

Finishing the FAFSA

Gather all needed information and items, then try to finish all parts of the FAFSA in one session. But don't worry if you aren't able to. Your FAFSA & FSA ID allow you to save your progress and log in at a later date to finish it. This is especially helpful if you need to collect documents from your parents or double-check financial details. Just be sure to note any deadlines for your school or state, so you can return and complete the form on time.

IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND COLLEGE FROM:	USE THIS FAFSA:	USING TAX INFO FROM:
Jul. 1 2025 - Jun. 30, 2026	2025-26	2023
Jul. 1 2026 - Jun. 30, 2027	2026-27	2024

Use the Help Feature

Use the “?” or “i” to the right of questions for more information and guidance. They will help clarify and explain the questions.



FSA CHAT

Reach out for help

If you run into any problems or questions do not hesitate to reach out for help. Live agents are available at StudentAid.gov/helpcenter/contact. You can also receive one-on-one help by logging into Money Mondays from 3 pm - 6 pm. Visit [**NMFAFSA.org**](https://NMFAFSA.org) for dates.

Rise Up To Your Ability

Finishing the FAFSA

Tax & Financial Information

Tax information should likely be automatically filled in, but you may be required to manually fill it out. If so, here is what you'll need:

- Parent(s) and student's federal tax returns (if they have one)
- Parent(s) and student's W-2 and other records of income
- Annual amounts of untaxed income received in the household
- Bank statements and records of investments

Notes:

Tip: Your home and retirement accounts are not included in your assets.

Rise Up To Your Calling

After the FAFSA

What Happens Next?

Within 1 to 3 days, you will receive an email notification that your FAFSA form was processed and sent to the schools you entered on the form.

You might be selected for verification where you'll need to confirm the accuracy of reported information.

Track and Manage your Completed FAFSA

You can check the status of your FAFSA by doing the following:

- Check your email for your confirmation page and for next steps from the schools you selected.
- Go into the "My Activity" section of your StudentAid.gov account.
- Click the "View Status" button to check your application status.
- Review your FAFSA Submission Summary.
- Make corrections on your FAFSA form.
- If you have any questions about your submitted FAFSA form, contact the Federal Student Aid support center at **1-800-433-3243**, or start a live chat at StudentAid.gov.

Complete School Admission Application(s)

- Follow up with the Admissions Office to ensure they received and are processing your application.
- Schools might need additional paperwork or have other deadlines. (such as your high school transcript before AND after graduation)
- Schools need both your completed admission application and your FAFSA to process a financial award offer.

**Rise Up
To College**

FAFSA Facts and Help

Federal Aid

- A student must have a valid Social Security Number (SSN) to be eligible.
- A student with an SSN and a parent without one is still eligible to apply. The parent (contributor) must still create an FSA ID to complete the FAFSA.

State Aid

- State aid is available for undocumented New Mexico students even if they don't have an SSN.



Undocumented

FAFSA Facts

Dependency Status?

In the "personal circumstances" section of the FAFSA form, you will be asked questions that will determine your dependency status. These questions help the government decide whether you need to provide your parents' financial information or only your own.

Remember!

The FAFSA opens on **October 1** and financial aid is given out on a first-come, first-served basis. While there is no deadline, make sure to fill out the FAFSA as soon as you can and receive your full aid package!

**Rise Up
To Your Dreams**

FAFSA Facts and Help

The FAFSA is a form you complete to apply for federal grants, loans, and work study. This money can be used for school expenses such as tuition, fees, room and board, books, transportation, and supplies. Colleges use your FAFSA information to determine your financial aid needs and award State Aid, Scholarships, Grants, and Work-Study. The FAFSA can give you FREE money in the form of the **Federal Pell Grant** which gives up to **\$7,395** every year you complete the FAFSA. Federal loans are also offered but should only be accepted if absolutely required. The FAFSA should be completed at StudentAid.gov after it opens on October 1 every year you attend school to get maximum value.

Who to Include on the FAFSA?

Questions on the FAFSA form will determine which parent is the contributor to use on the form. Parents who are not present in your life do not need to be listed on the FAFSA. Dependent students are required to report parent information on the FAFSA. **"Contributor"** refers to your legal parent (including stepparent).

How is Federal Financial Aid Determined?

COST OF ATTENDANCE
- STUDENT AID INDEX

= FINANCIAL NEED

Get an estimate at
[StudentAid.gov/
aid-estimator](https://StudentAid.gov/aid-estimator)



FAFSA FAQ

After the FAFSA

Congratulations on completing the FAFSA!
Don't sell yourself short on this accomplishment
and keep up the good work.

If your FAFSA is Selected for Verification

Verification is a normal step. Verification is a process utilized by schools to make sure the information reported on your FAFSA is accurate. Your FAFSA will be on hold, until the verification is resolved. Here's what to do:

Gather your documentation - They might ask for documents confirming: family size, proof of identity, and financial information.

Fill out the forms - Complete all worksheets sent to you.

Turn in the documents on time - Make sure to submit any info your school asks for by the deadline. Your school cannot process your award until they receive the documents.

Contact your school's financial aid office
This is the **best step to do** if you need additional help with verification.

What Now?

The FAFSA is a great start to funding your educational journey, but there's more money out there. Look for scholarships & grants, work study, and (if necessary) student loans. Scan this QR code to access a continuously updated list of available scholarships.



What Now?

After the FAFSA

Rise Up
To Your Degree

Rise Up
To Your Career

Further Funding

To continue finding funding for school or a trade, look for scholarships, grants, work study, and (only if necessary) student loans. NM has multiple scholarships available for resident students (regardless of citizenship). Visit www.ReachHigherNM.com for more information or ask your school's financial aid office.



Opportunity & Lottery

Opportunity Scholarship + Lottery Scholarship

Both Scholarships

- Must be a New Mexico resident, and a graduate of a New Mexico high school (or equivalent).
- Maintain at least a 2.5 GPA while pursuing an associate or bachelor's degree at an eligible NM university.
- Funding is applied automatically if you qualify. Scholarships can cover up to 100% of tuition, and both may be used together.
- For details, contact your university's financial aid office.

Opportunity Scholarship

The Opportunity Scholarship is available to all learners enrolled in at least 6 credit hours. No application is required.

Lottery Scholarship

The Lottery Scholarship requires students to enroll in college within 16 months of high school graduation and maintain full-time enrollment.

Enter to Win a \$500 Scholarship

Visit NMEAF.org/scholarships to enter.

High School seniors can register to win a scholarship for submitting the FAFSA.



Non-High School

Scholarship for Returning & Adult Learners

All returning and adult students who aren't high school seniors can also register by scanning this QR code.

**Rise Up
To Your Craft**

Preparing for the FAFSA

When does it open?

The FAFSA opens on October 1. Make sure to be ready by reviewing the previous pages.

What to Bring?

- Parent(s)/ contributor and student's full legal name and birth dates
- Parent(s)/ contributor and student's Social Security Number (if they have one)
- Parent(s)/ contributor and student's separate phone numbers and emails
- List of schools considered by student
- Parent(s) marital status if changed during submitted tax year, not the current year. (You will need the month and year of when they became married, divorced, or separated.)
- FSA IDs

What is an FSA ID?

The **FSA ID** is your **Federal Student Aid ID**. This is your username and password used to log in to StudentAid.gov and access your FAFSA. Your FSA ID can be created before the FAFSA opens. It requires your legal name, birthdate, SSN, and contact info to create.



FSA ID

FSA ID Tips

- Use a personal email when creating your FSA ID (do not use your school-assigned email).
- Student and contributors each create a unique FSA ID, using separate phone numbers and emails.
- You should create your FSA ID before the FAFSA opens.

**Rise Up
To Your Trade**

Preparing for the FAFSA

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

The FAFSA is a form you complete to apply for money such as federal grants, work-study, and federal loans. The **Federal Pell Grant** can give up to **\$7,395** every year you complete the FAFSA. This money can be used for college and trade school expenses such as tuition, fees, room and board, books, transportation, and supplies. Completing the FAFSA form also sends your information to the colleges, universities and/or trade schools selected on your FAFSA. Schools then use your FAFSA information to calculate your financial aid eligibility.

To qualify for the FAFSA you must:

1. Be a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident.
2. Enroll at least half-time in an eligible degree program.
3. Have a high school diploma or equivalent.

Research Schools

Use collegescorecard.ed.gov to research and compare schools to find which one is right for you. Note what you value in a school and compare and contrast all your options.

Social Security Number (SSN) Questions

What if I don't have an SSN? A student without an SSN or permanent residency cannot complete the FAFSA.

What if my parent has no SSN, but I DO? Your contributor doesn't need an SSN, they can still fill out their section of the FAFSA. Make sure to check indicating boxes to clarify that your contributor does not have an SSN.

**Rise Up
To Your Future**

Further Funding

Scholarships & Grants

Scholarships and Grants are **FREE** money for school that **you don't have to pay back**. Many students qualify for scholarship programs that they are unaware of. Make sure to check the following to maximize your money:

- Chosen school's website and financial aid office
- Financial Aid tab on hed.nm.gov
- Your high school counselor
- studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/scholarships

Student Loans

The LAST RESORT to pay for school, borrow for NEED. The FAFSA determines your eligibility for federal student loans. Contact your University's financial aid office or NMEAF with questions. Do research before borrowing.



Grants

Work-study

Work-study is a part-time job at the college or university you plan to attend. Contact your school's financial aid office to ask about available opportunities and how to apply.

**Rise Up
To Your Education**

Win a \$500 Scholarship

High school seniors can register to win a scholarship for submitting the FAFSA.

www.NMEAF.org/FAFSA-Scholarship

Returning & Adult Students

All returning and adult students who aren't high school seniors can also register by scanning this QR code.

Live FAFSA Help

Free one-on-one virtual assistance with the FAFSA. **FAFSA Money Monday** workshops 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Contact your school counselor, or email Outreach@nmeaf.org for more information.

En Español

Obtenga esta información en www.NMEAF.org/FAFSA-espanol

Thanks to Our Partners

Our gratitude to New Mexico school counselors and financial aid officers.



New Mexico
Educational
Assistance
Foundation



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NUSENDA
CREDIT UNION

NEW MEXICO
LOTTERY



Entry Form



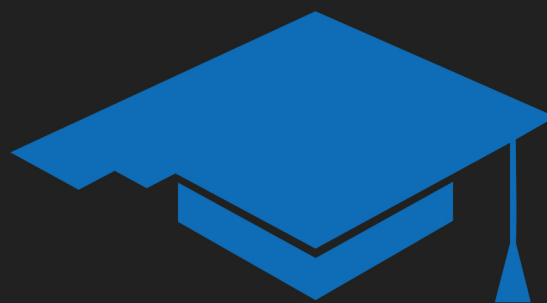
Returning
Students



Live Help



En Español



New Mexico Educational Assistance Foundation

The NM Guide to Financial Aid

- Create your FSA ID
- Complete the FAFSA
- Earn FREE money for school

Rise Up
To Your
Potential

Preparing for the FAFSA

FAFSA Facts

Finish the FAFSA

After the FAFSA

Further Funding

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