



DISPONIBLE
EN ESPAÑOL

About FAFSA

1

What to Bring?

2

FAFSA Tips

3

After the FAFSA

4

Scholarships & Other Aid

5

About FAFSA

Use your mobile phone camera to scan QR codes to see websites

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

The FAFSA is a form you complete to apply for money from a federal grant called the **PELL Grant**. This money can be used for school expenses such as tuition, fees, room and board, books, transportation, and supplies. Completing the FAFSA form also sends your information to the colleges, universities and/or trade schools selected on your FAFSA. Schools then use your FAFSA information to calculate your financial aid need.



New Mexico colleges and universities use your FAFSA information to award State Aid, Scholarships, Grants and Work-Study positions offered at their institutions.

Where and when do I apply?

Apply online at **StudentAid.gov**. The FAFSA form opens in **December**. Financial Aid is a first-come, first-serve basis. Each year you attend a college, university or trade school you must complete and submit the FAFSA form. Look for the latest news and updates on **FAFSA.gov**.



To qualify for federal financial aid you must

1. Be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen (I-94)
2. Be enrolled in at least half-time in an eligible certificate or degree program
3. Have a high school diploma, General Educational Development (GED), or home school approved under state law



STATE & SCHOOL QUALIFICATIONS MAY DIFFER

State Aid is also available for students who are non-citizen. Contact your future school's financial aid office to see what other financial aid you can qualify for.

HOW IS FINANCIAL AID DETERMINED?

Your financial aid is calculated by subtracting your Student Aid Index (SAI) from the total Cost of Attendance (COA).

IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND COLLEGE FROM:

Jul. 1 2024 - Jun.30, 2025

USE THIS FAFSA:

2024-25

USING TAX INFO FROM:

2022

Jul. 1 2025 - Jun.30, 2026

2025-26

2023

About FAFSA

1

What to Bring?

2

FAFSA Tips

3

After the FAFSA

4

Scholarships & Other Aid

5

What to Bring?

FSA ID (Federal Student Aid ID)

- FSA ID is a username and password
- FSA ID is used to access your FAFSA and view your financial aid information
- FSA ID is used to sign your documents electronically
- Enter your legal name, date of birth, valid Social Security number, contact information and select challenge questions
- Use a personal email when creating your FSA ID (do not use your school-assigned email)
- Student and parent(s) contributors create an FSA ID, use a separate phone number and email, it must be your own
- FSA ID will be verified in 1 to 3 days (check your email)

Go to studentaid.gov/fsa-id to create your FSA ID



FSA ID



Use your legal name as seen on your Social Security card when creating your FSA ID.

Save Your FSA ID

Username: _____

Password Hint: _____

Email used for my FSA ID: _____

Prepare for the FAFSA

- Parent(s) contributor and student's full legal name and birth date
- Parent(s) contributor and student's Social Security Number (SSN), permanent resident card, green card, or I-94 (if your parent does not have an SSN you can still apply)
- Parent(s) contributor and student's separate mobile phone numbers
- List of schools the student is considering
- Student driver's license (if the student has one)
- Parent(s) marital status (married, separated, or divorced and dates (month and year))



CHECKLIST



A CONTRIBUTOR is anyone who is required to provide information on the FAFSA; that means the student, parent(s), and spouse might all be referred to as "contributors" in the FAFSA form.

Tax & Financial Info

- Parent(s) and student's federal tax return (if they have one)
- Parent(s) and student's W-2 and other records of income
- Annual amounts of untaxed income received in the household (SSI, Child Support, SNAP Benefits, etc.)
- Bank statements and records of investments (primary residence is not taken into consideration)

What to Bring?

2

FAFSA Tips

3

After the FAFSA

4

Scholarships & Other Aid

5

FAFSA Tips



USE THE HELP FEATURE

Use the “?” or “i” to the right of questions for more information and guidance.



USE THE FAFSA ESTIMATOR

For an estimate of federal aid, an estimator tool is available at: studentaid.gov/aid-estimator



FAFSA ONBOARDING

As you complete the FAFSA form there is a Q&A section with information that will help you through the process. The FAFSA form takes about an hour or less to complete.



STREAMLINED FAFSA

The streamlined FAFSA makes the process quick and easy. However, the new system has created a few bugs so don't be afraid to reach out for support at NMFAFSA.org.



FSA CHAT

USE FSA CHAT HELP

If you have problems or questions, live agents are available at: studentaid.gov/helpcenter/contact



PARENT-CONTRIBUTOR INVITE

On the FAFSA form you will send an invite to your contributor to allow them access to log in and fill out their portion of the form.



FIND NM SCHOOLS

RESEARCH SCHOOLS

Finding the right school is important. Spend time looking into what each school has to offer you.

- Offered Education & Degrees
- Location from your Home
- Amount of Financial Aid

Visit: collegescorecard.ed.gov

Taxes

Contributors providing consent can allow tax information to automatically transfer into the FAFSA. However, contributors may need to manually report income and tax data in some cases such as a change in marriage status.



TAX INFO

Who to include on the FAFSA?

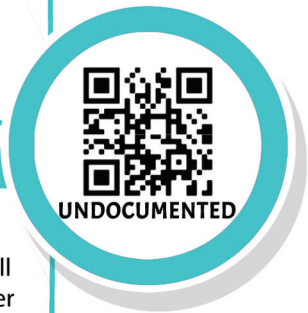
Questions on the FAFSA form will determine which parent contributor to use on the form. Dependent students are required to report parent information on the FAFSA. “Parent” refers to your legal (biological or adoptive) parent, stepparent, or guardian.

Am I a dependent or independent student?

In the personal circumstances section of the FAFSA form, you will be asked questions that will determine your dependency status.

Undocumented Student

A student applying for federal financial aid must have a valid Social Security number to be eligible. **State Aid** is available for NM students who are non-citizens. Contact your NM financial aid office to learn more about what is available.



UNDOCUMENTED

Undocumented Parent/ Guardian

A student eligible for federal financial aid with a FAFSA contributor who does not have a Social Security number can still receive federal aid. The contributor without an SSN will still be required to create an FSA-ID and will need to manually enter their financial information.

FAFSA Tips

3

After the FAFSA

4

Scholarships & Other Aid

5

After the FAFSA

Congratulations on completing the FAFSA



What happens next?

- An email of your confirmation page will be sent
- Within 1-3 days, you will receive a notification by email that your FAFSA form was processed and sent to the schools selected on your FAFSA form
- Check for email correspondence from schools selected on your FAFSA for information and next steps

Track and Manage your FAFSA

You can check status of your application in the “My Activity” section of your **StudentAid.gov** account.

- Click the “View Status” button to view your application status
- Make corrections on your FAFSA form
- Review your FAFSA Submission Summary

If you have any questions about your submitted FAFSA form you can contact the Federal Student Aid support center at 1-800-433-3243 or start a live chat at **StudentAid.gov** by clicking the help center link at the bottom of the main page.

Notes:

If Your FAFSA is Selected for Verification

Don't panic - Verification is a process utilized by schools to make sure the information reported on your FAFSA is accurate. Here's what to do:

1. **Gather your documentation** - They might ask for documents confirming: family size, adjusted gross income, taxes paid, untaxed income, and benefits.
2. **Fill out the forms** - Complete all worksheets sent to you.
3. **Correct any mistakes** - This is your chance to correct previous errors.
4. **Turn in the documents on time** - It's important to submit the information your school asks for by the deadline. Your school cannot process your award until they receive the documents.
5. **Contact your school's financial aid office** - This is the best thing to do if, you need additional help with verification.



Complete Your School Admission Application(s)

Follow up with the Admissions Office to ensure they received and are processing your application.

- Schools might need additional paperwork or have other deadlines
- Schools need both your completed admission application and your FAFSA to process an award offer

Other Financial Aid for School



SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS

Scholarships and Grants are **FREE** money for school that you don't have to payback.



STUDENT LOANS

Student Loans are borrowed money and must be paid back. Only apply for loans, if you still need money for school and have submitted your FAFSA, applied for grants, work-study, and scholarships, and reduced your expenses.

Scholarships

NM has a variety of scholarships available for students (regardless of citizenship). Visit www.ReachHigherNM.com for more information.



LOTTERY

NM Lottery Scholarship

- 1. How much is it and what does it cover?** The Lottery Scholarship covers up to 100% of tuition. Use the QR code for complete details.
- 2. When does it start?** - The 2nd semester, however, many schools offer a "bridge" scholarship for students to cover tuition for the 1st semester.
- 3. What are the enrollment requirements?** - Students must be a resident of NM; graduated from either NM public, tribal higher education institution, or equivalent; enroll full time within 16 months after graduation pursuing associate or bachelors.
- 4. How do I apply?** - No application is needed; just enroll in an eligible NM college or university. Contact your prospective school's financial aid office for details.
- 5. How do I keep the Lottery Scholarship?** - Maintain at least a 2.5 GPA and stay enrolled in at least 12 credit hours for 2-year schools and 15 credit hours for 4-year schools per semester.



OPPORTUNITY

NM Opportunity Scholarship

- 1. How much is it and what does it cover?** - The Opportunity scholarship covers up to 100% of tuition and required fees. Use the QR code for complete details.
- 2. What are the enrollment requirements?** - Students must be residents of NM; attend an NM public or tribal higher education institution; maintain a 2.5 GPA; and enrolled in at least 6 credit hours pursuing an associates or bachelors degree.
- 3. How do I apply?** - There is no application, just enroll in an eligible NM college or university. Contact your future university financial aid office for details.
- 4. Can I receive Opportunity if I lose the Lottery Scholarship?** - If you haven't finished your undergraduate degree and are either returning after at least two years or miss the 16-month enrollment period you may be eligible for Opportunity.

Grants, Work Study, & Student Loans

Completing the FAFSA, you are automatically applying for federal student aid and federal grants like the Pell Grant



GRANTS

Federal Pell Grant

- 1. What is the Pell Grant?** It is free money the federal government provides to students who show financial need.
- 2. What makes you eligible for the Pell Grant?** Students must complete the FAFSA and meet the income threshold.
- 3. How much is the Pell Grant?** The amount you will receive varies based on your financial needs. The maximum Federal Pell Grant award is \$7,395.

Work Study

- 1. What is Work Study?** Part time job through the school that works with your class schedule.
- 2. How do I apply for Work Study?** Contact the financial aid office and ask about work study opportunities and how to apply.
- 3. Can anyone get a Work Study job?** Work Study is available to students who demonstrate financial need. Typically awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis. Pay and hours vary, contact the financial aid office for more details.

Student Loans

The last resort to pay for school

The FAFSA determines your eligibility for Federal Student loans which are the best option when taking out loans because they have low fixed interest rates and flexible repayment options.

Win a \$500 Scholarship

High School seniors can register to win a scholarship for submitting the FAFSA. www.NMEAF.org/FAFSA-Scholarship



FAFSA Workshop

Free one-on-one virtual assistance with the FAFSA. **FAFSA Money Monday** workshops 3pm to 6pm. Contact your school counselor or email Outreach@nmeaf.org for more information.



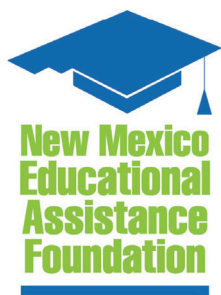
En Español

Obtenga esta información por medio de www.NMEAF.org/FAFSA-espanol



Thanks to Our Partners

Our gratitude to New Mexico school counselors and financial aid officers.



www.NMEAF.org ■ 866.761.9995 ■ Outreach@NMEAF.org
7400 Tiburon NE, Ste. F, Albuquerque, NM, 87109