

The best advice
we could give..

„File early! The sooner you complete the FAFSA the more aid you could be eligible for.

The FAFSA opens October 1st each year. It uses tax information from two tax years ago. This means the 2017-18 FAFSA uses 2015 tax information and 2018-19 uses 2016 tax information.



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FAFSA: Tips and Common Mistakes

SOUTHERN OREGON
UNIVERSITY



Second Best Advice: Avoid Common Errors

MISTAKES CAN DELAY YOUR APPLICATION AND LIMIT THE AMOUNT OF AID YOU ARE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE.

Forgetting to sign and submit

Make sure that you and your parent sign and submit your FAFSA.

Not including either parent on your FAFSA

You are a dependent student until you are 24 years old, married, a veteran, have children you support, or have an unhealthy, unstable relationship with your parents.

Too many blank fields

Too many blank fields can cause miscalculations and an application rejection. Enter a '0' or 'not applicable' instead of leaving a blank.

Using commas or decimal points

The FAFSA will input those for you. Always round to the nearest dollar.

Incorrect Social Security Number

Listing an incorrect Social Security Number or driver's license number can cause serious delays in your FAFSA being processed. Double and triple check that those are correct. If your parents do not have Social Security Numbers, list 000-00-0000. Do not make up a number or include a taxpayer identification number.

Use your legal name

Your name on your FAFSA should appear exactly how it does on your Social Security Card. Don't enter nicknames or other variations of your name.

Entering the wrong address

Don't enter a temporary campus or summer address as your permanent address.

Wrong Federal Income Tax Paid

This amount can be found on your income tax return form from two years prior, not your W-2 form(s).

Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)

Listing the AGI as equal to the taxes paid will cause your FAFSA to reject. You also want to make sure that you list the AGI reported on your tax return form, sometimes it's different from your wages.

Listing marital status incorrectly

The Department of Ed wants to know your marital status on the day you sign your FAFSA. If you file as married, you do need to provide your spouse's information.

Listing parent marital status incorrectly

If your custodial parent has remarried, you need to include your stepparent's information on the FAFSA.

List both parents if they live together

If both your legal parents (defined as biological or adoptive parents) live in the same household, you are required to report both even if they aren't married.

Forgetting to count yourself as a student

The student completing the FAFSA must count themselves as a member of the household attending college.

Failing to register with Selective Service

If you are a male, aged 18 to 26, you must register with Selective Service. Failure to register will make you ineligible for federal student aid.

Forgetting to list the college

Obtain the Federal School Code for the college you plan on attending.

“EDUCATION IS THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON WHICH YOU CAN USE TO CHANGE THE WORLD.”

- NELSON MANDELA