



# Pre-FAFSA Worksheet

Get ready for the 2026-27 FAFSA!

## What you can do now...

**Determine which FAFSA to complete.** A new FAFSA is released each year, so make sure you submit the right one!

Attending college	Fall 2025, Spring 2026, and Summer 2026	Fall 2026, Spring 2027 and Summer 2027
Submit	2025-26 FAFSA	2026-27 FAFSA
Available	December 1, 2024	October 1, 2025
Tax year	2023	2024

**Determine whose information will be included.** Most students under age 24 will have to include parent information. FAFSA parents are:

- Biological/adoptive parents
- If biological/adoptive parents are divorced or separated, report the parent who provided the most financial support during the past 12 months.
- If that parent is remarried, their spouse will also be included on the FAFSA.

Visit [www.studentaid.gov/dependency](http://www.studentaid.gov/dependency) for additional information.

**Determine who needs an FSA ID (username and password).**

Visit [www.studentaid.gov/create-account](http://www.studentaid.gov/create-account).

- The student must have an FSA ID. If the student is married but filed taxes separately, the student's spouse must also have an FSA ID.
- If parent information is required, a FAFSA parent must also have their own FSA ID. If that FAFSA parent is married but filed taxes separately, then their spouse must also have their own FSA ID.
- Previously submitted a FAFSA online? You should already have an FSA ID that you'll continue to use.

Visit [www.studentaid.gov/fsa-id](http://www.studentaid.gov/fsa-id).

**Create your FSA ID now!** It can take up to 3 days for a new FSA ID to be verified before it can be fully used.

**Save FSA ID information EXACTLY as entered.** When a student enters parent information on the FAFSA, it must match the parent's FSA ID information EXACTLY. Extra spaces or abbreviations can prevent the FAFSA from linking to the parent's account. Starting with 2026-27 FAFSA, the student will only enter parent's email address. A code will be sent to the parent's email to connect to the student's FAFSA.

**Determine family size.** If taxes were filed, the FAFSA will automatically calculate family size using the number of taxpayers and their dependents. If other dependents living in the household were not included (and the taxpayer provides more than half of their support), calculate the correct family size and be prepared to update the family size when prompted on the FAFSA.

→ to avoid issues later.

For more information, contact:

**Quad-Cities Campus** 309-796-5400 | [finaid@bhc.edu](mailto:finaid@bhc.edu)

**East Campus** 309-854-1710 | [finaid@bhc.edu](mailto:finaid@bhc.edu)

# Keep it safe!

Your **FSA ID** and password act as your legal, electronic signature – **DO NOT** share it with others.

## FSA ID

Username: \_\_\_\_\_

Password: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Challenge question answers

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

Backup code: \_\_\_\_\_

- Use your legal name as written on your Social Security card.
- No SSN? No problem! FAFSA will offer an alternative way to verify your identity.
- Each **FSA ID** must have its own personal email and personal cell phone number. Don't use school emails!

**Issues with your FSA ID? Call 800-4-FED-AID (800-433-3243).**

The 2026-27 FAFSA will be available by **October 1, 2026**.

Mark your calendar and use our **2026-27 Financial Aid Checklist** to get started!

Visit [www.bhc.edu/financialaid](http://www.bhc.edu/financialaid) for more information.