

2024-2025 FAFSA Delayed until December 2023!

The U.S. Department of Education recently announced that they will be delaying the release of the 2024-2025 FAFSA application until **December 2023**. Most students prepare to begin completing their FAFSA or Dream Application each October for the following fall term start. However, due to the changes of the application under the FAFSA Simplification Act, the U.S. Department of Education has said that the **2024-25 FAFSA Application will be released in December— a delay of at least two months.**

Application Changes to Expect

The **Expected Family Contribution (EFC)** will now be known as the **Student Aid Index (SAI)**. Unlike the EFC, the SAI can be a negative number down to -1500, making it easier for schools to determine which students have the most financial need. The change to the SAI will also expand eligibility for need-based aid, like the Federal Pell Grant, and will update the need-based formula.

Reduction in Questions. The number of questions on the FAFSA will decrease from 108 to approximately 36, cutting the length of the form by almost two-thirds. Some applicants will need to answer even fewer questions due to intelligent skip logic and better alignment of the form with federal income tax returns. Questions related to housing plans and interest in Federal Work Study have been removed from the application.

The **IRS Data Retrieval Tool (DRT)** will be replaced with **IRS Direct Data Exchange (DDX)**, which will be mandatory. Students, spouses, parents, and stepparents will be asked to provide their consent for the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to share their Federal Taxpayer Information (FTI) with ED per new authority granted in the FUTURE Act and new requirements established in the FAFSA Simplification Act. Applicants are advised in a new Consent to Retrieve and Disclose Federal Tax Information (FTI) section of the FAFSA that *consent for FTI disclosure is a condition of student eligibility for federal student aid.*

An **FSA ID** will be required for all applicants, spouses and parents. Parents who are not U.S. Citizens or permanent residents will be able to get an FSA ID even though they do not have a Social Security Number.

Preparing for the 2024-25 FAFSA Application Cycle

The December launch date means that scheduling for 2024-2025 completion events and outreach timing will need to change. Content for any presentations or workshops, as well as any printed & online materials, will need to be updated to incorporate the changes to the application and terminology being used.

To help ensure that schools are best prepared for a successful 2024–25 FAFSA cycle, Federal Student Aid has launched the [Better FAFSA Better Future Roadmap](#).

The Pomona Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships at Cal Poly Pomona will host informational sessions in **September** for our campus partners to go over the changes in the application and terminology that take effect with the 2024-2025 application.