

Everything You Need to Know About Creating a StudentAid.gov Account

Your StudentAid.gov account lets you apply for federal student loans, grants, and work-study using the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) form. You will also use your account to manage your aid in the future. Because you're completing and signing legal documents on StudentAid.gov, we verify your identity and require you to set up two-step verification when you create your account. This also means you can't simply create another StudentAid.gov account in the future.

When creating a new account, you'll choose a unique username and password combination (sometimes called your FSA ID) to use when logging in. You'll also need to provide an email address that you'll have access to in the future, not just while you're in school or with your current employer. The email address you provide must be unique and can't be used with anyone else's StudentAid.gov account, including a parent's or spouse's account. We'll use your email address for two-step verification when you log in, so you'll need to make sure you have access to your email. If you have a mobile phone number, you can add it to your account as well for two-step verification.

Who needs a StudentAid.gov account?

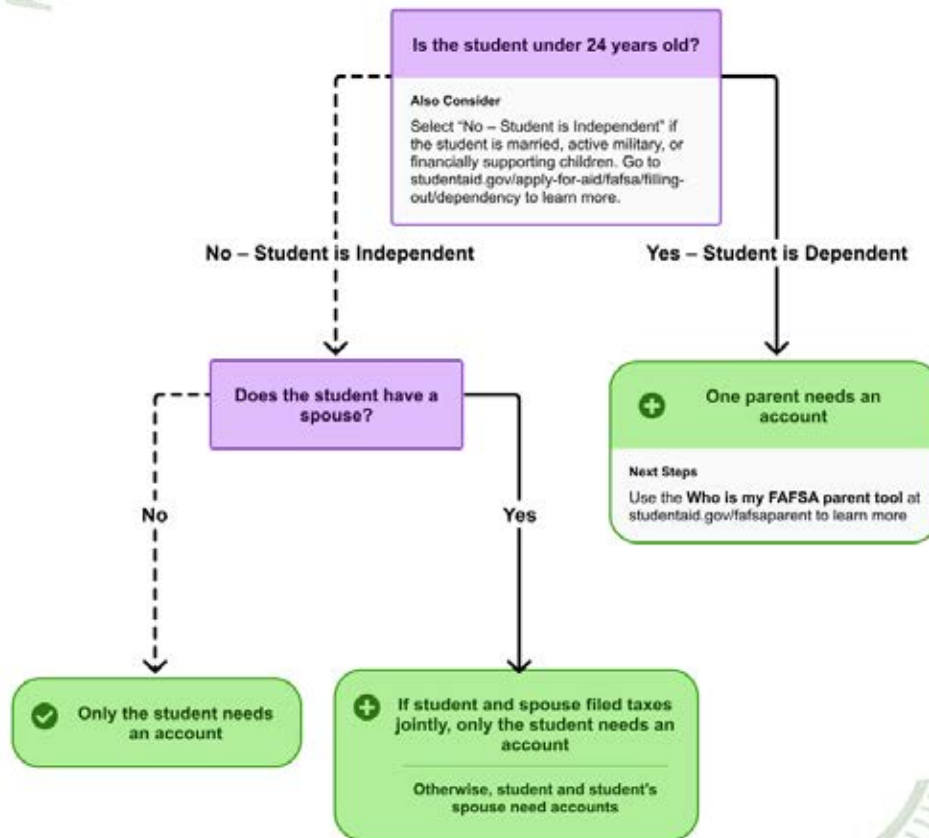
An account is required to complete any process or form on StudentAid.gov. If you're creating an account to complete the FAFSA form, you can use the infographic below to see if a parent or spouse will also need to create an account before you can submit your form. If you're not sure which parent needs an account, use the interactive [Who's My FAFSA Parent](#) wizard to find out.

Who needs a StudentAid.gov account for the FAFSA® form?

A student always needs a StudentAid.gov account to complete the FAFSA form online. Other family members may also need an account to sign the form as contributors.



📌 Students ALWAYS require a StudentAid.gov account



What do I need to create a StudentAid.gov account?

You'll need to provide the following personal information when creating your account:

- Name (exactly as it appears on your Social Security card if you have one)
- Date of birth
- Email address
- Social Security number (if you have one)

Because your StudentAid.gov account gives you access to legal forms, we will verify your identity when you create your account. In order to complete identity verification, you must enter your Social Security number (SSN) if you have one.

For your security, we also require an email address to enable two-step verification. This helps us make sure that you're the only person who can access your federal student aid information. You can also add and verify your mobile phone number to make logging in to your account even easier. The email address and phone number you choose can be used with only one StudentAid.gov account: Yours. You can't use an email that is associated with a parent's or spouse's account.

It's important to use an email address that you'll have access to in the future, not just while you're in school or with your current employer.

You can also add and verify your mobile phone number in your account. This will make logging in to your account even easier, since you can choose to have secure codes texted to your mobile phone for two-step verification. You also can use your email address or mobile phone number to log in if you can't remember your username.

Throughout the account creation process, you will see question mark icons (?) next to the fields where you enter your information. You can select these icons for more help.

What if I or my parent/spouse don't have a Social Security number?

- If you have an SSN, you must provide it when creating an account.
- All students must have an SSN to create a StudentAid.gov account unless you are from the Freely Associated States (Micronesia, Marshall Islands, or Palau). [Check eligibility here.](#)
- If you are a parent or spouse who doesn't have an SSN, you can still create an account to contribute to a student's FAFSA form. When creating your account, leave the SSN field blank and select "What if I don't have a Social Security number?"
- If only one parent has an SSN, that parent is the one who should create an account and join the student's form as a contributor.

How long does it take to create an account?

Creating a StudentAid.gov account takes less than 10 minutes. Watch the “[Create and Access Your StudentAid.gov Account](#)” video to walk through the process step-by-step.

Once you create your account, you can use it immediately to complete and sign your FAFSA form. Other activities, such as completing other forms on StudentAid.gov, will require you to wait until we verify your identity. The SSN verification step can take between one and three days.

Do I already have an account?

To see if you already have a StudentAid.gov account, try to [log in](#).

If you try to create an account and are told that your personal information is already associated with an existing account, then you likely already have an account and won't be able to create a new one. If that happens, you should next try to log in. If you're unable to log in to your account, try [retrieving your username](#). If that doesn't work, you'll need to [recover your account](#).

What if I've lost access to my account?

Learn about how you can [regain access to your StudentAid.gov account](#).

Which parent should I invite to my FAFSA form?

Use the interactive [Who's My FAFSA Parent](#) wizard to learn how to identify which parent needs an account.

How should I input names when creating an account?

Enter your first name exactly as it appears on your Social Security card. Valid characters include numbers, letters, spaces, period (.), apostrophe ('), and hyphen (-).

If you have multiple middle names, enter the first letter of the first middle name as it appears on your Social Security card. If you have no middle name, leave the middle name field blank.

If your name(s) is too long to fit into the field, enter as many characters as you can into the field.

If your name has changed, you must update it with the Social Security Administration (SSA). For more information, contact the SSA at 1-800-772-1213 or visit [ssa.gov](#).

What if I'm told that my SSN is already in use?

If you previously created an account and have forgotten about it **or** if someone else (such as a parent) has already created an account for you, then you will receive an error telling you that your SSN is already in use. If this happens, try to log in rather than creating a new account. If you have trouble logging in, try resetting your password or using another email address. Check with a parent to see whether a StudentAid.gov account already exists for you. If you're sure that

an account has not already been created, [contact the office of Federal Student Aid](#) for help at the Federal Student Aid Information Center (FSAIC).

What if I have issues with my phone number or don't have a phone number?

The phone number field is optional. If the phone number you entered is already in use or you use only a parent's number, you shouldn't add a phone number when creating your account. You can always add your own phone number at a later time.

What if I don't have a permanent mailing address?

Enter your current mailing address while creating the account. You can always change your mailing address at a later time.

Can I share my StudentAid.gov account with someone else?

No. Your StudentAid.gov account allows you to sign legally binding documents. This means that **only you** can use it. Giving someone else access to your account is like having another person forge your signature on a legal contract. In addition, the email address and phone number you choose can be used with only one StudentAid.gov account, so they can't also be used with a parent's or spouse's account.

What if I'm still not sure what information or parent to use?

Consult additional help online or through the Federal Student Aid Information Center (FSAIC). Also, when you complete the FAFSA form, you'll see additional tips and info that can help you determine what contributors need to participate in your FAFSA form.