

## Mapping Your Future Q & A from 2019-20 FAFSA Training August 2018 and September 2018

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Question	Answer
<b>Dependency Status</b>	
1. A student is claimed by someone other than his or her parent (e.g., a brother or aunt). The parent is still the legal guardian but does not offer the majority of the support.	The individual who claimed the student as a dependent is not his or her parent for Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) purposes since he or she did not adopt the student. The student's parent for FAFSA purposes is the legal parent (biological or adoptive) with whom the student lived the most during the last 12 months.
2. If a student lives in a group foster care program during his or her senior year of high school, does the student qualify as an unaccompanied homeless youth or does the student have to meet ALL criteria, such as being homeless?	No; a student in foster care is not homeless. A student in foster care at age 13 or older is independent for financial aid purposes.
3. Are veterans independent students?	Yes; students who are veterans are independent. The Central Processing System (CPS) conducts a match with the Veterans Administration to confirm veteran status.
4. If a student lives with a grandparent who has not adopted him or her, is the student an unaccompanied homeless youth (UHY)?	No; the student would not be a UHY because he or she is not homeless. The student should consider submitting a dependency status appeal.
5. What documentation does a financial aid professional need to determine homelessness?	A financial aid administrator can document a student's status as a UHY by conducting a documented interview with the student. A useful form for documenting the interview is available at <a href="http://www.naehcy.org">www.naehcy.org</a> .
6. How does a student prove he or she lives with grandparents for independent status?	A student in this situation should submit a dependency status appeal, which documents the student's unusual circumstances which preclude parental support.
7. What do we need to do if the student was not removed from her home by the Department of Family Services and is now living with a grandparent who does not have legal custody?	Please see the response to Question 6.

Question	Answer
<b>Financial Information</b>	
8. Do prepaid college plans have to be reported on the FAFSA?	Yes; prepaid college plans are an asset of the owner. If the parent of a dependent student has a prepaid college plan to benefit the student, the parent reports the refund value of the credits as an asset on the FAFSA.
9. When a student is claimed as a dependent by a parent, does he or she have to submit a statement of non-filing from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS)?	Dependent students selected for verification do not need to submit a statement of non-filing from the IRS.
10. Will the CPS automatically flag a dependent student's FAFSA if only one parent filed a tax return and the student lives an equal amount of time with each parent?	No; the CPS will assume the student correctly reported his or her parent of record. If the financial aid administrator believes the student reported the wrong parent's information on the FAFSA, he or she should help the student submit corrections.
11. Applicants who file a Puerto Rico tax return cannot use IRS Data Retrieval. What are their options for completing the FAFSA?	Applicants who file non-IRS tax forms must manually enter information from their returns on the FAFSA.
12. Is an applicant who does not use IRS Data Retrieval more likely to be selected for verification?	The Department of Education (ED) does not share its criteria for selecting students for verification. Undergraduate students are more likely to be selected for verification.
13. How do we handle amended returns?	If an applicant uses IRS DRT, the output document will include a code indicating if the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has an amended return. The financial aid office will ask the applicant to submit documentation, including a signed copy of the amended return, to determine the correct data for the FAFSA.
14. Are the value of the parents' retirement accounts and the family house reported on the FAFSA?	No; neither the total value of the parents' retirement accounts or the family's primary residence reported as assets on the FAFSA.  However, annual pre-tax contributions to retirement plans are reported on the FAFSA as untaxed income. The value of second homes and rental properties must also be reported as assets on the FAFSA.
15. If a student did not file a tax return and has no income, will he or she have to submit documentation from the IRS proving a tax return was not filed?	If selected for verification, dependent students are not required to submit a statement of non-filing from the IRS. Independent students selected for verification who indicated they did not file a tax return will need to submit a statement of non-filing from the IRS to complete the process.

Question	Answer
<b>General</b>	
16. How does an undocumented student apply for federal financial aid?	Undocumented students are not eligible for federal financial aid because they are not citizens or eligible non-citizens.
17. How long must a student live in a state to establish residency?	Residency requirements vary by state; it generally takes at least a year to establish residency.
18. If a student has changed the gender on his birth certificate to male, does he have to register with Selective Service?	No; only students assigned male gender at birth must register with Selective Service.
19. Do male students have to register with Selective Service to receive federal financial aid?	Yes; although some male students are exempt from the requirement.
20. In the past, when a student submitted the FAFSA on the Web (FOTW), the confirmation screen included the expected family contribution (EFC) and information about Federal Pell Grant and student loan eligibility. Is this still the case?	Based on the most recently available screenshot, the FOTW confirmation screen displays the student's estimated EFC but not information about Federal Pell Grant or student loan eligibility.
21. If a student has an incarcerated parent, how should he or she complete the FAFSA?	Incarceration in and of itself does not prevent the parent of a dependent student from providing information on the FAFSA. For example, the parent could answer the appropriate questions on the PDF FAFSA, sign it, and return it to the student.
22. If an undocumented student completes the FAFSA, will he or she be eligible for campus-based awards?	Undocumented students are not eligible for federal financial aid, including Federal Work-Study and Federal Supplemental Opportunity Grants. Undocumented students may be eligible to receive aid from institutional aid programs.
23. If a student changes his or her email address, can he or she log into the FAFSA and update the information?	Yes; the update will be treated as a correction.
24. Does the CPS still mail paper Student Aid Reports (SARs) to students?	The CPS only mails a paper SAR if the student does not provide an email address on the FAFSA.
25. How can an applicant submit a trial application?	Students may estimate their financial aid using ED's FAFSA4caster, which is available on the FAFSA website ( <a href="https://fafsa.gov">https://fafsa.gov</a> )
26. If the married parent who signed the FAFSA last year cannot locate or retrieve his or her FSA ID, can the second parent obtain a FSA ID and sign the application?	Yes; although both parents need to provide information on the FAFSA, only one parent needs to sign the application.
27. What gender neutral questions are on the FAFSA?	The parent questions on the FAFSA are gender neutral since a student may have same-sex legal parents.

Question	Answer
28. Can a student without a Social Security Number complete the FAFSA to be considered for state and institutional aid?	Yes; the FAFSA will not have an Expected Family Contribution (EFC), but state agencies and colleges may use the information to determine eligibility for state and institutional aid programs.
29. How are students notified of their financial aid awards?	The CPS sends the processed information from the FAFSA to the colleges the student indicated. The colleges use this information, in conjunction with information it has, to award a student financial aid. Colleges typically notify students of their financial awards by a paper letter or via an email directing them to sign into a secure school website.
30. How does a student add more schools to the FAFSA?	A student adds schools to the FAFSA by submitting a correction at <a href="https://fafsa.gov">https://fafsa.gov</a> .
31. We are going to have a FAFSA preparation event at my school. Are you recommending that I contact parents in order to have them create their FSA ID before the event?	Yes. It is a good idea for them to already have their FSA IDs so they can use IRS Data Retrieval and/or sign the application at the event.
32. The student must have a Social Security Number to do the FAFSA, correct?	A student must have a valid Social Security Number in order for the CPS to calculate an EFC and to receive federal financial aid.
33. What is the web address for the "Contact Us" screen on Slide 13?	The screenshot on Side 13 is from the Help section on <a href="https://fafsa.gov">https://fafsa.gov</a> .
34. Will FAFSA on the Web automatically save the information entered by an applicant?	No; applicants must click the "Save" button to save the information. The Save button is located at the bottom of each screen.
<b>Household Information</b>	
35. If a student has a foster child, does he or she report the foster child as a dependent?	Yes; if the student will provide more than 50 percent of the child's support through the end of the 2019-20 award year (June 30, 2020). Please note that foster care payments the student receives for the child count towards the support provided.
36. How many people can be included in the parents' household?	<p>The parents should include in their household any person for whom they will provide more than 50 percent financial support during the entire award year (July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020).</p> <p>ED does not place a limit on the household size reported on the FAFSA. However, parents with a large household size may be selected for verification to confirm the accuracy of the information.</p>

Question	Answer
<b>Parental Information</b>	
37. What should a student do if an older sibling claimed him or her as a dependent instead of the parent with whom the student lives?	The dependency criteria for the FAFSA are different from the dependency criteria used by the IRS. The parent must provide information on the student's FAFSA.
38. Does ED share parental information with other federal agencies?	No; ED does not share parental information, including information about undocumented parents, with other federal agencies.
39. How should undocumented parents complete the FAFSA?	Undocumented parents should enter zeros in the questions for parent Social Security Number (Questions 61 and 65). If an undocumented parent did not file a tax return, he or she should still report income earned from work.
40. If a student's parents are divorced and one parent has sole custody, does the non-custodial parent have to provide information on the FAFSA regarding child support paid?	No; the custodial parent will report child support received as part of his or her financial information. Please note some colleges require students to complete additional forms, such as the CSS Profile, which collects information from both custodial and non-custodial parents.
41. What should a student do if he or she does not know one parent's Social Security Number when completing the FAFSA?	The student can add a parent's Social Security Number later by logging into <a href="http://fafsa.gov">fafsa.gov</a> and submitting a correction.
42. Should an incarcerated parent who has no relationship with the student complete the FAFSA?	A student in this situation should first consider using his or her other parent on the FAFSA. If that is not possible, the student should contact the financial aid office about submitting a dependency status appeal.
43. If a student is in foster care but his or her parent claimed the student as a dependent, will this impact the student's eligibility for federal financial aid?	No; dependency requirements for the IRS are different from the dependency requirements used for federal student aid. A student who was in foster care at age 13 or older is independent and parental information is not considered when determining eligibility for aid.
44. If a student doesn't know a parent's Social Security Number, can the student go back and add the information later?	Yes; the student can submit a correction later to add a parent's Social Security Number
45. If a student completes the FAFSA, but the parent refuses to provide information, how does the student move forward in receiving financial aid?	The student should indicate on FOTW that he or she is unable to provide parental information. This response will add a special circumstance flag to the output document. The financial aid administrator will follow up with the student to determine the best course of action, which could be a dependency status appeal or eligibility for non-need-based financial aid only if the parent refuses to provide support or complete the FAFSA.

Question	Answer
46. If a student lives with her mother and the mother's fiancé (not the biological father), does the fiancé have to report his information on the FAFSA?	No; since the mother and fiancé are not married, he is not a parent for FAFSA purposes.
47. If a student's divorced parents both provide equal amount of financial support, which parent should complete the FAFSA?	The parent of record for FAFSA purposes should be the parent with whom the student lived the most during the previous 12 months.