

FAFSA: YOUR SENIOR CHECKLIST

Class of 2027 | College enrollment in fall 2027 | 2027-28 application

Free Application for Federal Student Aid: grants, work-study, and student loans.

Start at [CaliforniaColleges.edu](https://calcolleges.edu). Apply for aid for community college, a university, or an eligible career/trade school. The FAFSA is free. Apply early!

☐ 1. Launch your FAFSA through California Colleges.

Sign in to [CaliforniaColleges.edu](https://calcolleges.edu) with your student account. Open **Financial Aid** and select **Launch FAFSA or CADAA from CaliforniaColleges.edu**. In the financial aid lessons, open **Module 2: Launch and Submit the FAFSA or CADAA** and follow the launch prompts. Choose FAFSA if eligible; it opens the federal application website. Ask your counselor if you need login help.

☐ 2. Gather your information.

Have your Social Security number, personal email, parent contributor email, **2025 tax returns** and income records (if filed), current bank balances, and requested investment or child support records ready. Make a list of colleges.

☐ 3. Create your StudentAid.gov account (FSA ID).

At [StudentAid.gov/create-account](https://studentaid.gov/create-account), use your legal name, date of birth, and Social Security number. Use an email accessible after graduation, verify your account, and save your login. Each required parent contributor needs a **separate account and email**; parents without an SSN can create an account.

☐ 4. Start the 2027-28 FAFSA.

On the FAFSA site you launched from California Colleges, select **Start New Form** and log in with your student account. Choose **2027-28**, select **Student**, then **Start FAFSA Form**. Use **2025** tax information.

☐ 5. Complete your student section.

Check your personal information. Answer the background, high school, citizenship, and financial questions. Report your own finances. Give **consent and approval** for IRS tax information sharing, even if you did not file taxes.

☐ 6. Add colleges and invite your parent.

List up to **20 schools**, even if you have not applied or been admitted. If parent information is required, invite the correct parent by email. Use the **Who's My FAFSA Parent?** tool on StudentAid.gov if unsure which parent to invite.

☐ 7. Have your parent finish their section.

Your parent accepts the invitation and logs in with **their own account**. They answer parent questions, provide IRS consent (including nonfilers), and sign. Follow prompts for any additional contributor. Parent participation does not obligate them to pay college costs.

☐ 8. Review, sign, submit, and follow up.

You and all required contributors complete and sign your sections. Select **Submit FAFSA Form** when available; save the confirmation. Check your **FAFSA Submission Summary**, correct errors, and respond to college requests. Return to California Colleges to track your application status. Apply again each year.

California priority deadline: March 2, 2027. Check each college's deadline; some are earlier. Ask your counselor about Cal Grant GPA submission.

Need help? Contact your counselor if you cannot obtain parent information or have unusual circumstances. Undocumented students: ask about the California Dream Act Application at dream.csac.ca.gov.