieved and the FAFSA form continues from there.

Under what circumstances does a parent need to answer asset questions on their portion of the FAFSA?

On the new FAFSA, the family's financial information is transferred from the IRS and those responses will determine if they have to complete asset questions.

Would “completed college” mean 4-year degree or could it mean 2-year degree?

1. In relation to determining if the student is a first generation student, "completed college" is any college degree or certificate.
2. This answer can be complicated and may be specific to each college. Here are some articles that reference the law:

<https://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/articles/what-to-know-as-a-first-generation-college-student#:~:text=Who%20is%20Considered%20a%20First,Higher%20Education%20Act%20of%201965>

<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/diversity/socioeconomics/2023/08/03/varied-definitions-first-generation-confuse-students>

Why does FAFSA ask about parents being killed in the line of duty?

<https://studentaid.gov/help-center/answers/article/larger-federal-pell-grant-if-parent-died-in-iraq-afghanistan-or-line-of-duty>

If a student's entire school district offers free or reduced school lunch, does the parent choose this option even if the individual student does not qualify?

The parent can select this option if their student's entire district offers free or reduced school lunch. However, that particular question is no longer factored into the Student Aid Index (SAI) equation, so it makes no difference.

Does the student list their permanent residency address?

Using their permanent residency address is recommended.



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Application access/completion

Do students need to formally invite their contributor?

It is best if a student formally invites their contributors because the contributor will receive an email with helpful information. However, a contributor can log in at studentaid.gov and request to contribute to their student's FAFSA.

If a student provides financial info manually, do they qualify for aid? What would be the benefit of submitting the financial info manually?

The student will still be required to provide consent regardless of whether they entered their information manually, were not required to file, or filed a foreign tax return. In short, every contributor must give consent.

Is there way to log back in to ORSAA without having to go through the filter tool every time?

If they know they need to apply for the ORSAA, they can go directly to the application.

When a student adds a college to their FAFSA at a later time, does FAFSA automatically send to the added college?

Yes, that is correct. We encourage students to add all colleges they think they may attend; otherwise they cannot add more colleges to FAFSA until February.

What are the next steps if a parent cannot complete the FAFSA verification process? What happens to the student's FAFSA completion?

If the parent cannot pass verification, the student will not be eligible for federal aid. We recommend calling FSA to confirm all steps have been completed correctly. If so, and the student isn't eligible for federal aid, the student should complete a state aid application.

FSA ID: Process if parent has no SSN

What is the FSA ID verification process for a parent with no SSN?

For the parent with no SSN, once the FAFSA opens they will select that they do not have an SSN and the form will send them through a verification process that asks knowledge-based questions such as former zip codes, phone numbers, etc. If they successfully complete this alternate verification process, they will be approved instantly and be able to complete the FAFSA immediately.

If they don't pass the verification, they will need to call FSA and email a scan of their ID documents to FSA. This will delay the FAFSA completion process.

The following links may provide helpful information:

<https://financialaidtoolkit.ed.gov/tk/outreach/target/noncitizens.jsp> and https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pitb_alQBvc



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FSA ID accounts: Authentication/verification

For the free authenticator app, a phone is required to download this, correct? Can it be done on a laptop?

Here is what FSA states regarding the authenticator app: <https://studentaid.gov/help-center/answers/article/set-up-authenticator-app-for-two-step-verification>

What if the student or parent does not have a phone number?

Persons filling out the FAFSA will have the option to use another type of authentication aside from a phone number, as well as to set up and receive a backup code. Each person will absolutely need an individualized email address.

How do students know whether their FSA ID has been properly created?

Students will receive confirmation of their FSA ID creation.

FSA ID: Use the one previously created

Can students and/or parents use their FSA IDs from previous years?

Yes they can, and they should!

If last FSA ID use was years ago, or the person's name has changed, they will need to retrieve their information as it is tied to their SSN: <https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/sign-in/account-lookup>. If that does not work, they can call Federal Student Aid to get additional help.

FSA ID: When should students/parents create?

Can students/parents begin the FSA ID process now and wait to fill out the actual application when it becomes available?

Students and parents definitely should create their FSA ID now! It will take 1-3 days for the FSA ID to be verified in order to start the FAFSA form, so the FSA ID cannot be made same day it is needed to complete the form. The only folks who need to wait for FSA ID creation are undocumented parents.

Student Aid Index (SAI): When and where available, and how much

Will students receive an estimated SAI at the end of completion?

Any student who completed their FAFSA in January will not receive their SAI until the end of the month. After January, students will receive their SAI as soon as their FAFSA is complete.

What is the maximum SAI?

\$999,999

Where does it show a student's SAI (what used to be the EFC) or how much Pell they are eligible for?

The SAI will be in their FSA portal and on the FAFSA Submission Summary. This will be available for students by the end of January.



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When do students get their EFC?

Students will no longer be awarded an EFC. Their Student Aid Index (SAI) — the new term for the number used to determine aid eligibility — will be sent to the student 1–3 days after FAFSA is submitted. It will be listed on their FAFSA Submission Summary.

ORSAAs-specific Q&A

How long does the parent have to sign their child's ORSAAs before it expires or the application is deleted?

The parent must create their account within 72 hours from when the student invited them. However, the parent does not have a 45-day window as is the case with the FAFSA.

Can ORSAAs only be used for Oregon colleges? Public AND Private?

The ORSAAs is for *some* Oregon colleges - not all participate. ORSAAs can only be sent to these colleges: <https://oregonstudentaid.gov/grants/oregon-opportunity-grant/list-of-participating-schools/>

Does a student need an ORSAAs login to apply for the Oregon Promise?

Yes, the student will create a login at oregonstudentaid.gov which can be used for Oregon Promise and scholarships.

Are there any loans available for undocumented students/DACA?

While these students are not eligible for federal loans, other loans and scholarships may be available through the state or through private organizations.

FAFSA has videos that walk students and families through the steps. Will there be similar videos created for ORSAAs? And if so, when will those videos be available?

Similar videos will be available for ORSAAs; no date is available yet.

Application completion: Where/who add parent SSNs

Can a student start their FAFSA application prior to having all required parent/contributor information (e.g., SSN)?

Information on the FAFSA will be saved so students do not need to complete the full application at one time.

Does the student have to provide SSNs for both parents?

If the parents filed their taxes jointly, the student would need to provide only one parent's SSN, unless the parent requests to contribute to the student's FAFSA [independently]. However, the parent who completes the parent section of the FAFSA will be asked to provide the other parent's SSN at that time.



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What happens if a student doesn't know a required parent's SSN and/or the parent will not provide it to the student?

The parent can log in at studentaid.org and request to contribute to the student's FAFSA. Only the last 4 digits of the parent's SSN will be visible to the student in the application.

Direct Data Exchange vs. IRS retrieval tool

How does the new Direct Data Exchange work for retrieval of tax returns from the IRS? What's different from the former method used for FAFSA?

The Department of Education now automatically retrieves information directly from the IRS once a contributor gives consent, which is required for a student to be considered for federal aid.

Any issues with FAFSA's previous means of tax return retrieval are no longer issues with Direct Data Exchange.

What happens when a contributor meets the conditions for having to manually enter tax information, such as marital separation after joint tax filing the preceding year?

The new Direct Data Exchange will not transfer the tax return since the parent has indicated that the current marital status is separated. The tax lines should then show up for the parent to enter numbers manually. They will need to calculate their amount of income, etc. on the tax return.

Required financial information

In the section that asks for investments/real estate: Are parents supposed to include their 401K, 403B, and Roth IRA information? Or other stock investments? I had heard that this would no longer be a factor in determining aid.

Other stock investments are included; retirement accounts are not.

Assets include money in cash, savings, and checking accounts; businesses; investment farms; real estate (other than the home in which you live); Uniform Gifts to Minors Act (UGMA) and Uniform Transfer to Minors Act (UTMA) accounts for which you are the owner; and stocks, bonds, certificates of deposit, etc.

Assets do *not* include the home in which you live; UGMA and UTMA accounts for which you are the custodian, but not the owner; the value of life insurance; ABLE accounts; and retirement plans (401[k] plans, pension funds, annuities, non-education IRAs, Keogh plans, etc.).

Does a family earning more than \$60k have to include a college savings account as asset for the student? And if there are other student college savings for the family, does that get added too?

A college savings plan is considered a parent asset. The parent will only provide the amount of the savings plan specific for that student and not the college savings plan amounts for other children.

What is considered an asset when filling out the assets section? For example, if the parents are homeowners, but the property is not fully paid off, do they still report the home as an asset?

The home in which the family lives is not considered an asset. However, if the family had a rental property for example, the rental property would be counted as an asset.



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Eligibility/Qualification for FAFSA/ORSA

Eligibility/qualification: Tax filing status/info

How does family size affect eligibility for federal aid?

Family size is one of the elements in addition to income and assets that goes into the SAI calculation. If the number of exemptions on the tax return does not accurately reflect the family size, the parent can update that number.

What if the number of dependents is now different from the number claimed on the previous year's taxes?

The parent FAFSA portion allows the parent to indicate if the current family size is different from that in the previous year's federal tax return.

What if additional persons who are not immediate family move in?

For the 2023–2024 year: there shouldn't be any changes to this language aside from the dates: Your parents' household size should include yourself, your parent(s), and children (other than yourself) who will receive more than half of their support from your parent(s) between July 1, 2023, and June 30, 2024. Include siblings who would be considered dependent based on the FAFSA dependency questions. Also include the people who aren't your parents' children but who live with your parents and receive more than half of their support from your parents and will continue to receive more than half of their support from your parents between July 1, 2023, and June 30, 2024.

What if the student is not listed as a dependent on the parents' tax return?

Whoever claims the student on their taxes is not relevant for FAFSA purposes. There may be reasons why the parent who contributes the greater financial support would not claim the student on taxes. This could be determined in a divorce decree.

What happens to the eligibility of a student if the parents have not filed their taxes?

If the parent was/is required to complete their taxes, they will need to indicate that. If they have an approved extension, they still need to provide estimated information and will need to complete their taxes for the student to be eligible.

What happens when a contributor meets the conditions for having to manually enter tax information, such as marital separation after joint tax filing the preceding year?

The new Direct Data Exchange will not transfer the tax return since the parent has indicated that the current marital status is separated. The tax lines should then show up for the parent to enter numbers manually. They will need to calculate their amount of income, etc. on the tax return.

Is a graduate student who did not file a tax return for the previous year still FAFSA-eligible?

Yes, potentially. Much like in the past, the graduate student will indicate they were not required to file taxes. These students will still be required to provide consent, regardless of their tax filing status.



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Eligibility/qualification for financial aid (general)

Does the parent have to live in Oregon for a student to qualify for state aid? What about if the student has lived in Oregon for 12+ months but parents live out of state?

1. If the student is dependent, both the parent and student must be living in Oregon to be considered for most of the state aid opportunities.
2. If the student's permanent address has been in Oregon for the prior 12 months, state aid may still be available to them.

If a student has not yet lived in Oregon for 12 months, but will have done so by Fall term, are they still able to apply for ORSAA?

A student can complete the ORSAA as long as they have lived in Oregon 12 months prior to fall term.

Do ORSAA applicants have to have graduated from high school in Oregon to qualify for aid?

For Oregon Promise and the Oregon Opportunity Grant, they do need to have graduated from high school in Oregon.

They may still qualify for other forms of state aid if they graduated elsewhere.

How does a student find out whether they qualify for Oregon Promise?

The student needs to complete the Oregon Promise application and the FAFSA or ORSAA application, whichever is applicable to them.

If a contributor's adjusted gross income is less than \$60,000, are they exempt from having to report assets?

This is correct starting with the 2024–2025 FAFSA.

Eligibility/qualification: FAFSA or ORSAA?

What if a student wants to apply for both FAFSA and ORSAA?

Students should not complete both the FAFSA and ORSAA applications. Doing so could delay or prevent the student from getting aid due to the confusion it would cause.

The ORSAA is only for undocumented students for state aid only. The FAFSA is for citizens and eligible non-citizens, and is used for both federal and state aid.

If a student has a work permit, do they apply for FAFSA or ORSAA? Is the work permit considered DACA or an ITIN?

It depends on the student's specific information. In general, DACA students or those with only an ITIN would likely not be eligible for the FAFSA, so they should complete the ORSAA.



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If a parent cannot pass FAFSA verification, or refuses to participate in completing the application, can the student qualify for ORSAA?

Unfortunately, no. Only students who are undocumented, have DACA/TPS/U-Visa can submit the ORSAA. Students who are FAFSA-eligible cannot complete the ORSAA if a parent cannot/will not get through the FSA ID/FAFSA process.



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Complicated Situations

Contributors: What if they decline consent?

What happens if a parent or other contributor declines consent and/or refuses to complete their portion of the FAFSA application?

Assuming parents are separated or not/no longer married: If at least one parent is willing to provide information though the other is not: Use the cooperating parent.

If neither parent is willing/available: The student should contact the college financial aid office to see what documentation they need to support the unusual circumstance.

Without supporting evidence, the student may be ineligible for federal financial aid. Consent is required so that the Department of Education is permitted to access the family's IRS information.

- The student would, however, still be eligible for federal student loans and other non-federal financial aid and scholarships.
- In cases of parental abuse or other estrangement, see the answer to the following question.

What if contacting a parent would create harm or danger for a student due to abuse or other circumstances?

The student should contact their college financial aid office for specific guidance for their situation. The FAFSA also has guidance for these students if other options, such as provisional independence, may apply. In cases where abuse or harm to the student has occurred or is likely, do not use that parent.



FAFSA/ORSA Training—Q&A Summary

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Resource Availability/ Other Questions and Answers

Clarification of terms/abbreviations/acronyms

How is "new/recent graduate" defined?

For Oregon Promise: Past 6 months. For the Oregon Opportunity Grant: No HS completion timeframe exists.

What is the difference between the new SAI and the EFC?

You can read about the new SAI and other vocabulary changes here:

<https://oregongoestocollege.org/fafsa-orsaa>

What does a negative SAI mean?

For SAI: Zero and a negative number are the same for federal aid, but can be used by institutions to determine institutional aid

What is the difference between household size and family size?

This is mostly just a terminology change. The family size will automatically assume the number of exemptions on tax forms as the family size, but FAFSA applicants can update that number.

What does ITIN stand for?

Individual Taxpayer Identification Number

What is the definition of "unaccompanied?"

Unaccompanied—when a student is not living in the physical custody of a parent or guardian

Other Questions and Answers

How do you contact the student? Email? Phone?

Typical communication will be via email.

If an Oregon Promise recipient begins at an eligible community college and decides to transfer to another eligible community college or university, can they use their Oregon Promise at the new school?

Oregon Promise (OPG) students can transfer between community colleges. OPG cannot be used at universities. They must simply list both colleges on their FAFSA/ORSA (and have them listed BEFORE the term starts in order for OSAC to communicate the info to the college).

Is there a comparison of the changes made to this version of FAFSA compared to previous versions?

The FSA has not provided a line-by-line comparison You can see a number of the changes here:

<https://oregongoestocollege.org/fafsa-orsaa>



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What if a student has changed their name?

The student must use their official name as documented by the Social Security Administration. If the SSA information has not changed, the student can connect directly with the school to request a name change.

Are we able to share scholarship opportunities?

Please do! A list of scholarships, including information and a calendar, is here:

<https://oregongoestocollege.org/pay/scholarships>

Can I learn more about the \$1,000 scholarship opportunity for hosting a financial aid night?

If you are referring to the ECMC College Night event (which covers financial aid) you can register to host an event here: <https://collegenights.org>. The number of available scholarships is limited, so you will need to register to see if you are eligible.

Is there a site where schools can see whether ORSAA has been completed, like FAFSA+?

For privacy reasons: There is no equivalent site for ORSAA.

The only place schools can see combined FAFSA/ORSA info is through the FAFSA/ORSA Completion Report that OSAC provides and posts on the HECC website. This gives schools the overall completion rate for FAFSA/ORSA applications combined:

<https://www.oregon.gov/highered/research/Pages/fin-aid-application-data.aspx>

SAR is being replaced by what?

Students will receive a FAFSA Summary Submission rather than SAR.

Will we still be able to see our student FAFSA completion rate through the partners' portal?

OSAC has the FAFSA+ program.

How can we get a copy of the Financial Aid Toolkit?

The toolkit can be found here: <https://oregongoestocollege.org/toolkits/financial-aid>

How can we access the additional scholarships/grants that are accessible to ORSA-eligible students?

That information is located on the OSAC website: <https://oregonstudentaid.gov/daca-undocumented-students/>. While this is not a full catalog of private funds listed, all programs on the OSAC website make clear if the fund is for FAFSA or FAFSA/ORSA. Some funds are state-funded, some are private; it depends on the fund type.

Do you have a toolkit for current college students?

Not currently. However, information is available at <https://studentaid.gov/resources>

Who do we reach out to if we have questions preparing for training others on FAFSA/ORSA completion?

You can email info@oregongoestocollege.org



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Are there any existing presentations that can be used for workshops to help students create their FSA ID?

FSA has developed a variety of videos and resources for students and families at

<https://studentaid.gov/resources>

In addition to federal presentations, the state of MN has a Create Your FSA ID presentation. It now includes instructions for folks without SSNs: <https://sites.google.com/view/minnesotagoestocollege/for-students/attend-a-virtual-event> (scroll down to October 2023 Recordings and Materials)

A short video about the FSA ID is at the bottom of this page: <https://oregongoestocollege.org/fafsa-orsaa>

