



This is a checklist to help you complete your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Please complete the FAFSA as accurately as possible; the information reported will be used to determine your financial aid eligibility.

- If you do not already have an FSA ID, you can create one at studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch

Student Checklist:

- Did you file the FAFSA for the correct aid year? All students should be filing the 2025–26 FAFSA.
- Did you use your **LEGAL** name as it appears on your Social Security card for your FAFSA?
- Did you report your correct Social Security number and date of birth on your FAFSA®? Both are needed in order for Stony Brook University to match your FAFSA data to our data and prepare your financial aid package.
- Did you report your income in the student section?
- Did you answer **question 17**, which asks what your high school completion status will be when you begin college in the 2025-26 school year, and asks what is the name, city, and state of the high school that you received or will receive your high school diploma?
- Did you answer all questions that require a dollar amount, even if the answer is zero? **PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE A FIELD BLANK.**
- Did you report all income earned, even if you were not required to file a tax return?
- Did you report the dollar amount in your checking and savings accounts that generated interest income if asked by the FAFSA?
- Did you claim you are independent of parental support because you have a legal dependent? If so, you must be able to prove you support that dependent with your **own resources**.
- Did you invite the correct parent contributor to complete their part of the FAFSA? (Parent that has provided the most support 12 months prior to filing the FAFSA if divorced/separated.)
- Did you provide your consent and approval to obtain tax return information automatically from the IRS? If you decline consent and approval, you will not be eligible for federal student aid.

Parent Checklist:

- Did you report your and your spouse's names and Social Security numbers as they appear on your Social Security cards? (Parents without Social Security Numbers can still apply as the parent.)
- Did you confirm your FSA ID has all updated and correct information such as mailing address?
- Did you answer all questions as of the day you are filing the FAFSA? Income however is based on prior prior year, whereas assets and marital status is as of the day.
- If you are married/remarried, have you included your spouse's income on the FAFSA?
- Did you include information for both legal parents (biological/adoptive) who live together but were never married?
- If parents are divorced, did the parent who provided more financial support over the past 12 months complete the FAFSA?
- Did you provide your consent and approval to obtain tax return information automatically from the IRS? If you decline consent and approval, your student will not be eligible for federal student aid.

Signature Checklist:

- Did you sign your FAFSA electronically with your FSA ID?
- Did your contributors sign your FAFSA electronically with their FSA ID?
- Please keep copies of student and parent FSA IDs in a secure location for future reference.