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Question	Answer	Topic
How does a student fill out the FAFSA online when the parent is not a U.S. citizen or resident but did file a us tax return? I always have problems at the school with these students because the FAFSA reads an error when they put all 0's for the Social Security Number and then indicate they did file.	The SSN would be listed as all zeroes if there is no actual SSN. The error will appear, but the student/parent can indicate that the information is correct and continue to move through the FAFSA.	Citizenship
What is an emancipated minor?	Emancipation is the release from control of the parent or guardian. This must be adjudicated by a court of competent jurisdiction in the state of the student's legal residence at the time of adjudication. The basis of emancipation may vary from state to state and must be determined by a court (not by an attorney).	Dependency
Regarding the question "Do you have dependents....and who receive more than 1/2 of their support" Does the dependent have to be listed on the 1040?	No, the student does not have to be listed on the tax return. The rules for FSA and IRS are not the same for determining dependents or household members.	Dependency
If the student (under 24 yrs) has a child/dependent, but lives with parent(s) who support student and student's child/dependent... is the student dependent or independent?	From the SFA Application and Verification Guide...."Other sources of support for children and other household members If the student is receiving support to raise her child, is the child still considered a legal dependent? If one or both of the student's parents are directly or indirectly providing more than 50% support in cash or other assistance to the child, then the student would answer "No" to the FAFSA question about legal dependents. "Indirect support" to the child includes support that a parent gives to the student on behalf of the child. If the student is living with a parent who is paying for most of the household expenses, the parent would usually be considered the primary source of support to the child, and the student would answer "No" to the question about legal dependents. However, there may be some cases where the student can demonstrate that she provides more than half of her child's support even while living at home, in which case she would answer "Yes" to the question about legal dependents. When the student receives money for the child from any source other than her parents, she may count it as part of her support to the child. Sources include child support and government programs, such as Temporary assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly the federal Food Stamp Program), that provide benefits for dependent children. So a student may be considered independent when the benefit she receives is the primary support for her child. For example, if a student who lives alone with her child receives cash from her boyfriend that amounts to more than 50% support for her child, then she would be able to count the child as a dependent and in her household size, and she would be independent. If the boyfriend is the father of the child and a student himself, then he would also be able to count the child as a dependent and in his household size, and he would be independent too.	Dependency
Can you answer "yes" to the dependency question that you are in legal guardianship, if the legal guardianship was a temporary order at any point?	From Completing the FAFSA SM 2014-15: Answer "Yes" if you can provide a copy of a court's decision that as of today you are in legal guardianship. Also answer "Yes" if you can provide a copy of a court's decision that you were in a legal guardianship immediately before you reached the age of being an adult in your state. The court must be located in your state of legal residence at the time the court's decision was issued. Answer "No" if you are still a minor and the court decision is no longer in effect or the court decision was not in effect at the time you became an adult. Note: The definition of legal guardianship does not include your parents, even if they were appointed by a court to be your guardian. You are also not considered a legal guardian of yourself.	Dependency

How do health professional (MD) students allow parent info to be entered if the student answered as if independent (normally by age alone)?	The student indicates that he will be a graduate student and therefore is considered an "independent" student. This wording is presented after the student provides his family size and number in college..... <i>This means you are not required to answer questions about your parents. However, you may want to answer questions about your parents if: you are a health profession student (such as a medical or nursing student), or your school requires parental information from all students. Do you want to answer questions about your parents? Yes No</i>	Dependency
Are you saying now anyone can file a 2014-15 FAFSA without filing taxes and can just estimate their income and still get an EFC?	Applicants may use estimated information and receive an EFC based on those figures. This process has not changed. The applicant will be reminded to return to the FOTW to update the figures with actual tax figures if she/he indicated a tax form will be filed.	FAFSA Results
If the student does not provide parental information and checks that a special circumstance exists, will an EFC be calculated on the FAFSA confirmation page?	No. An estimated EFC will not be calculated when the FAFSA is completed. If there are special circumstances, the student can submit it but the student is asked to work with the colleges to proceed to next step. If there are no special circumstances to report and the student is eligible for federal aid, he or she may be awarded an unsubsidized Direct Loan.	FAFSA Results
Where do we get the link for the cheat sheet for homelessness, etc.?	NASFAA provides a tip sheet to its members at their website, www.nasfaa.org . There is also more information provided in "Completing the FAFSA" on p. 46-47.	General
If student does not know what school he wants to go to and does not fill it out-then completes the rest and submits it-how will he know if he will get financial assistance?	It might be better for the student to indicate a school to receive the results and submit the FAFSA by the earliest likely deadline. He/she can add another school later. Until the student is admitted to a college and has met any financial aid application requirements, he/she won't know the financial aid package.	General
Does "common law" marriage count?	Only if "common law" is recognized in the state of residence.	General
What is the school deadline?	Schools may have their own FAFSA completion deadline. Information on the state deadlines is located at https://fafsa.ed.gov/deadlines.htm .	General
Would the student be selected for verification if they filled the FAFSA out now without the tax information and then go back into the application to update that information?	Selection for verification is dependent upon several variables (edits) at the time of filing or updating information.	General
Why is driver's license asked for...what might it be used for?	The driver's license is an optional question. Some organizations/schools may use this information.	General
What if a student and his/her parents lived in current state less than 5 years? How does that effect their FAFSA?	This question is not used to determine federal eligibility. It is applicable to some state grant programs.	General
What is the purpose of knowing what state the parent live in & why 5 years.	This question is not used to determine federal eligibility. It is applicable to some state grant programs.	General
Why is it asked if parent has lived at least five years in current state of residence?	This question is not used to determine federal eligibility. It is applicable to some state grant programs.	General
What should a student/parent do if they are not able to remember the answers to the security questions if they forgot their PIN number?	This would hopefully be resolved before the FAFSA needs to be submitted, as it may take some time to resolve the issue. On www.pin.ed.gov , there is an option to reestablish your PIN.	General
Once FAFSA is completed, can changes be made even before 2013 taxes are completed and linked for cross over?	You can make changes after it's been processed (2-5 days). When making changes, keep the following in mind....assets are reported as of the date the FAFSA is submitted. You can "correct" an asset if you reported it incorrectly. However, you cannot update an asset to reflect a change in the value since the time you filed, e.g., if you reported \$10,000 in savings and then paid something which reduced the balance, you may not report the reduced amount. You are expected to correct income values if they are estimated or incorrect.	General

<p>If a student has a child and pays child support to the other person (the child does not live with the student) and the other person does not have any income of their own other than the child support they receive from the student, can the student paying child support answer yes to the questions that indicates they have children they support and would they be able to include them in the household size? What if the other person whom the child does reside with is also a student are they able to include the child in their household size since the only income they have is the child support received from the other student? Can both include the child in their household size?</p>	<p>From "Completing the FAFSA": To determine whether to include children in your household size, the "support" test is used (rather than a residency requirement) because there may be situations in which you support a child who does not live with you, especially in cases of divorce or separation. In such cases, the parent who provides more than half of the child's support may claim the child in his or her household size. It does not matter which parent claims the child as a dependent for tax purposes. If you receive benefits (such as Social Security or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families [TANF] payments) in the child's name, these benefits must be counted as parental support to the child. Support includes money, gifts, loans, housing, food, clothes, car payments or expenses, medical and dental care, and payment of college costs. There may be a circumstance that would allow both of these students to claim the student as a household member, but it would depend on what other resources might be supporting the child support receiving household, e.g. SNAP benefits or cash support. NOTE: the child support paying student cannot claim both "child support paid" for the child and the child as a household member.</p>	Household Size
<p>If a student's DEP sibling is deceased within the same FAFSA year but is in the Parent(s) Tax Transcript, is the deceased sibling counted in Household Size?</p>	<p>The deceased sibling would not be included in the household size. IRS data will capture the prior year; the FAFSA captures a "snapshot" of the current family.</p>	Household Size
<p>If a grandparent is living in a nursing home, but the parents are providing more than half their support, can the parent claim the grandparent?</p>	<p>The instructions specify that other people may be included in the household if they live with and receive more than half of their support from your parents at the time of application and will continue to receive that support from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015 for dependent filers or if they live with the student and will receive more than half of their support from the student's household for the entire award year in the case of an independent student. The family may want to provide this information to the school directly if they are providing significant support but cannot include the person in their household.</p>	Household Size
<p>Parents who own a small business would complete a 1099 when filing their taxes, correct? Where on the 1099 do I find their income or would that be the instance where I would use lines 7 + 12 + 18 + Box 14 from the IRS Form 1040 to answer the question about how much each parent earned from working.</p>	<p>Parents that have a small business would not need to file a 1099 to report their income. They would file a form 1040 for their personal income tax return and report their income on that return. If they are taxed as a sole proprietor that would be reported on a Schedule C on their personal income tax return (Form 1040). They would <u>receive</u> a 1099 from their clients or customers that they provide services to and receive from them. If they do not receive any 1099s from their customers it is still their responsibility to report their income received. They would need to file a 1099 to report payments they made to their vendors. They should refer to IRS rules to determine which vendors they are required to give a 1099.</p>	Income
<p>Are Social Security benefits received by a student from a deceased parent's account, reported as other income? Is Social Security retirement counted as other income?</p>	<p>Untaxed Social Security Benefits are not reported on the FAFSA.</p>	Income
<p>The 2nd parent has gone back to work January 2013. How do you estimate the parents income tax for 2013 when the prior year information is now not the same?</p>	<p>You estimate the income as best you can. You may be able to do a tentative income tax return based on the last paystub.</p>	Income
<p>Do you have to list the housing benefits a VA student received for the prior year?</p>	<p>Veterans benefits are not considered income and are not reported on the FAFSA.</p>	Income
<p>What is the income minimum amount for a student to have to file an individual tax return?</p>	<p>Single dependents must file if the earned income is more than \$6,100 or the unearned income is more than \$1,000. For more filing requirements, review pages 5-7 of Publication 17 at www.irs.gov.</p>	IRS Data Retrieval Tool
<p>What would be some reasons why the IRS Data Retrieval Tool would not be able to be used by a student and or parent?</p>	<p>The IDR is not available if the tax filer has filed an amended return, files a foreign or Puerto Rican return, or files separately from the other parent reporting on the FAFSA.</p>	IRS Data Retrieval Tool
<p>If parents file married separately I assume they cannot use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool? Same if they are unmarried but live together and file separately single status?</p>	<p>You are correct. If selected for verification or requested by the school, parents in those circumstances will need to request Tax Return Transcripts from the IRS for each party.</p>	IRS Data Retrieval Tool

What are the new ISIR Flags for 2014-15?	V1 - Standard, V2 - Not Used in 14-15, V3 - Child Support Paid, V4 - Custom Verification, V5 - Aggregate, V6 - Household Resources	ISIR
How is the parent information recorded for recognized same sex marriages?	Same-sex couples must report their marital status as married if they were legally married in a state or other jurisdiction (foreign country) that permits same-sex marriage, without regard to where the couple resides. The FAFSA requests information from Parent 1 and Parent 2.	Parental Information
If parents have assets in a trust, does that get reported somewhere?	Assets that are in a trust would be reported as an investment typically.	Parental Information
For unmarried parents, is it just if the biological parents living together? Or is it biological and step-parent?	Biological or adoptive parents are considered the legal parents and would report as parents if unmarried and living together. If the "step-parent" is not actually married to the parent and has not adopted the student, his/her information is not included on the FAFSA.	Parental Information
What if the stepparent is the same sex as custodial parent. Will their information be included in the parental section?	If the biological or adoptive parent is "remarried", both must report on the FAFSA. Same sex couples are considered "married" if they were married in a state or other jurisdiction (foreign country) that permits same-sex marriage, without regard to where the couple resides.	Parental Information
So, if a parent is low income or does not report any income, the FAFSA will not ask for student to report income info?	In cases where the system can determine the EFC from the parent information alone, i.e. a zero EFC, the student may not be asked to provide any information and the applicant will be moved directly to the Sign & Submit section.	Parental Information
What would be the status of parent and live in partner?	If the live in partner is not either the biological or adoptive parent of the student and the couple is not considered married by "common law" and they are not "married", only the legal parent would report on the FAFSA.	Parental Information
Since the parents live together, they would be considered separated/divorced but living together. Even though one parent is remarried, would the student not report both biological parents on the form?	if the parents are informally separated and living together they are treated as married. If they are divorced and living together, they are still treated as divorced. If parents are divorced and one parent is remarried, but all three live together, the FAFSA is based on the parent who provides more support and his or her spouse, if remarried.	Parental Information
If a student files his/her own taxes do you submit both parent and student taxes?	If the student is dependent, then both the student and parent information is required.	Parental Information
Under other circumstances if the student can't provide parental information, will they be able to complete the application? What other documents will they have to provide to become eligible for Direct Unsubsidized Loans?	If the applicant cannot provide parent information and parents are unwilling to complete, the school can offer the student an unsubsidized loan. There is a flag on the ISIR received by the school to show that parent information is not being provided. If it is a situation for which the student can give more information to college regarding special circumstances, they may possibly be able to be considered independent. The applicant must work with school in this instance.	Parental Information
How will the student be able to put both of their parents information on the FAFSA if they are not married, but living together?	Some answers will need to the sum of parent 1 and parent 2 responses, e.g., AGI, taxes paid, assets.	Parental Information
Can you go over the divorced parent scenario again? Do you only provide the parent's information that claims you on their taxes with their spouse's information (stepparent)?	The custodial parent is used on the FAFSA - that is the parent with whom the student has lived most during the twelve months prior to filing the FAFSA.if that parent has remarried, the spouse's income is also included. Note: the custodial parent is not always the parent that claims the student for tax purposes.	Parental Information
For families who report zero income or low income, will the federal questions be displayed?	The FAFSA has skip logic, thus it is possible that several questions are skipped if the parent, in the case of a dependent student or student/spouse, in the case of an independent student, meets certain reporting thresholds in terms of income/benefits.	Parental Information
If parents are divorced and one of them remarried but the student is living with the mom who is still single and provides for the student. Does the student have to use the father and stepmom's income?	The FAFSA will be completed by the custodial parent, i.e., the parent with whom the student lived most in the last 12 months. If he/she lived with each parent equally, it is then based on the parent who provided the most support.	Parental Information

If a parent deceased in 2013, does that parent's earned income still get reported on the 2014-15 FAFSA along with the remaining parent's earned income? Can this family link to the IRS website?	The FAFSA collects income and asset information from the current household reporting so the deceased parent's income would not be included. The family will only report the remaining parent's 2013 income and current assets in the parent section. If the student is selected for verification, the parent could still provide the tax transcript but she or he will want to remind the school that the other parent is deceased. The school may want a copy of the W2s to confirm the income of the parent reporting on the FAFSA.	Parental Information
Trying to help a student whose dad died when he was 9, mom remarried but she died last year. Lives with and supported by step dad. Is he independent (orphan)? If so, should student report step dad's support as other untaxed income on FAFSA? Isn't the step parent consider a legal parent, why does he have to adopt the student?	The student would be independent because both biological parents are deceased (assuming the stepparent did not legally adopt the student before the student turned 13). The student should report any cash support received, but not housing or food provided by the stepparent.	Parental Information
Whose information should a student provide if biological parents are divorced and one parents gets remarried but the other parent still lives in the household? Would student just have to put biological parent who provides most support and the step parent or all 3?	The student would report the parent that provided more support during the past 12 months. If that is a parent that is remarried, it would be include that stepparent as well. It is possible that the noncustodial parent may be providing untaxed income to the other parent/student as well.	Parental Information
If parents are unmarried but living together and file separately as single, explain how they report tax information on FAFSA please.	They will combine the appropriate fields. If selected for verification, they will not be able to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool and will have to request transcripts from the IRS.	Parental Information
If parents are separated, must both of their incomes (regardless of separation) go on the FAFSA ?	They would only report both incomes if they are informally separated, but living together.	Parental Information
When you put the parent is "single" because technically they aren't legally married, it only required one parent's information, how do you proceed, if the parents live together?	Unmarried parents who live together are both required to report on the FAFSA. Legal parent includes biological and adoptive parents.	Parental Information
What do we do with a parent who does not want his child to be able to view their financial information?	We are not aware that this is an option.	Parental Information
Can a student fill out the FAFSA online if the parent is not a citizen or resident but did file a US tax return to report any wages they may have earned, or do they need to print out the PDF version and send it by mail?	Yes, they can do the online version. They would put 0's in for the SSNs for the parents. You can file a tax return without an SSN.	Parental Information
A follow-up question about the unmarried parents living together. How would we do the verification on that with tax transcripts? Combined income like newly married people?	You will combine the responses for each appropriate question, e.g., adjusted gross income, tax paid, additional income questions, untaxed income questions and assets.	Parental Information
If the parents were common law in one state and have since moved to another state are they still in a recognized marriage?	From the SFA Application and Verification Guide..."If a couple lives together and has not been formally married but meets the criteria in their state for a common-law marriage, they should be reported as married on the FAFSA. If the state doesn't consider their situation to be a common-law marriage, then they aren't married; a dependent student would follow the rules for divorce to determine which parent's information to report. Check with the appropriate state agency concerning the definition of a common-law marriage.	Parental Information
Is it okay to let student complete parent information if parent gives student all the information & pin # to complete the FAFSA?	The PIN holder agrees not to share his or her PIN with anyone. As a practical matter, a parent or student may be doing the majority of the work on the FAFSA and may have access to both PINs. It would be inadvisable to design your FAFSA completion assistance programs in such a way that would encourage the sharing of the PIN. It would be important to provide assistance during times that both parent and student could attend, one may be inputting the data for FOTW, but each could type in the PIN. Remember that the PIN is not just used for the FAFSA signature, but must also be used when applying for parent and student loans. Sharing the PIN could have unintended consequences.	Parental Information

If the student was living with her mom for more than 12 months and she filled FAFSA with her mother's information, but she was selected for verification and now she is living with her dad. Would she have to submit her mom's or dad's tax return? Note: the parents aren't divorced, just separated.	Verification procedures are outside the parameters of this session, but according to the "SFA Application and Verification Guide"... "All applicants selected by the Department or a school for verification of household size or number in college must update those numbers to be correct as of the date of verification unless the update is due to a change in the student's marital status."	Parental Information
What do you do if the student is documented but the parent(s) are not documented and are not living in the states?	The same information is provided but the parents will use zeroes for the SSN and indicate a foreign tax return if they are tax filers in their country.	Parental Information
What if parents are separated and only one of the parents take care of the dependent student? Do we need to use both parents' income information?	The FAFSA will only include information about the custodial parent.	Parental Information
What if stepparent is of same sex as custodial parent. Will their information be included in the parental section?	If the parents are married or both adopted the student, both will report information on the FAFSA. From "Completing the FAFSA".....Consistent with the Supreme Court decision holding Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) unconstitutional, same-sex couples must report their marital status as married if they were legally married in a state or other jurisdiction (foreign country) that permits same-sex marriage, without regard to where the couple resides.	Parental Information
When parent/student completes the FAFSA with estimated income (will file) must the school wait or verify the data has been updated?	A school can provide an award based on the estimated information. However, it must review any subsequent corrections, resolve any data conflicts, and/or perform verification if selected. Some schools may wait for updated information prior to awarding.	Parental Information
When the student tries to fill out the FAFSA online when a parent is not a citizen or resident but did file a US tax return, the FAFSA will not allow the student to proceed past the parents' income information because it reads an error because there is all 0's for the social security number for the parent(s) but is indicating they filed a US tax return, how can this be overridden on the FAFSA so that the student can continue and submit the FAFSA online?	When the parent enters zeroes for the SSN and indicates there is a tax form filed, an "error" message is received. The student/parent will review the potential errors and if the information is correct, click on "Check for Errors" and the error message is removed. If there is an error, make the correction in the space provided, and click on "Check for Errors" to see if that error has been cleared.	Parental Information
Which parent(s) should be reported on the FAFSA?	Go to "Completing the FAFSA" at http://studentaid.ed.gov/sites/default/files/2014-15-completing-fafsa.pdf and review pages 48-51.	Parental Information
How do we get access to the recording of this session?	The webinar recording is available at http://mappingyourfuture.org/services/webinararchive.cfm .	Webinar Information
Will there be another presentation?	The webinar recordings for financial aid professionals and others and the FAFSA training for students and parents are available at http://mappingyourfuture.org/services/webinararchive.cfm .	Webinar Information
Do all adults who will be helping during FAFSA night need to be trained line by line?	This webinar is a service for those who would like to participate. We are not aware of any requirements to attend such a training.	Webinar Information