

What Data do Applicants Provide on the FAFSA?

Prior-Prior Year Implementation

On September 13, 2015, President Obama announced a change in how and when students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Families will be able to begin completing the FAFSA on October 1, rather than January. This change more closely aligns the financial aid application process with the admission application process. In order to accommodate this earlier filing schedule, the FAFSA will collect income information from two years prior to the academic year for which the aid is intended (*Prior-Prior Year*), rather than the previous year. The new process begins in October 2016 for the 2017-18 award year. This chart shows which data elements will likely be affected by the change to prior-prior year income on the 2017-18 FAFSA, to the best of NASFAA's knowledge.

2017-18 FAFSA Data Element	Timeframe Used to Provide Information	Is this a change?
Student demographic information (e.g. name, address, phone, citizenship)	As of the date the applicant signs the FAFSA	No
Student's or parents' marital status	As of the date the applicant signs the FAFSA	No
Dependency status questions	Dates provided in the questions	No
Household size	As of the date the applicant signs the FAFSA	No
Number in college	As of the date the applicant signs the FAFSA	No
Receipt of federally means-tested benefits	Dates provided in the questions	No
Tax return completion status	2015 tax return filing status (prior-prior year)	Yes
Income data:		
• Adjusted gross income	2015 tax data (prior-prior year)	Yes
• Income tax paid	2015 tax data (prior-prior year)	Yes
• Income earned from work	2015 tax data (prior-prior year)	Yes
Tax exemptions	2015 tax data (prior-prior year)	Yes
Asset data:		
• Balance of cash, checking and savings accounts	As of the date the applicant signs the FAFSA	No
• Investment net worth	As of the date the applicant signs the FAFSA	No
• Business/Investment farm net worth	As of the date the applicant signs the FAFSA	No

2017-18 FAFSA Data Element	Timeframe Used to Provide Information	Is this a change?
Additional financial information:		
• Education credits	2015 tax data (prior-prior year)	Yes
• Child support paid	2015 calendar year (prior-prior year)	Yes
• Taxable earnings from need-based employment programs (e.g. Federal-Work Study)	2015 tax data (prior-prior year)	Yes
• Taxable college grant and scholarship aid reported in the AGI	2015 tax data (prior-prior year)	Yes
• Combat pay or special combat pay included in the AGI	2015 tax data (prior-prior year)	Yes
• Earnings from work under a cooperative education program offered by a college	2015 tax data (prior-prior year)	Yes
Untaxed income:		
• Payments to tax-deferred pension and retirement savings plans	2015 tax data (prior-prior year)	Yes
• IRA deductions and payments to self-employed SEP, SIMPLE, Keogh, etc.	2015 tax data (prior-prior year)	Yes
• Child support received	2015 calendar year (prior-prior year)	Yes
• Tax exempt interest income	2015 tax data (prior-prior year)	Yes
• Untaxed portions of IRA distributions or pensions	2015 tax data (prior-prior year)	Yes
• Housing, food, or other living allowances paid to members of the military, clergy and others	2015 tax data (prior-prior year)	Yes
• Veterans noneducation benefits	2015 calendar year (prior-prior year)	Yes
• Other untaxed income (e.g. workers compensation, disability benefits, etc.)	2015 calendar year (prior-prior year)	Yes
• Untaxed portions of health savings accounts	2015 tax data (prior-prior year)	Yes
• Money received or paid on the student's behalf not reported elsewhere on the FAFSA	2015 calendar year (prior-prior year)	Yes



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