

CHANGES TO THE FAFSA: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



The submission date for the FAFSA, and the financial information needed to complete it, will be changing. Here's what you should know.

SUMMARY

Starting with Academic Year 2017-18, the traditional **FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) submission date of January 1 will change to October 1**. In addition, families will be able to use tax information from the prior year.

The **January 1** start date made it difficult for families to get their tax information gathered in time to complete the application.

By moving the start date up three months earlier to **October 1**, students will have more time to fill out this vital information, they'll have tax information at hand, and families will have more time to evaluate the school's financial aid award package.

WHAT IT MEANS

Students enrolling for academic year 2016/2017 will submit a FAFSA beginning January 1, 2016; families should use their 2015 income tax information.

Students enrolling for academic year 2017/2018 will submit a FAFSA beginning October 1, 2016; families should again use their 2015 income tax information.

Impact: With more time to award financial aid, some schools may choose to adjust their calendar. This could mean changes to the admissions timeline as well as the timing for financial aid award letters and tuition bills. Students should check their colleges of choice to see if any dates or submission deadlines change.

SCHEDULE

Academic Year		Academic Year		Academic Year		Academic Year	
Fall 2016	Spring 2017	Fall 2017	Spring 2018	Fall 2018	Spring 2019	Fall 2019	Spring 2020
Submit your FAFSA beginning January 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017		Submit your FAFSA beginning October 1, 2016 through June 30, 2018		Submit your FAFSA beginning October 1, 2017 through June 30, 2019		Submit your FAFSA beginning October 1, 2018 through June 30, 2020	
Use your income tax info from 2015		Use your income tax info from 2015		Use your income tax info from 2016		Use your income tax info from 2017	

*(This is the **only time** you will use a tax return twice if you also filed the FAFSA for academic year 2016/2017.)*