

UNDERSTANDING THE FAFSA!

YOUNG INVINCIBLES

Once you decide you're going to go to college, the first thing you should do is fill out the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid**, or **FAFSA**, a form that determines your eligibility for federal financial aid to attend college. Before you can receive any federal financial aid, the federal government needs to know financial information about you and your family. Remember, federal student aid can add up to thousands of dollars, so **fill out the FAFSA**.

FILLING OUT THE FAFSA

Why Bother?



The FAFSA is key to getting money to attend school, so make sure you save any personal and financial documents and meet the deadlines for turning it in.

Once you fill out your FAFSA you're going to receive your **Student Aid Report (SAR)**. The SAR contains the information you put into the FAFSA along with another crucial bit of info, the **Expected Family Contribution (EFC)**. The EFC is the amount that the government has measured that you can afford. **This is super important because based on this information, you have to figure out how you'll pay for school.**

What's Next?



If you're planning on attending college for the next school year complete your FAFSA as soon as possible. The start date of the FAFSA application process is **October 1st** of each year. The close date will be **June 30th** of the next year. The FAFSA application for SY 2018-2019 will begin on October 1, 2017. While the Federal FAFSA deadline is June 30th, each state has its own deadline and state-based financial aid is distributed on a first come, first served basis.

The federal launch date for FAFSA for the 2018-2019 school year is **October 1, 2017**.

What Do I Need?

GOOD NEWS!

You may use tax returns and W2s from two years prior to the year of the FAFSA form you are filling out. What this means is there is no need to delay filing until after you receive this year's tax documents. In addition to federal aid, many schools and states use FAFSA information to determine first-come-first-served, need-based aid eligibility, so submit your FAFSA as soon as possible.

- Your **Social Security number** and your **parents' Social Security numbers**.
- Your **driver's license number** or state issued ID number (if available).
- Your **2016 W2 Forms**. This is the record your employer sends you about how much you earned that year. If you've filed taxes then your W2 info is on there.
- Your **parent/guardian's 2016 Federal Income Tax Return**
- Your (and your spouse's) **2016 Federal Income Tax Return**, if you filed taxes that year.
- Your **current bank statements**, if you have a bank account.
- Your **current business and investment mortgage information, business and farm records, stock, bond and other investment records**. This is stuff you probably don't have, but your parents might. If you don't have any, then don't worry about it.
- Your **alien registration or permanent resident card** if you are not a U.S. Citizen.

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