Understanding taxes – The basics and beyond

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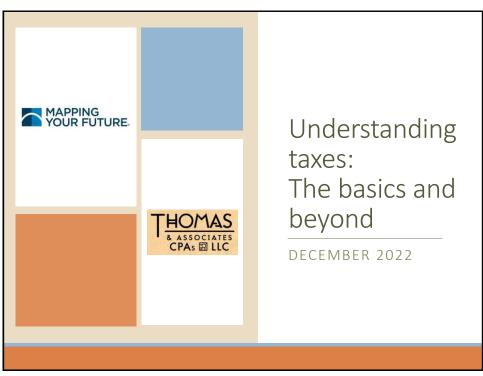
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Our mission is to enable individuals to achieve life-long success by empowering schools, students, and families with web-based college, financial aid, career, and financial literacy information and services.



Agenda

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

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Disclaimer

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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.

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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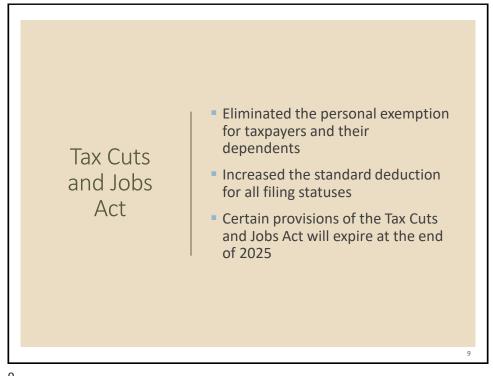
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Inflation Reduction Act of 2022

- Act includes a lot of non-tax provisions in this Act
- Tax related provisions:
 - Primarily concern energy credits
 - Clean vehicle credit (both new and used vehicles)
 - Extension and modification of energy for buildings and property
- Extension of credit for coverage under qualified health plan

These rules under the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 are complicated and have very specific provisions. Be sure to examine these rules and provisions carefully to determine if you qualify for these credits

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Inflation adjustments Brackets and certain income limitations are being adjusted due to inflation being higher in 2022. Standard deductions Tax brackets Maximum EIC credit 401(k) contributions Foreign earned income exclusion Gift exclusion amount

2021 Tax Updates

updates and this is not meant to be an all-inclusive list. Review the

Advanced Child Tax Credit The IRS began sending out advanced child tax payments over the summer of 2021. These were

reconciled on the 2021 return.

- Economic Impact Payments
 Claimed on 2021 returns if payments were not received before filing 2021 return.
- **Special \$300** cash donation deduction Effective for 2021 returns, not for 2022 returns.
- **Unemployment benefits are taxable** Unemployment benefits are taxable on 2021 and 2022 returns.
- **IRA** withdrawals On 2020 returns, taxpayers were allowed to defer a portion of any withdrawals from their taxable income for three years.
- Cryptocurrency
 Beginning with the 2019 individual tax return, the IRS has been asking taxpayers to affirmatively mark "yes" or "no" as to whether they acquired or disposed of a position in a virtual currency.

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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

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.

Who needs to file a tax return?

IF your filing status is	AND at the end of the year, you were	2021 gross income amounts	2022 gross income amounts
single	under 65	\$12,550	\$12,950
	65 or older	\$14,250	\$14,700
married filing jointly	under 65 (both spouses)	\$25,100	\$25,900
	65 or older (one spouse)	\$26,450	\$27,300
	65 or older (both spouses)	\$27,800	\$28,700
married filing separately	any age	\$5	\$5
head of household	under 65	\$18,800	\$19,400
	65 or older	\$20,500	\$21,150
qualifying widow(er) with dependent child	under 65	\$25,100	\$25,900
	65 or older	\$26,450	\$27,300

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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 2021 Publication 17

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Additional reasons or requirements to file

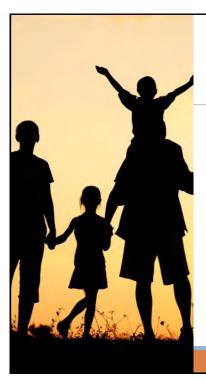
Even if you have no income:

- 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
- o If you have a household employee
- Additional tax on a qualified plan
- Tax-related identify theft

Note: You may want to file to receive the Economic Impact Payment if you have not yet received it for 2020 or 2021.

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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 qualifying 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 2022 must be less than \$4,400 (\$4,300 for 2021).
- You must provide more than half of the person's total support for the year.

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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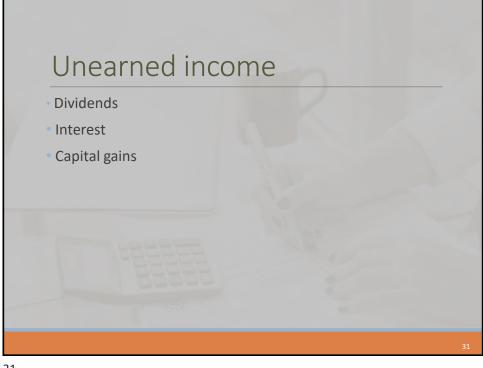
What is income?

- · 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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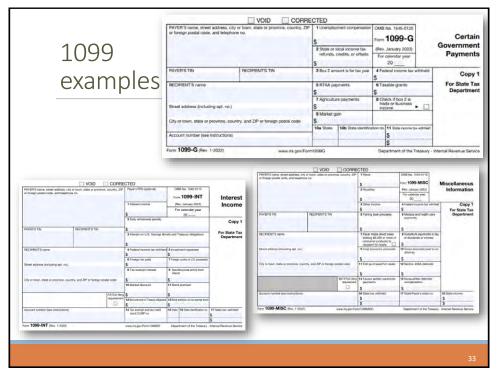
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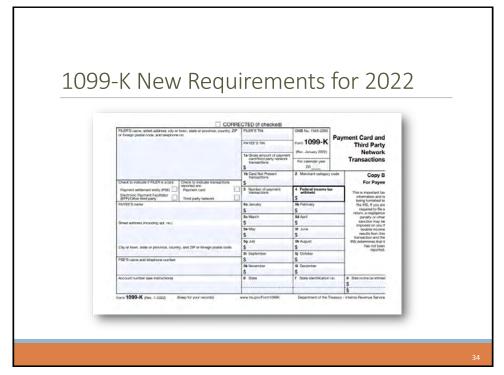


Untaxed income related to the FAFSA

- 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,
- Veterans non-education benefits
- Alimony (effective for agreements after 12/31/18)
- Certain CARES ACT Relief programs are untaxed





Filing requirements for dependents

Single dependents – under age 65 and not blind

2022

- Your unearned income was more than \$1,150
- Your earned income was more than \$12,950

2021

- Your unearned income was more than \$1,100
- Your earned income was more than \$12,550

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Filing requirements for dependents

Single dependents – over age 65 or older or blind

2022

- Your unearned income was more than \$2,800; \$4,500 if 65 or older and blind
- Your earned income was more than \$14,250; \$15,950 if 65 or older and blind

2021

- Your unearned income was more than \$2,750; \$4,450 if 65 or older and blind
- Your earned income was more than \$14,250; \$15,950 if 65 or older and blind

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Filing requirements for married dependents

Married dependents – under age 65 and not blind

- Your unearned income was more than \$1,150
- Your earned income was more than \$25,900

2021

- Your unearned income was more than \$1,100
- Your earned income was more than \$25,100

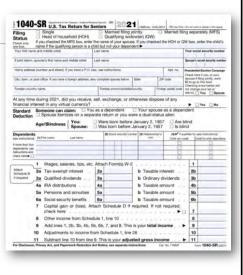
Your gross income was at least \$5 and your spouse files a separate return and itemizes deductions

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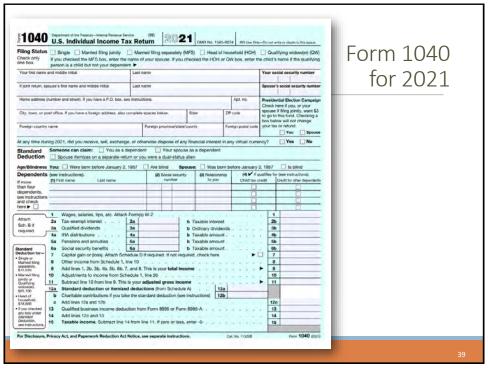
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What form to file?

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

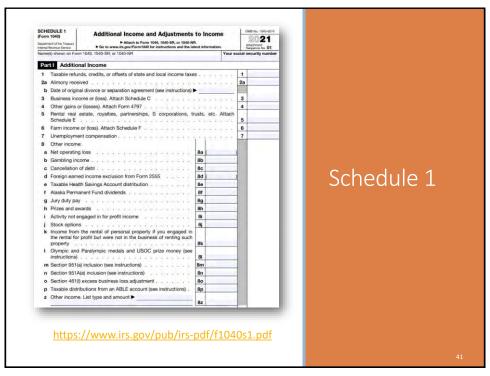


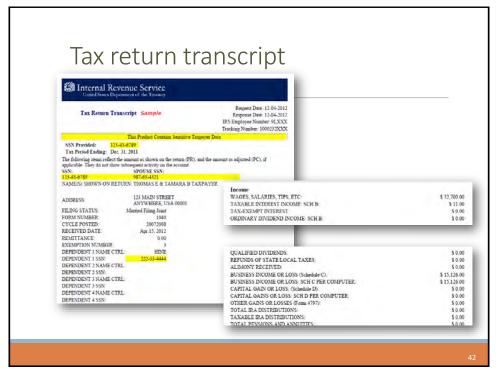
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Schedule 1	Have additional income, such as capital gains, unemployment compensation, prize	
	or award money, or gambling winnings.	
	Have any deductions to claim, such as student loan interest deduction, self-employment tax, or educator expenses.	
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 cred 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.	





Identity theft

- Using another person's identity to claim tax refund
- Pub. 5027 for victims of tax-related identity theft
- Cannot use automated process to request transcripts
 - Identity theft hotline (800) 908-4490
 - Must speak to a representative
 - Have tax forms available to provide specific information
- Can now opt in to the IP Pin program.

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When to file?



- Generally, the due date for individual returns is April 15, but will be April 18 for 2023
- Deadline is extended for special circumstances
- Extensions are allowed until October 15

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Education-related tax credits and deductions



Tax credits

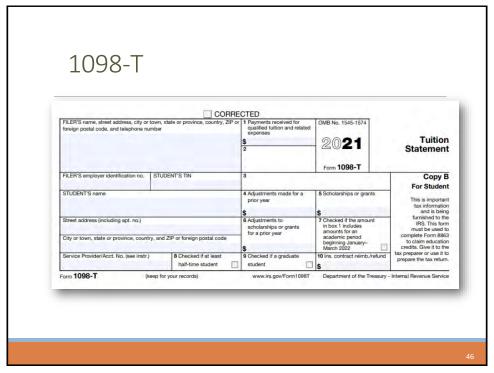
- American Opportunity Credit
- · Lifetime Learning Credit

Tax deductions

- Student Loan Interest Deduction
- Tuition and Fees Deduction (repealed for 2021 and later years)

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Scenario



I may be eligible for student loan forgiveness if it is granted as outlined under the current plan proposed by the White House.

How will that impact my taxes?

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Scenario



How does a 529 plan affect the parents' tax return?

How is the 529 plan reported on the FAFSA?

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Scenario



Since student loan borrowers were not assessed student loan interest in 2021 or 2022, how does this affect the borrowers' tax returns?

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- Member resources
 - Verification worksheets
- Newsletters
 - Mapping Your Future Higher Ed News
 - Tip of the Week
 - Early Awareness E-News
 - mappingyourfuture.org/newsroom/subscribe.cfm

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