Understanding taxes – The basics and beyond

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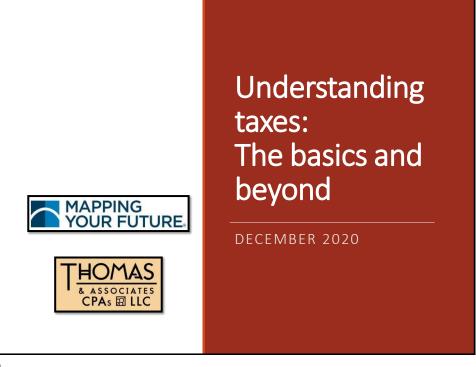
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Our **mission** is to enable individuals to achieve life-long success by empowering schools, students, and families with web-based college, financial aid, career, and financial literacy information and services.



Agenda

- § Introduction
- § Tax basics
- § Tax transcripts
- § Education-related tax benefits
- § Mapping Your Future services
- § Questions

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Mapping Your Future offers this webinar for information only and as a service to you.

Every tax situation is different and the regulations are complex. If you are uncertain about your rights and responsibilities, contact a qualified tax advisor or visit the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) website.



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Presenter

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St. Louis, MO



Thomas & Associates does tax planning for businesses and individuals and consulting services for small business owners.



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Tax Cuts and Jobs Act

- Eliminated the personal exemption for taxpayers and their dependents
- Increased the standard deduction for all filing statuses
- Decreased the individual income tax rates
- Effective for tax years beginning after 12/31/17
- Ends before 1/1/26

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2020 Tax Updates

Economic Impact Payments

 If you did not receive the economic impact payment or received less than you should have – you will be able to claim it on your 2020 return.

Special \$300 cash donation deduction

 If you donate up to \$300 in cash (or checks) donations to a charity, you can take this "above the line" deduction even if you take the standard deduction instead of itemizing.

Unemployment benefits are taxable

 This is not new in 2020 - just an important reminder for taxpayers when filing their 2020 return not to forget to include this income on their tax return.

IRA Withdrawals

 Qualified taxpayers can take up to \$100,000 out of an IRA account without the 10 percent penalty. Other tax still applies.

Note: These are just a few of the 2020 tax updates and this is not meant to be an all-inclusive list. Review the IRS website or speak to a qualified tax advisor for more information.

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Waiver of 10% penalty

You are a qualified individual if:

- You are diagnosed with COVID-19
- Your spouse or dependent is diagnosed with COVID-19
- You experience adverse financial consequences as a result of being quarantined, being furloughed or laid off, or having work hours reduced due to COVID-19
- You experience adverse financial consequences as a result of being unable to work due to lack of childcare due to COVID-19
- You experience adverse financial consequences as a result of closing or reducing hours of a business that you own or operate due to COVID-19

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Special situations from 2020







Emergency financial aid grant under the CARES Act Emergency grants from the college, not funded by the CARES Act Work study

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What are the filing statuses?

- Five filing statuses
 - Single
 - Married filing jointly
 - Married filing separately
 - Head of Household
 - Qualifying Widow(er) with child

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Filing status – Single

- You are single if:
 - You are unmarried on the last day of the year or
 - Legally separated under a divorce or separate maintenance decree



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Filing status-Married

You are considered married, if on the last day of the year, you:

- Are living together as a married couple
- Are married according to the law of the state where you live
- Are not separated under a divorce or separate maintenance decree

You will have to file as married filing jointly or married filing separately.

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Filing status-Head of Household

You can file as head of household if you are considered unmarried at the end of the year.

You must pay more than half the cost of maintaining a household and have someone living with you as a qualifying person.



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Filing status-Qualifying widow(er) with child

- You can file this status for two years following the year your spouse died.
- You must have a child as a dependent on your tax return.

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Who needs to file a tax return?

IF your filing status is	AND at the end of the year you were	2020 gross income amounts	2019 gross income amounts
single	under 65	\$12,400	\$12,200
	65 or older	\$14,050	\$13,850
married filing jointly	under 65 (both spouses)	\$24,800	\$24,400
	65 or older (one spouse)	\$26,100	\$25,700
	65 or older (both spouses)	\$27,400	\$27,000
married filing separately	any age	\$5	\$5
head of household	under 65	\$18,650	\$18,350
	65 or older	\$20,300	\$20,000
qualifying widow(er)	under 65	\$24,800	\$24,400
with dependent child	65 or older	\$26,100	\$25,700

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Who needs to file a tax return?

Self-employed individuals, which includes:

- Sole proprietor in a trade or business
- Independent contractor
- Partner in a business
- Anyone who is in business for themselves

You must file a tax return if you have at least \$400 of net income.

May qualify for the Qualified Business Income Deduction

Source: IRS 2019 Publication 17

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Additional requirements to file

Even if you have no income:

- If you, your spouse, or dependent were enrolled in health care coverage through the Marketplace
- If you received HSA, Archer MSA, or Medicare Advantage MSA distributions
- If you are repaying the first-time homebuyer credit
- If you have a household employee
- · Additional tax on a qualified plan

Note: You may want to file to receive the Economic Impact Payment if you have not yet received it.

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Dependency exemption

With the 2018 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, dependents are now only listed on the return for the child tax credit and the new dependent tax credit.

Dependents are still considered for filing status for:

- · Head of household
- · Qualifying widow(er)

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Who is a dependent?

To be a dependent on your return, a dependent must meet three tests:

- Dependent taxpayer test
- Joint return test
- Citizen or resident test



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Dependent Taxpayer Test

Is the taxpayer being claimed as a dependent by another person?

• If yes, then the taxpayer cannot claim any dependents on his/her return.

If you are filing a joint return, can your spouse can be claimed as a dependent by someone else?

• If yes, then the taxpayer cannot claim any dependents on your joint return.

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Joint Return Test

You generally cannot claim a married person as a dependent if he or she files a joint return with their spouse.

Exception exists when a dependent is filing a joint return with a spouse only to receive a refund.

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Citizen Resident Test

You cannot claim a person as a dependent unless that person is a:

- U.S. citizen
- U.S. resident alien
- U.S. national
- Resident of Canada or Mexico

There is an exception for certain adopted children.

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Types of dependents

- A dependent is:
 - A qualifying child
 - A qualifying relative



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Tests to be a qualifying child

- Must be your son, daughter, stepchild, foster child, brother, sister, half brother, half sister, stepbrother, stepsister, or a descendant of any of them.
- Must be:
 - Under age 19 at the end of the year and younger than you (or your spouse, if filing jointly)
 - Under age 24 at the end of the year, a student, and younger than you (or your spouse, if filing jointly)
 - Any age if permanently and totally disabled.

(Cont. on next slide)

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Tests to be a qualifying child, cont.

- The child must have lived with you for more than half of the year.
- The child must not have provided more than half of his or her own support for the year.
- The child is not filing a joint return for the year (unless that return is filed only to get a refund of income tax withheld or estimated tax paid).

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Tests to be a qualified relative

- The person cannot be your qualifying child or the qualifying child of any other taxpayer.
- The person either:
 - Must be related to you, or
 - Must live with you all year as a member of your household (and your relationship must not violate local law)
- The person's gross income for 2020 must be less than \$4,300 (\$4,200 for 2019).
- You must provide more than half of the person's total support for the year.

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Head of Household

- Unmarried or considered unmarried on the last day of the year
- Paid more than half of the cost of maintaining a home for the year
- A qualifying person lives with you in the home for more than half of the year (except for temporary absences)

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Head of Household

If he or she is married and you claim as an dependent If he or she is married and you cannot claim them as a dependent Qualifying relative who is If you can claim them as A qualifying person	If the person is your	and	then that person is
and you claim as an dependent If he or she is married and you cannot claim them as a dependent Qualifying relative who is If you can claim them as A qualifying person	Qualifying child	If he or she is single	A qualifying person
and you cannot claim them as a dependent Qualifying relative who is If you can claim them as A qualifying person		and you claim as an	A qualifying person
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,		and you cannot claim	Not a qualifying person
	Qualifying relative who is your father or mother	•	A qualifying person
If you cannot claim them as a dependent Not a qualifying person		•	Not a qualifying person

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If the person is your	and	then that person is
Qualifying relative other than your father or mother	If he or she lives with you more than half the year and he or she is related to you in one of the ways listed (IRS Pub. 17)	A qualifying person
	He or she lived with the taxpayer for only half of the year or less	Not a qualifying person
	He or she is your qualifying relative only because they lived with you all year as a member of your household	Not a qualifying person
	He or she cannot be claimed as a dependent on the taxpayer's return	Not a qualifying person

Earned vs. unearned Generally, the most common sources of earned income are: W2—wages from employment 1099—income from subcontract work

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Unearned income

- Dividends
- Interest
- Capital gains

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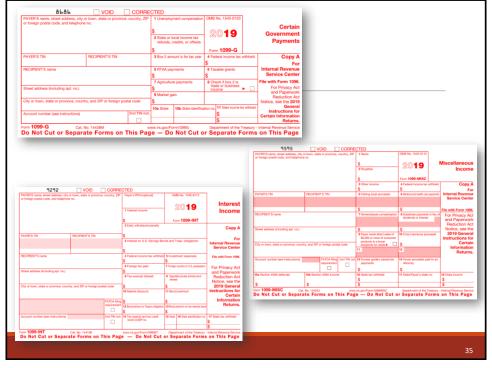
Untaxed income

- Payments to tax-deferred pension and savings plans
- IRA deductions and payments to self-employed SEP, SIMPLE, Keogh
- Child support received
- Tax exempt interest income
- Untaxed portions of IRA distributions

- Untaxed portions of pensions
- Housing, food or other living allowances to military, clergy, others
- Veterans non-education benefits
- Alimony (effective for agreements after 12/31/18)

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Filing requirements for dependents

Single dependents – under age 65 and not blind

2020

- Your unearned income was more than \$1,100
- Your earned income was more than \$12,400

2019

- Your unearned income was more than \$1,100
- Your earned income was more than \$12,200

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Filing requirements for dependents

Single dependents – over age 65 or older or blind

2020

- Your unearned income was more than \$2,750; \$4,400 if 65 or older and blind
- Your earned income was more than \$14,050; \$15,700 if 65 or older and blind

2019

- Your unearned income was more than \$2,750; \$4,400 if 65 or older and blind
- Your earned income was more than \$13,850; \$15,500 if 65 or older and blind

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Filing requirements for married dependents

Married dependents – under age 65 and not blind 2020

- Your unearned income was more than \$1,100
- Your earned income was more than \$24,800

2019

- Your unearned income was more than \$1,100
- Your earned income was more than \$24,400

Your gross income was at least \$5 and your spouse files a separate return and itemizes deductions

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Filing requirements for married dependents

Married dependents - age 65 or older or blind

2020

- Your unearned income was more than \$2,400; \$3,700 if 65 or older and blind
- Your earned income was more than \$27,400; \$30,000 if 65 or older and blind

2019

- Your unearned income was more than \$2,400; \$3,700 if 65 or older and blind
- Your earned income was more than \$27,000; \$29,600 if 65 or older and blind

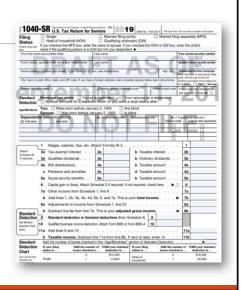
Your gross income was at least \$5 and your spouse files a separate return and itemizes deductions

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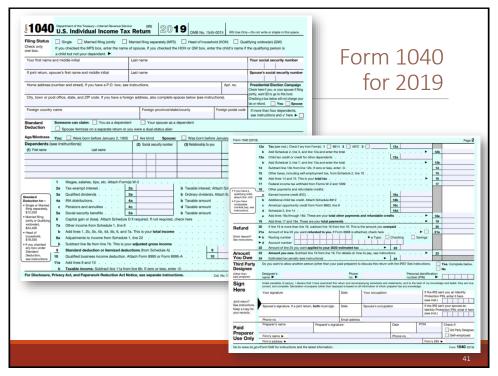
What form to file?

- There are now two different forms that can be used:
 - Form 1040
 - Form 1040 SR



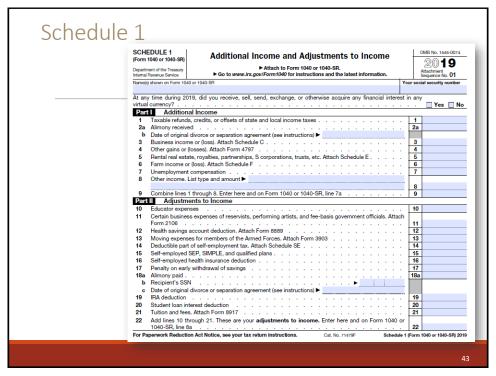
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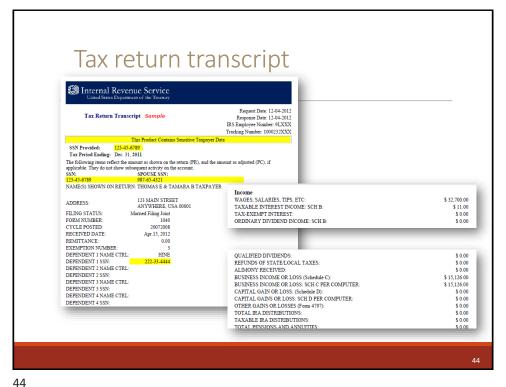
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Schedule 1	Have additional income, such as capital gains, unemployment compensation, prize or award money, or gambling winnings. Have any deductions to claim, such as student loan interest deduction, self-employment tax, or educator expenses.
Schedule 2	Owe AMT or need to make an excess advance premium tax credit repayment
Schedule 3	Can claim a nonrefundable credit other than the child tax credit or the credit for other dependents, such as the foreign tax credit, education credits, or general business credit.
Schedule 4	Owe other taxes, such as self-employment tax, household employment taxes, additional tax on IRAs or other qualified retirement plans and tax-favored accounts
Schedule 5	Can claim a refundable credit other than the earned income credit, American opportunity credit, or additional child tax credit, such as the net premium tax credit or health coverage tax credit. Have other payments, such as an amount paid with a request for an extension to fill or excess social security tax withheld.
Schedule 6	Have a foreign address or a third party designee other than a paid preparer.

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Identity theft

- Tax-related identity theft occurs when someone uses another person's identity to claim a fraudulent tax refund
- Pub. 5027 outlines steps taxpayers must take if they are a victim of tax-related identity theft
- Cannot use automated means to request tax transcripts
 - Identity theft hotline (800) 908-4490
 - Must speak to a representative
 - Have tax forms available to provide specific information
- Starting in January 2021, you can opt into the IP Pin program.

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When to file?



Generally, the due date for individual returns is April 15

For 2020 returns, the deadline will be April 15

Deadline is extended for special circumstances

Extensions are allowed until October 15

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Education-related tax credits and deductions

Tax credits

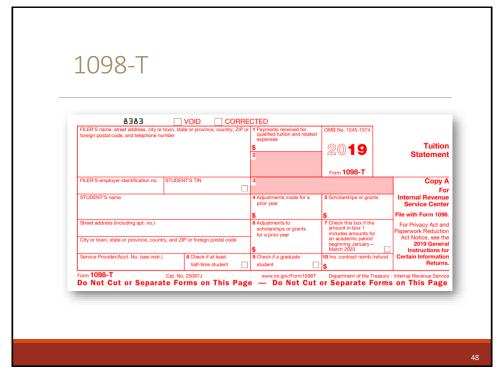
- American Opportunity Credit
- Lifetime Learning Credit

Tax deductions

- Student Loan Interest Deduction
- Tuition and Fees Deduction

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Scenario



A college student was awarded an emergency grant by their college during the pandemic. The student used the money to pay for housing.

Will this be taxable income to the student?

Will the student need to report it on the FAFSA next year?

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Scenario

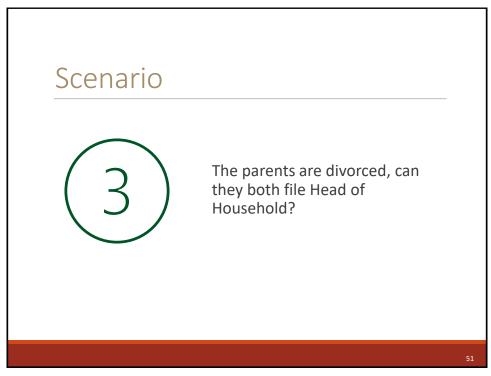


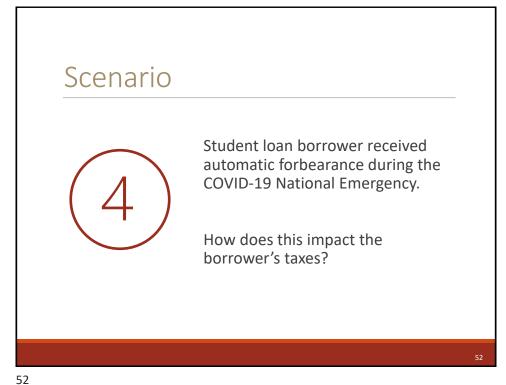
A college student received an emergency grant under the CARES Act. The student used the money to pay tuition and fees.

Can the student claim the Lifetime Learning Credit or American Opportunity Credit for those tuition and fees that were paid with the grant?

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Resources

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Verification worksheets

Active verification tracking groups remaining are V1, V4, V5

Revised worksheets for 2021-22 will be available soon

- Individual worksheets by data collection item
- Comprehensive worksheets by verification tracking flag

Available to Member schools and schools in Sponsored states

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MappingXpress[®]

- Document collection service
- Select document types to collect from students and parents
- Other customization options



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