

# How to Successfully Complete the FAFSA

This document was created to guide R-PHS students as they complete the FAFSA. Use this as a resource, but do not hesitate to ask the counseling office, financial aid offices at colleges, or tax preparation experts if you have any questions throughout the process. There are built in help options throughout the FAFSA (Help and Hints boxes on the right of each page) and studentaid.gov has very comprehensive information to help students navigate the financial aid process.

Remember: you are completing the **2016-2017 FAFSA** that is available on **January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016**. Complete the FAFSA by **March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016** for priority aid consideration. Aid is given out by colleges on a **first-come, first-served** basis.

Revised from original created by Jodi Meyer, Grant High School College Adviser, using guidance from the U-Aspire FAFSA: Comprehensive Completion for the Practitioner training

1

Go to **FAFSA.gov** to access the FAFSA. Do NOT go to FAFSA.com! Click "Start A New FAFSA" if you are accessing the FAFSA for the first time. Click "Login" if you already started and are returning to finish the FAFSA or make corrections.

2

If you (the student) already have an FSA ID, enter it on the left. If you do not have an FSA ID, or your parent is starting your FAFSA for you, begin with the student's information on the right side. It is recommended to start with the FSA ID/create one prior to starting the FAFSA.

The screenshot shows the top of the FAFSA website. It features the Federal Student Aid logo, the text 'PROUD SPONSOR of the AMERICAN MIND', and 'Free Application for Federal Student Aid'. Below this is a navigation bar with icons for Home, About Us, FSA ID, StudentAid.gov, and Help. A search bar is also present. The main heading is 'Get help paying for college' with a sub-heading 'Submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)'. Below this is a large image of diverse students. At the bottom, there are two main sections: 'New to the FAFSA?' with a 'Start A New FAFSA' button, and 'Returning User?' with a 'Login' button and a list of options: 'Make a correction', 'Add a school', and 'View your Student Aid Report (SAR), and more...'. There are also sections for 'Deadlines', 'Announcements', and 'Thinking About College?'.

The screenshot shows the login page of the FAFSA website. It features the same header as the home page. The main heading is 'Login'. Below this is a section for 'Student Information' with a 'Form Approved' stamp. The text reads: 'Instructions are provided for each FAFSA question in the Help and Hints section on the right side of the page and are also available by clicking **Need Help?** at the bottom of the page. Enter either your (the student's) FSA ID or personal information to log in to FAFSA on the Web.' There are two radio buttons: 'Enter your (the student's) FSA ID' and 'Enter the student's information'. Below this is a note: 'Do not log in with the FSA ID if you are not the student.' There is an 'OR' separator between the two options. At the bottom right, there is a 'NEXT' button. On the right side, there is a 'Help and Hints' section with 'Login Options' and a 'More>>>' link. A vertical 'STUDENT' label is on the left side of the page.

Home Help Welcome, Maxine Logout SEARCH

### Get Started

Welcome, Maxine Lastname!

**Fill out your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)!**  
To receive federal student financial aid, you need to fill out a FAFSA every school year. Let's get started.

**START 2015-2016 FAFSA**

**FSA ID** Last Time, Date FSA ID Used: 9:55, 12/08/2015

**FSA ID Status:**  
[User Account Management](#)  
You can use your FSA ID to sign your FAFSA electronically or make corrections to your FAFSA.

NEED HELP?

3

Once you log in, you will see a version of this page. You will have the option to click “Start **2016-2017** FAFSA”; NOT 2015-2016. This is important!

4

You will need to create a “Save Key” to continue. This is used in case you need to save your FAFSA and log in later to submit it. Write this Save Key down. Once you submit your FAFSA, you will no longer need it. This is different than your FSA ID!

Home Help SEARCH

### Start Your 2015-2016 FAFSA

Form Approved  
OMB No. 1845-0001  
App. Exp. 12/31/2016

**Create a Save Key.**  
The Save Key is for temporary use for you or your parent to return and complete this specific FAFSA.

Create a Save Key

Re-enter Save Key

**NEXT**

NEED HELP? MY FAFSA

#### Help and Hints

**Create a Save Key**

Enter the save key you created when you started this application or correction.

The save key is between 4 and 8 characters long. It can contain any combination of numbers and / or uppercase and lowercase letters. For example, the save key "Student2" is different than the save key "sTuDeN12."

## Introduction Page - 2015-2016 FAFSA

Use the **Next** and **Previous** buttons to move from page to page in the form. If you use your browser's back and forward buttons to move from page to page, you may lose your data.

Additional information about FAFSA on the Web:

[How can I get help completing my FAFSA?](#)

[How many steps does it take to complete?](#)

[How long will it take to complete?](#)

[Can I save my FAFSA if I can't finish it?](#)

[Documents needed to complete the FAFSA](#)

[Signing the FAFSA](#)

[FAFSA on the Web Security and Privacy](#)

NEXT

EXIT

5

These links will provide information on completing the FAFSA if you would like to reference them. Also, you are reminded to use the NEXT and PREVIOUS buttons at the bottom of the pages – NOT the back and forward buttons on your browser!

6

This is the beginning of the FAFSA. Make sure all questions are answered correctly. If you guess on something and move on, make sure you make a note to return to it! Your name should match what's written on your social security card exactly!

When you enter your email on this page, you will receive ALL communication about your FAFSA electronically through this email, NOT through USPS. It is very important to check your email! It is recommended to use the same email you used to create your FSA ID, which hopefully is **not** your R-PHS email. Your R-PHS email expires, and you will need access to this information after you graduate.

Driver's License info is not required.

Help	SEARCH					
Student Demographics	School Selection	Dependency Status	Parent Demographics	Financial Information	Sign & Submit	Confirmation

### Student Demographic Information

Your last name  Your first name  Your middle initial

Your Social Security Number

Your date of birth (mmddyyyy)

Are you male or female?  
 Male  Female

Your permanent mailing address (include apt. number)

Your city (and country if not U.S.)  Your state

Your ZIP code

Have you lived in Maryland for at least 5 years?  
 Yes  No

Your permanent telephone number

Your e-mail address  Re-enter your e-mail address

What is your marital status as of today?

Do you have driver's license information that you want to provide?  
 Yes  No

PREVIOUS NEXT

#### Help and Hints

##### Student's Last Name Question 1

This is your proper last name, not a nickname, and it must match **exactly** the name on your Social Security card. Remember to only use letters (A-Z), numbers (0-9), periods (.), apostrophes ('), dashes (-), or blanks (spaces). No other characters are allowed.

[More>>>](#)

**Help and Hints**

**Type of Degree / Certificate**

**Question 30**

Select the degree or certificate that you will be working toward during the 2015-2016 school year. If your degree or certificate does not fit into any of the categories listed or if you are undecided, select **Other / undecided** from the list.

[More>>>](#)

**7** All males are required to register with the Selective Service when they turn 18. If you have not registered on your own, select “Register Me”. You will automatically be registered when you turn 18! Your financial aid will be put on hold if you do not register on time!

Your high school completion status is **high school diploma**.

★ When you begin the 2016-2017 school year, your grade level will be “**Never attended college/1st yr.**” **EVEN IF YOU HAVE DUAL ENROLLED OR ARE IN EARLY COLLEGE! This is very important! Do NOT select “Attended college before/1st yr.”**

✚ Select the **degree or certificate** you will be working on. If you are going to a 4-year college, you are working on your 1st bachelor’s degree. If you are going to a community college to get your associate’s degree and go to work, you are doing an associate degree (occupational or technical program). If you are planning to transfer to a 4-year school, you are doing associate degree (general education/transfer program). If you are doing a certificate program, select the appropriate option for length of the program.

It is recommended that you select “Yes” for being considered for **work-study**. Federal work-study is a need-based program that connects students with jobs on campus so that they can earn a paycheck while going to college. If you are awarded work-study, you can always refuse it, but you cannot be awarded it as an option if you select “No”!

The foster youth question and highest school completed by your parents can be used for scholarship consideration by some colleges. Answer to the best of your knowledge.

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Here is where you add the colleges you have applied to so that they receive your FAFSA. It is recommended that you add EACH school you applied to, even if you have a clear top choice. Colleges cannot send you a financial aid award letter if you do not send your FAFSA to them! If you applied to MCC or GRCC, don't forget to add them!

You can add up to 10 schools. If you applied to more than 10 and are still considering all of them as options, see the counseling office for help. It is possible, but it takes a few extra steps!

You should put a Michigan school FIRST on your list, even if your top choice is an out-of-state school. If you applied to a PRIVATE, in-state school, that school should be listed first. This matters for consideration for state grant aid, as well as the Michigan Competitive Scholarship. If you are eligible for this (based on having a 23 or higher on your ACT), the money will only go to the school you have listed first on your FAFSA!

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To add Reeths-Puffer High School as your school, search "Muskegon" as the city and "Michigan" as the state and select CONFIRM. In the box below, scroll down to "Reeths-Puffer High School". Select the appropriate option by clicking the blue "Select" button. It should then show you confirmation that your school as been added.

**STUDENT**

Student Eligibility continued

Enter the name, city, and state of your high school, then click **Confirm**.

What is the name of your high school?

In what city is your high school located?

In what state is your high school located?

**CONFIRM**

We found 33 results that meet your criteria. To narrow your results, change the information in the entry fields above to better clarify your request and click **Confirm** again.

Click the **Select** link next to the correct high school to add it to your application. If your high school is not listed and you believe you entered the information correctly, click **Next** to continue.

	School Name	City
<a href="#">Select</a>	ORCHARD VIEW ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL	MUSKEGON
<a href="#">Select</a>	ORCHARD VIEW COMMUNITY EDUCATION	MUSKEGON
<a href="#">Select</a>	ORCHARD VIEW HIGH SCHOOL	MUSKEGON
<a href="#">Select</a>	REETHS-PUFFER HIGH SCHOOL	MUSKEGON
<a href="#">Select</a>	REETHS-PUFFER SPECIAL EDUCATION CONSORTIUM	MUSKEGON
<a href="#">Select</a>	TIMBERLAND ACADEMY	MUSKEGON

**PREVIOUS** **NEXT**

**Help and Hints**

Student's High School Name, City, and State  
Question 27

Enter the name, city, and state of the high school where you received or will receive your high school diploma.

Select Foreign Country from the "In what state is your high school located?" dropdown box if you received a foreign school diploma that is equivalent to a U.S. high school diploma.

Enter as much information as possible to receive the most relevant search results. For the high school name and city, you may enter the full name or commonly accepted.

**STUDENT**

Student Eligibility continued

The high school you selected was added to your application. Click **Next** to continue.

Enter the name, city, and state of your high school, then click **Confirm**.

What is the name of your high school?

In what city is your high school located?

In what state is your high school located?

**CONFIRM**

**PREVIOUS** **NEXT**

**NEED HELP?** **SAVE** **CLEAR ALL DATA** **VIEW FAFSA SUMMARY** **EXIT**

**Help and Hints**

Student's High School Name, City, and State  
Question 27

Enter the name, city, and state of the high school where you received or will receive your high school diploma.

Select Foreign Country from the "In what state is your high school located?" dropdown box if you received a foreign school diploma that is equivalent to a U.S. high school diploma.

Enter as much information as possible to receive the most relevant search results. For the high school name and city, you may enter the full name or commonly accepted.

**STUDENT**

School Selection

**i** Susan, based on the information you provided, we have determined that you may qualify for federal student aid. Continue through the application for us to determine how much aid you can receive.

**✓** Application was successfully saved.

You can add up to 10 colleges to your FAFSA. If you know your college's school code, use the option to the right to search. If you need help finding your college, use the state (required), city (optional), and school name (optional) fields to begin your search.

All the information you report on the FAFSA will be sent to each college listed, including the names of the other colleges listed. If you don't want this information sent to a particular college, do not list that school on your FAFSA.

State  (optional) OR Federal School Code

City  (optional)

School Name  (optional)

**SEARCH** **Search Tips** **SEARCH**

Help SEARCH

Student Demographics School Selection Dependency Status Parent Demographics Financial Information Sign & Submit Confirmation

### School Selection Summary

For each school listed, select the appropriate housing plan from the dropdown list.

You may change the positioning of any school in this list. To do so, click on the school name and then use the buttons on the right to change the position of the selected school. The **FIRST** and **LAST** buttons will move the school to either the top or bottom of your list, respectively, and the **UP** and **DOWN** buttons will move the school one position up, or one position down, respectively.

For federal student aid purposes, it does not matter in what order you list your selected schools. However, placing a school that participates in your state's student grant programs first may help you obtain state grant aid. Check with your state grant agency for more information.

School Name	Federal School Code	Housing Plans	
ALMA COLLEGE	002236	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Select <input type="checkbox"/> On Campus <input type="checkbox"/> With Parent <input type="checkbox"/> Off Campus	Remove
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY	002290	<input type="checkbox"/> Select <input type="checkbox"/> On Campus <input type="checkbox"/> With Parent <input type="checkbox"/> Off Campus	Remove
MUSKEGON COMMUNITY COLLEGE	002297	<input type="checkbox"/> Select <input type="checkbox"/> On Campus <input type="checkbox"/> With Parent <input type="checkbox"/> Off Campus	Remove

FIRST UP DOWN LAST

[VIEW SELECTED SCHOOL INFORMATION](#)

[ADD A SCHOOL](#)

[PREVIOUS](#) [NEXT](#)

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These questions are used to determine if you will need parent information on your FAFSA (if you are considered 'independent' for financial aid purposes). **Most students will answer "No" to all of these questions.**

**If you think you can answer "Yes" to one or more of these questions, come to the counseling office for help.** Each college will ask for verification of these questions if you answer "Yes", so you must be prepared (ex. If you are in a legal guardianship, you must have the court documents available to show the colleges. If you have been registered as "homeless" by R-PHS, you will need to get a letter that states this. If you are a ward of the court or meet the foster care guidelines you will need legal documentation.). Your financial aid process might be a little more complicated if you answer "Yes" to one of these questions. Therefore, be in communication with the counseling office staff to ensure everything is completed correctly and on time!

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Select the housing plan for each of the colleges you added to your FAFSA. If the school is more than ~50 miles away, you will likely be required to live on campus. If you are not sure, but think you *might* want to live on campus, you should select "On Campus" for now. This is important when schools use your FAFSA results to determine financial need. It's easier to reduce your financial aid award because you are living at home (costs less) than it is to get more money if you decide later to live on campus (higher cost of attendance!). Notice the difference between "Off Campus" and "With Parent". If you plan to get an apartment and live on your own or with roommates, this is considered "Off Campus". "With Parent" is only if you are commuting from home.

Help and Hints

**Is Student Homeless or At Risk of Being Homeless?**

Select **Yes** if any time after July 1, 2014, you were homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless.

Select **No** if you are not homeless or at risk of being homeless.

- Homeless means lacking fixed, regular and adequate housing.
- You may be homeless if you are living in shelters, parks, motels or cars, or temporarily living with other people because you have nowhere else to go. Also, if you are living in any of these situations and fleeing an abusive parent you may be considered homeless even if your parent would provide

STUDENT

Application was successfully saved.

Were you born before January 1, 1992?  
 Yes  No

As of today, are you married?  
 Yes  No

At the beginning of the 2015-2016 school year, will you be working on a master's or doctorate program (such as an MA, MBA, MD, JD, PhD, EdD, or graduate certificate, etc.)?  
 Yes  No

Do you now have or will you have children who will receive more than half of their support from you between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016?  
 Yes  No

Do you have dependents (other than your children or spouse) who live with you and who receive more than half of their support from you, now and through June 30, 2016?  
 Yes  No

Are you currently serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces for purposes other than training?  
 Yes  No

Are you a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces?  
 Yes  No

At any time since you turned age 13, were both your parents deceased, were you in foster care, or were you a dependent or ward of the court?  
 Yes  No

As determined by a court in your state of legal residence, are you or were you an emancipated minor?  
 Yes  No

As determined by a court in your state of legal residence, are you or were you in legal guardianship?  
 Yes  No

On or after July 1, 2014, were you homeless or were you self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?  
 Yes  No

[PREVIOUS](#) [NEXT](#)

STUDENT

Help

SEARCH

Student Demographics School Selection **Dependency Status** Parent Demographics Financial Information Sign & Submit Confirmation

### Dependency Status Results

Based on your answers to the dependency status questions, **you are considered a dependent student. This means you must provide parental information.** Select "I will provide parental information" and click **Next** to continue to Parent Demographics.

**If you have a special circumstance and are unable to provide parental information,** under very limited circumstances, you may be able to submit your FAFSA without parental information. Select "I am unable to provide parental information" and click **Next** to get additional information.

I will provide parental information  
 I am unable to provide parental information

PREVIOUS NEXT

NEED HELP? SAVE CLEAR ALL DATA VIEW FAFSA SUMMARY EXIT

### Help and Hints

#### Dependency Status Results

For dependent students, a special circumstance is a situation that exists between the student applicant and his or her parent(s) which prevents the student from providing parental information.

Select **I will provide parental information** to continue to Parent Demographics.

Select **I am unable to provide parental information** to get additional information about special circumstances.

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If you answered "No" to all of the previous questions, you will see this page. You will need to select "I will provide parental information" to continue. If you are unable to provide parental information for any reason, come to the counseling office for help. In the vast majority of cases, you can only be awarded financial aid if you provide parental information. When in doubt, ask for help!

Next is  
the  
parent  
section!

Help

SEARCH

Student Demographics School Selection Dependency Status **Parent Demographics** Financial Information Sign & Submit Confirmation

**Parent Demographics Information**

Application was successfully saved.

As of today, what is the marital status of your legal [parents](#) (biological and/or adoptive)?  
 Select

Your parents' e-mail address

Have your parents lived in Maryland for at least 5 years?  
 Yes  No

Your parents' number of family members in 2015-2016 (household size)  
 If you are not sure who is considered a family member, click **Household Size** to answer the questions on the worksheet.  
 **HOUSEHOLD SIZE**

How many people in your parents' household will be college students between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016? Do not include your parents.

PREVIOUS NEXT

NEED HELP? SAVE CLEAR ALL DATA VIEW FAFSA SUMMARY EXIT

**Help and Hints**

**Parents' Marital Status**  
**Question 59**

You must select the answer that describes your [parents'](#) marital status **as of today**.

A legal parent includes a biological or adoptive parent, or a person that the state has determined to be your parent (for example, when a state allows another person's name to be listed as a parent on a birth certificate). Grandparents, foster parents, legal guardians, older brothers or sisters, widowed stepparents, and aunts and uncles are not considered parents unless they have legally adopted you.

[More>>>](#)

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This screen starts the parent information on the FAFSA. The color will change from blue to purple to help you keep the answers straight!

**To determine who your parent is for FAFSA purposes**, go to this website: <https://goo.gl/nkN20M>. See counseling office with any questions! This can be very confusing!

**Briefly, if your legal parents are...**

- Married? Both parents on FAFSA.
- Live together, not married? Both parents on FAFSA.
- Divorced/separated? Parent student lived with most in the past 12 months on FAFSA. If equal, parent who provided more financial support in past 12 months.
- Never married/widowed? Only this parent.
- Stepparent? If parent you live with is remarried, info about that stepparent is required.

Think of **household size** as a “financial household”. All children and any other people who reside in the home and receive more than 50% of their support from the parents are considered in the household. You **can** include unborn children who will be born during the award year (2016-2017). You **can** include children away at college. Do **NOT** include foster children. More information is available on the FAFSA form in the right-hand side “Help and Hints” box when you click the box for household size.

Help [SEARCH]

Student Demographics School Selection Dependency Status Parent Demographics **Financial Information** Sign & Submit Confirmation

### Parent Tax Information

Application was successfully saved.

For 2014, have your parents completed their IRS income tax return or another tax return?  
 Select  
 Single  
 Head of Household  
 Married-Filed Joint Return  
 Married-Filed Separate Return  
 Qualifying Widow(er)  
 Don't know

What is your parents' tax filing status according to their tax return?

### Help and Hints

#### Parent's 2014 Tax Return Filing Status Question 82

If your parents filed or will file a tax return, you must select your parents' tax return filing status for 2014:

- Single
- Head of Household
- Married-Filed Joint Return
- Married-Filed Separate Return
- Qualifying Widow(er)
- Don't know

If your parents filed a 1040 or 1040A tax return, select the tax return filing status from the "Filing Status" field of your parents' tax return.

If your parents filed a 1040EZ tax return, select **Single** if your parents are not married and

You, the parents, may be able to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool to view and transfer your tax information from the IRS.

Did you, the parents, file a Form 1040X amended tax return?  
 Yes  No

Did you, the parents, file a Puerto Rican or foreign tax return?  
 Yes  No

Did you, the parents, file taxes electronically in the last 3 weeks (or by mail in the last 11 weeks)?  
 Yes  No

Based on your response, we recommend that you, the parents, transfer your information from the IRS into this FAFSA. [How you filed your taxes](#) can affect whether your tax return information is available to transfer.

Enter your FSA ID and click **Link To IRS**.

Which parent are you?

What is your (the parent's) FSA ID?

FSA ID Username or Verified E-mail Address

FSA ID Password

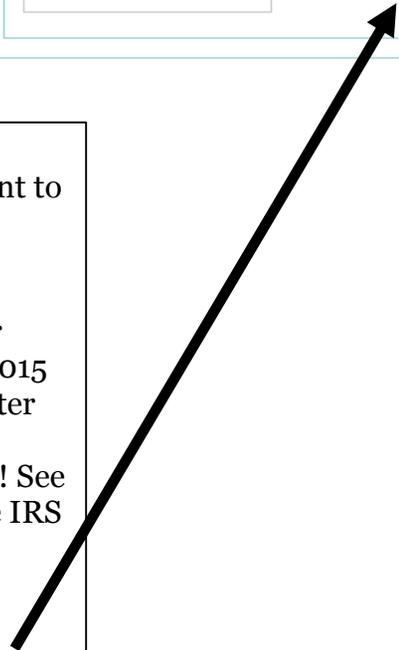
[Create an FSA ID](#)  
[Forgot Username](#)  
[Forgot Password](#)

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Select the appropriate response for the completion of parent **2015 income taxes** (already completed, will file, will not file) and the filing status. This is very important to have correct!

If your parent will file their taxes but has not yet done so, you can continue with estimated information. This is very common, and expected of families. Either enter 2014 tax information directly from your 2014 income tax forms, or estimate your 2015 tax information with your W-2 forms. You will need to return to the FAFSA and enter updated 2015 information once your taxes are completed! File your taxes ***electronically as soon as possible*** for the quickest turnaround in financial aid! See below for information on how to update your FAFSA to 2015 information using the IRS Data Retrieval Tool:

If your parent has already filed their 2015 taxes, they will be prompted with more questions. These are to determine if your parent can use the **IRS Data Retrieval Tool**. This is the *preferred method* for inputting 2015 tax information into the FAFSA (on the next few screens). If the option is provided, click LINK TO IRS to go through the process. It is very easy and will autofill many of the next questions and they will be certified correct from the IRS. For more information, see the counseling office.



Help [SEARCH]

Student Demographics School Selection Dependency Status Parent Demographics **Financial Information** Sign & Submit Confirmation

### Parent Financial Information

What type of income tax return did your parents file for 2014?  
 Select

What was your parents' adjusted gross income for 2014?  
 \$ .00 **INCOME ESTIMATOR**

How much did your Parent 1 (father/mother/stepparent) earn from working (wages, salaries, tips, etc.) in 2014?  
 \$ .00

How much did your Parent 2 (father/mother/stepparent) earn from working (wages, salaries, tips, etc.) in 2014?  
 \$ .00

As of today, is either of your parents a dislocated worker?  
 Select

PREVIOUS NEXT

NEED HELP? SAVE CLEAR ALL DATA VIEW FAFSA SUMMARY EXIT

#### Help and Hints

##### Parents' Type of 2014 Tax Form Used

###### Question 81

If your parent uses the IRS Data Retrieval Tool and transfers his / her information from the IRS into your FAFSA, the answer to this question will be pre-filled and identified as "Transferred from the IRS."

If the answer to this question is not pre-filled, you must select the income tax return that your parents filed or will file for 2014:

- IRS 1040
- IRS 1040A or 1040EZ
- A foreign tax return
- A tax return for a U.S. territory or a Freely Associated State (including Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Marshall

### Parent Financial Information continued

Enter the amount of your parents' income tax for 2014. This amount is found on IRS Form 1040-line 56.  
 \$ .00

Enter your parents' exemptions for 2014. This amount is found on IRS Form 1040-line 6d.

Did your parents have any of the following items in 2014? Check all that apply and provide amounts.

#### Additional Financial Information

- American Opportunity Tax Credit or Lifetime Learning Tax Credit
- Child support paid
- Taxable earnings from Work-study, Assistantships or Fellowships
- Grant and scholarship aid reported to the IRS
- Combat pay or special combat pay
- Cooperative education program earnings

#### Untaxed Income

- Payments to tax-deferred pension and retirement savings plans
- IRA deductions and payments to self-employed SEP, SIMPLE and Keogh
- Child support received
- Tax exempt interest income
- Untaxed portions of IRA distributions
- Untaxed portions of pensions
- Housing, food, and other living allowances paid to military, clergy, and others
- Veterans noneducation benefits
- Other untaxed income not reported such as workers' compensation or disability



As of today, does the total amount of your parents' current **assets** exceed \$28,200.00?  
 Yes  No

As of today, what is your parents' total current balance of cash, savings, and checking accounts?  
 \$ .00

As of today, what is the net worth of your parents' investments, including real estate (not your parents' home)?  
 \$ .00

As of today, what is the net worth of your parents' current businesses and/or investment farms?  
 \$ .00

**15-16**

Using income tax documents, select the type of return filed. If your parent filed a 1040, it will ask if you were eligible to file a 1040EZ or 1040A. In general, you are eligible to file a 1040A or 1040EZ if you:

- Make less than \$100,000 per year
- Do not itemize deductions (you must have taken a standard deduction)
- Do not receive income from your own business or farm; do not receive self-employment income or alimony
- Are not required to file Schedule D (for capital gains)

If your parent used the IRS Data Retrieval Tool, some of these fields will already be filled in. **DO NOT** edit them! This information was taken directly from the IRS!

Using your income tax return documents and W-2 forms, complete the questions. If you are uncertain what the question is asking, use the "Help and Hints" box on the right. This will tell you where to look on your documents and exactly what should and should not be included. This box will change when you click on the question you are uncertain about.

You may also be prompted to select any federal benefits you receive (SSI, SNAP/food stamps, Free or Reduced Price Lunch, TANF, WIC).



Based on previous responses, you will be asked if your parents' assets exceed a certain amount. If yes, you must break these assets down. Note: the house you live in is **NOT** an asset! Do **not** include retirement accounts, annuities, life insurance, pension funds. **DO** include 529 plans, mutual funds, money market accounts, stocks, bonds, rental units within the family home.

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You should be able to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool (as described in the parent section) if you filed your taxes electronically. If you are not required to file taxes, still report any wages earned on this page (from your W-2 forms). See parent section for details.

STUDENT

Help

SEARCH

Student Demographics School Selection Dependency Status Parent Demographics **Financial Information** Sign & Submit Confirmation

### Student Tax Information

For 2014, have you completed your IRS income tax return or another tax return?  
Select

PREVIOUS NEXT

NEED HELP? SAVE CLEAR ALL DATA VIEW FAFSA SUMMARY EXIT

#### Help and Hints

##### Student Filed 2014 Income Tax Return? Question 32

You must select the answer that describes your tax filing status:

- Already completed
- Will file
- Not going to file

If you indicate you "Will file" a 2014 tax return and your 2013 income is similar to your 2013 income, use your 2013 income tax return to provide estimates for questions about your income. If your income is not similar, click **Income Estimator** for assistance estimating your adjusted gross income, and answer the remaining questions about your income to the best of your ability.

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Next, you as the student must enter your financial information. This section is identical to the parent financial information section. Reference notes above for details about how to answer.

For 2015, you must file your taxes if you made more than ~\$6,000. See 2015 Publication 501 by the IRS for the exact value or consult your tax professional.

If you did not make enough money to be required to file your taxes and you choose not to file, you will still need to report your earnings on the next page.

STUDENT

Help

SEARCH

Student Demographics School Selection Dependency Status Parent Demographics **Financial Information** Sign & Submit Confirmation

### Student Financial Information

What income tax return did you file for 2014?  
Select

What was your adjusted gross income for 2014?  
\$ .00 **INCOME ESTIMATOR**

How much did you earn from working (wages, salaries, tips, etc.) in 2014?  
\$ .00

PREVIOUS NEXT

NEED HELP? SAVE CLEAR ALL DATA VIEW FAFSA SUMMARY EXIT

#### Help and Hints

##### Student's Type of 2014 Tax Form Used Question 33

If you use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool and transfer your information from the IRS into your FAFSA, the answer to this question will be pre-filled and identified as "Transferred from the IRS."

If the answer to this question is not pre-filled, you must select the income tax return that you filed or will file for 2014:

STUDENT

Help

SEARCH

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### Student Financial Information continued

Did you have any of the following items in 2014? Check all that apply and provide amounts.

#### Additional Financial Information

- Child support paid
- Taxable earnings from Work-study, Assistantships or Fellowships
- Grant and scholarship aid reported to the IRS
- Combat pay or special combat pay
- Cooperative education program earnings

#### Untaxed Income

- Payments to tax-deferred pension and retirement savings plans
- Child support received
- Housing, food, and other living allowances paid to military, clergy, and others
- Veterans noneducation benefits
- Other untaxed income not reported such as workers' compensation or disability
- Money received or paid on your behalf

As of today, what is your total current balance of cash, savings, and checking accounts?  
\$ .00

As of today, what is the net worth of your investments, including real estate (not your home)?  
\$ .00

As of today, what is the net worth of your current businesses and/or investment farms?  
\$ .00

PREVIOUS NEXT

#### Help and Hints

##### Student's Child Support Paid Question 44b

Check the box if you (and if married, your spouse) paid child support in 2014.

Application was successfully saved.

[VIEW OR PRINT YOUR FAFSA INFORMATION](#)

Are you a preparer?

Yes  No

**Student Signature**

Student's Social Security Number XXX-XX-3013

Student's last name Lastname

Student's date of birth 11/02/1992

**READ BEFORE PROCEEDING**

By signing this application electronically using your Federal Student Aid PIN, username and password, and/or any other credential or by signing a signature page and mailing it to us, YOU, THE STUDENT, certify that you:

1. will use federal and/or state student financial aid only to pay the cost of attending an institution of higher education,
2. are not in default on a federal student loan or have made satisfactory arrangements to repay it,
3. do not owe money back on a federal student grant or have made satisfactory arrangements to repay it,
4. will notify your school if you default on a federal student loan, and
5. will not receive a Federal Pell Grant from more than one school for the same

I, the student, agree to the terms outlined above.

Agree  Disagree

[SIGN](#)

**Parent Signature**

Are you signing as the student's Parent 1 (father/mother/stepparent), or Parent 2 (father/mother/stepparent)?

Parent 1 (Father/Mother/Stepparent)  Parent 2 (Father/Mother/Stepparent)

**READ BEFORE PROCEEDING**

By signing this application electronically using your Federal Student Aid PIN, username and password, and/or any other credential or by signing a signature page and mailing it to us, YOU, THE PARENT, certify that all of the information you provided is true and complete to the best of your knowledge and you agree, if asked:

1. to provide information that will verify the accuracy of your completed form
2. to provide U.S. or state income tax forms that you filed or are required to file.

You also certify that you understand that the Secretary of Education has the authority to verify information reported on your application with the Internal Revenue Service and other federal agencies.

I, the parent, agree to the terms outlined above.

Agree  Disagree

What is your (the parent's) FSA ID?

Do not enter the FSA ID if you are not the parent.

FSA ID Username or Verified E-mail Address

FSA ID Password

[Create an FSA ID](#)

[Forgot Username](#)

[Forgot Password](#)

[Other options to sign and submit](#)

[SIGN](#)

[PREVIOUS](#)

[SUBMIT MY FAFSA NOW](#)

**Help and Hints**

**Are you a preparer?**

A preparer is anyone who charges a fee for helping you fill out your FAFSA.

Typically high school counselors, school financial aid administrators, or other mentors do not charge a fee to help you complete your application, so they are not considered preparers unless you paid them for their services.

If you are a preparer, select **Yes**.

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You've made it to the end!

Unless you are paying somebody to help you complete your FAFSA, select "No" to the preparer question.

Both the student and one parent must agree to the terms and sign the FAFSA. The student and parent must sign using their FSA ID and password. If your parent does not have an FSA ID yet, he or she can get one at this time.

Once you both sign, hit **SUBMIT MY FAFSA NOW** at the bottom of the page.

**Help and Hints**

**Are you a preparer?**

A preparer is anyone who charges a fee for helping you fill out your FAFSA.

Typically high school counselors, school financial aid administrators, or other mentors do not charge a fee to help you complete your application, so they are not considered preparers unless you paid them for their services.

If you are a preparer, select **Yes**.

[PRINT THIS PAGE](#)Confirmation Number: F 01342482409 12/08/2015 08:51:31  
Data Release Number (DRN): 9999

Congratulations, Maxine! Your FAFSA was successfully submitted to Federal Student Aid.

 Does your brother or sister need to complete a FAFSA? If so, you can [transfer your parents' information into a new FAFSA](#) for your brother or sister to save time. Your parents will have to provide a signature again, but that's all.

#### What Happens Next

- In 7-10 business days, we will mail you a Student Aid Report (SAR) notifying you that your FAFSA was processed.
- Your FAFSA information will be made available to your school(s), and they will use it to determine the aid you may be eligible to receive.
- Your school(s) will contact you if they need more information or when they are ready to discuss your financial aid award.
- If you have questions about your financial aid package, contact your school(s).

School(s) on your FAFSA:

School Name	Graduation Rate	Retention Rate	Transfer Rate	Additional Information from <a href="#">College Navigator</a>
ALMA COLLEGE	61%	79%	18%	NA

#### Eligibility Information

**Estimated Expected Family Contribution (EFC) = 999999**

The EFC is a measure of how much you can contribute to the cost of your education. Schools use your EFC to determine your federal student aid eligibility.

The EFC is not how much aid you will receive or how much you have to pay for college.

Your parent(s) indicated that they had filed an IRS tax return when they provided their financial information and it appears that they were eligible to use the [IRS Data Retrieval Tool](#), which allows them to view information from their IRS tax return and transfer that information directly into your FAFSA. The benefit of using the tool is that it's the easiest way to provide accurate tax information, and it also eliminates the need for providing a copy of your parents' tax return to the financial aid office at your college. Once your FAFSA has been processed, you can return to *FAFSA on the Web* and your parent(s) can use the tool to transfer their tax information.

If you have questions, visit [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov) and click the "Help" icon on the FAFSA home page.

EXIT

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Once you see this confirmation page, your FAFSA has been submitted!

Print a copy of this page for your records. **Print a copy for Ms. Little (or forward her the confirmation email) to be entered in a raffle and to be counted towards the class goal!**

On this page, you will see your estimated Expected Family Contribution (or EFC) and estimated eligibility for the Pell Grant and federal student loans.

**BUT YOU'RE NOT COMPLETELY DONE!**

#### Next steps:

- Check your email (if you provided it on the FAFSA) for a confirmation that your FAFSA has been submitted. **Forward this email to Ms. Little (if you didn't print the confirmation page) to be entered in the raffle and to be counted towards the class goal!** Her email is [littleh@reeths-puffer.org](mailto:littleh@reeths-puffer.org).
- In 3-5 days you will receive an email with a link to your **Student Aid Report**. *It is very important that you look through your Student Aid Report*. This will provide a summary of everything you included on the FAFSA, tell you your actual EFC, and notify you of any errors that need corrected. If there is an "\*" next to your EFC, that means you have been selected for federal verification. Be on the lookout for emails or letters from colleges asking you to fill out additional forms to verify the information on the FAFSA! You cannot get financial aid without doing this in a timely fashion!
- As always, see the counseling office if you have any questions or concerns throughout the process. They are here to help you!

**Congratulations on successfully submitting your FAFSA! You are well on your way to attending college in the fall (or winter)!**