

Simplifying The FAFSA Process



The FAFSA Simplification Act is intended to make the Free Application for Federal Student Aid easier for students and their families.

This initiative by the U.S. Department of Education seeks to expand eligibility and improve how federal aid is processed. Please refer to our FAFSA Simplification web page for full information on changes we anticipate. Updates will be posted as they become available.

[FINANCIALAID.BERKELEY.EDU](https://financialaid.berkeley.edu)

Key Points

- This is the first major redesign of the FAFSA process in over 40 years.
- Changes will be implemented for the 2024–2025 award year.
- The new application will become available **December 2023** (in lieu of October 1). Exact date has yet to be determined.

Expected Federal Student Aid Changes

Simplifying the application process represents a significant overhaul of federal aid, including changes to:

- The FAFSA form.
- Federal need analysis.
- Storage of federal student aid application data.
- Policies and procedures for schools that participate in the Federal Aid (Title IV) programs.

Benefits of FAFSA Simplification

- A more streamlined application process.
- Expanded eligibility for federal student aid.
- Expanded eligibility for the Federal Pell Grant.
- Reduced barriers for certain student populations.
- A better user experience for the FAFSA form.
- Enhanced data sharing with the IRS to simplify the applicant's experience.

Expected California Student Aid Changes

The California Dream Act Application (CADAA) process will include some changes from the new FAFSA that expand eligibility. The anticipated application open day is in December 2023. More information will be shared once it becomes available.

2024-25 FAFSA

Student Section | Personal Circumstances Questions

On the FAFSA form, the “parent” is the student’s legal (biological or adoptive) parent.

