

What You Need to Know About Changes to the *FAFSA*[®] Process for 2017–18

Starting with the 2017–18 *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA[®]), these changes will be in effect:

SUBMIT A *FAFSA* EARLIER: Students will be able to submit a 2017–18 FAFSA as early as Oct. 1, 2016, rather than beginning on Jan. 1, 2017. The earlier submission date will be a permanent change, enabling students to complete and submit their FAFSAs as early as October 1 every year. (There is NO CHANGE to the 2016–17 schedule. The 2016–17 FAFSA became available Jan. 1, 2016.)

USE EARLIER INCOME AND TAX INFORMATION: Beginning with the 2017–18 FAFSA, students will be required to report income and tax information from an earlier tax year. For example, on the 2017–18 FAFSA, students (and parents, as appropriate) will report their 2015 income and tax information, rather than their 2016 income and tax information.

Here’s a summary of key dates for submitting the FAFSA depending on when you plan to go to school:

| IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND COLLEGE FROM | YOU WILL SUBMIT THIS FAFSA | YOU CAN SUBMIT THE FAFSA FROM | USING INCOME AND TAX INFORMATION FROM |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| JULY 1, 2016 – JUNE 30, 2017 | 2016–17 | JANUARY 1, 2016 – JUNE 30, 2017 | 2015 |
| JULY 1, 2017 – JUNE 30, 2018 | 2017–18 | OCTOBER 1, 2016 – JUNE 30, 2018 | 2015 |
| JULY 1, 2018 – JUNE 30, 2019 | 2018–19 | OCTOBER 1, 2017 – JUNE 30, 2019 | 2016 |