



Welcome to FAFSA 101!

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Before we begin...

- Now is a good time to take out a pen and paper in case you would like to take notes on this presentation or write down any questions that you may have.
- Please send all questions, comments, and concerns, to collegeadvisingquestions@gmail.com during this presentation and after.

Available resources

This webinar will be made available at
<https://www.detroitcan.org/seniors>

Information about me.

- My name is Christina.
- I am from Detroit, MI and graduated from Detroit School of Arts.
- I earned two Bachelor's of Arts in Anthropology and African American Studies.
- For two years I was a college counselor in Lansing, MI, specializing in helping high school students go to college.
- I am currently working for the Detroit Regional Chamber in their initiative to support and encourage more Detroiters to pursue their education beyond high school.

FAFSA (**FREE** Application for Federal Student Aid)



In this presentation we will be learning the most important basics of what the FAFSA is and why it is important that YOU complete one.

Questions that this presentation will answer:

What is the FAFSA?

Why is it important that you (student) complete and submit a FAFSA?

How do you complete the FAFSA?



Ready? Let's
get started!

DETROIT
COLLEGE
ACCESS
NETWORK

What is the FAFSA?

- The FAFSA is an acronym for the **FREE** Application for Federal Student Aid.
- That means that the FAFSA is an application created by the U.S. federal government for people in the U.S. to fill out and get money to help them continue their education beyond high school.

- That's right!
Money for you to
continue your
EDUCATION!



Facts to remember:

- The FAFSA is a **FREE** application.
- We put the emphasis on FREE because it's important to remember that it costs not one penny to complete the FAFSA.
- If you find any websites that try and make you pay to complete your FAFSA, close that tab immediately! It's a scam!
- The website to complete your FAFSA may be found at www.fafsa.ed.gov

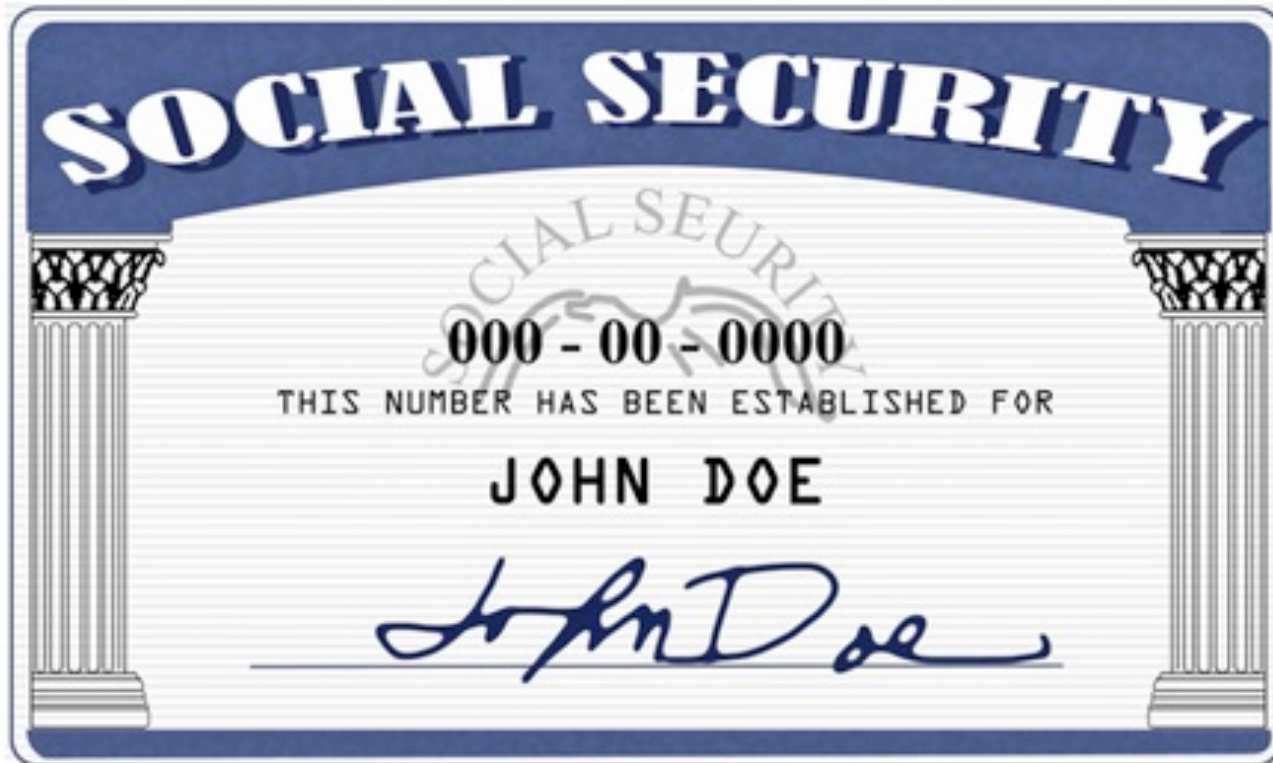
Question #2: Why is it important to complete the FAFSA?

- It is important that YOU complete the FAFSA because it is the best resource available to afford the costs of college.
- When you complete your FAFSA, you give yourself chance to go to college for *almost* **FREE**.
- Many students at the completion of their FAFSA are eligible for \$5000-\$6000, and sometimes more.

How do I complete the FAFSA?

- The first step in completing the FAFSA is getting a hold of some important documents.
- Your parent or guardian should know where these documents are.

#1 Your Social Security Number or SSN



- You **MUST** have a Social Security Number to complete the FAFSA.
- You must also have your parent/guardian's Social Security Number (SSN)

In the case that you were born outside of the U.S.

- If you are an immigrant, you may have a greencard. This ID has you're A number, or alien ID number.
- You will be needing your greencard and you're a number to complete your FAFSA.



#3 IRS Tax Returns

If your parents/guardian works *and* files taxes, you will be needing them to complete your FAFSA.

Form **1040** Department of the Treasury—Internal Revenue Service (99) **2019** U.S. Individual Income Tax Return OMB No. 1545-0074 IRS Use Only—Do not write or staple in this space.

Filing Status Single Married filing jointly Married filing separately (MFS) Head of household (HOH) Qualifying widow(er) (QW)
 Check only one box. If you checked the MFS box, enter the name of spouse. If you checked the HOH or QW box, enter the child's name if the qualifying person is a child but not your dependent. ▶

Your first name and middle initial	Last name	Your social security number
If joint return, spouse's first name and middle initial	Last name	Spouse's social security number
Home address (number and street). If you have a P.O. box, see instructions.		Apt. no.
City, town or post office, state, and ZIP code. If you have a foreign address, also complete spaces below (see instructions).		Presidential Election Campaign Check here if you, or your spouse if filing jointly, want \$3 to go to this fund. Checking a box below will not change your tax or refund. <input type="checkbox"/> You <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse
Foreign country name	Foreign province/state/county	Foreign postal code
If more than four dependents, see instructions and ✓ here ▶ <input type="checkbox"/>		

Standard Deduction **Someone can claim:** You as a dependent Your spouse as a dependent
 Spouse itemizes on a separate return or you were a dual-status alien

Age/Blindness **You:** Were born before January 2, 1955 Are blind **Spouse:** Was born before January 2, 1955 Is blind



A VALID email address

- It is HIGHLY recommended that you use either a **gmail** or **yahoo** email to complete your FAFSA.



If you are currently in Foster Care

- If you are currently in Foster Care, that means that you have not been adopted. You do not need IRS Tax Returns to file your FAFSA.
- All you need is your Social Security Number.
- And your Greencard *IF* you have one.
- You will be filing your FAFSA as an Independent student.

If you are currently homeless.

- If you or your family is homeless, IRS Tax Returns from your parent are not necessary to complete your FAFSA.
- You will be considered an independent student while filing your FAFSA.
- When the FAFSA asks for a home address, put down your school's address so that any information that must be mailed to you will come to the school.

A dramatic mountain landscape with a waterfall and a valley. The scene is misty and atmospheric, with a waterfall cascading down a rocky cliff on the left. The foreground shows a rocky, mossy slope leading down to a valley. The sky is overcast with soft light breaking through the clouds.

**Have patience with all things,
But, first of all with yourself.**

Saint Francis de Sales

#5 Patience

Take your time.

- It is important that while you are completing the FAFSA that you are taking your time to give accurate information.
- You will be asked for your name, address, Social Security Number, and other important information.
- *If you make mistakes on your FAFSA, you will have to make corrections.*
- Making corrections to your FAFSA is a mostly easy process, **HOWEVER** the more mistakes you make, the longer it will take for your FAFSA to be processed.

Before you begin your FAFSA, you must create a FSA ID.

- What is an FSA ID???
- An FSA ID stands for Federal Student Aid ID.
- Your FSA ID is used as an electronic signature to sign off on your FAFSA before is submitted.
- You will be needing your SSN or Social Security Number to create your FSA ID.
- Go to <https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm> to create your FSA ID.
- If you already have an FSA ID, awesome!

Create a New FSA ID

An FSA ID is a username and password that gives you access to Federal Student Aid's online systems and can serve as your

Only create an FSA ID using your own personal information and for your own exclusive use. You are not authorized to create an FSA ID on behalf of someone else, including a family member.

You are not allowed to have an employee or agent of a commercial entity, or other third party, create an FSA ID for you including but not limited to: payment reductions, debt consolidation or applying for aid. Misrepresentation of your identity to the federal government could result in criminal or civil penalties.

Important: When you are done, select the CANCEL button to clear your data even if you did not finish creating your FSA ID. Closing your browser window or going to another website may not be enough to prevent other people using this computer from seeing your information until the session expires.

Create an FSA ID

Manage My FSA ID

Here is what
the FSA ID
page looks
like.

This is where you will be creating your FSA ID.

Create an FSA ID Manage My FSA ID

Create your FSA ID username and password below.

Username ?

Password ?

✓ Numbers ✓ Uppercase Letters ✓ Lowercase Letters ✓ 8-30 Characters Show Text

Confirm Password ?

CONTINUE >

Warning

You are accessing a U.S. Federal Government computer system intended to be solely accessed by individual users expressly authorized to access the system by the U.S. Department of



Submitting the FAFSA

- Be sure that when you get to the end of the FAFSA that you have created an FSA ID for yourself and your parent.
- If you have not created an FSA ID, you will have to print out a signature page. Sign, and mail that page to Federal Student Aid.

The Importance of Checking your Email

- ***YOU MUST CONSTANLY CHECK YOUR EMAIL FOR UPDATES CONCERNING YOUR FAFSA***

Let's look at a FAFSA application.

- The FAFSA demo that we are about to look at together, is an accurate example of **EXACTLY** what the FAFSA looks like.
- Please follow along so that you will be more confident and prepared to do your own FAFSA.
- https://fafsa.ed.gov/spa/fafsa/#/LOGIN?locale=en_US

Frequently Asked Questions

- It's April. Is it too late to do my FAFSA?
- What if I can't find my parent's tax returns?
- I'm scared to start my FAFSA. It seems hard. What do I do?

Thank you, for joining us today!

- Please let us know if you have any questions about today's presentation at collegeadvisingquestions@gmail.com.

And one more thing!

- **Schedule an adviser for a one-on-one Zoom session**

<https://calendly.com/detroitcan/studentadvising>

- **This presentation and additional resources will be available to you online at:**

<https://www.detroitcan.org/seniors>

THANKS!

