

FAFSA Simplification Update

Presented by:

Myrna Perkins, Chief Accreditation Officer & Director
of Financial Aid

February 13, 2024

FAFSA Simplification Act

Key Points

- The FAFSA Simplification Act (Act) was enacted into law as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, and amended by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022.
- The Act further amends the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), and impacts the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®).
- Over the past three years, the Department of Education (Department or we) has implemented these changes in phases, beginning with the 2021-22 Award Year.
- The final phase of the Department's implementation of the changes required by the Act will occur in the 2024-25 Award Year.

<https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/dear-colleague-letters/2023-08-04/fafsa-simplification-act-changes-implementation-2024-25>

Electronic Announcement 4/12/2023 to College Presidents

- The potential need for more institutional resources to provide adequate training for your team, including financial aid leaders and staff, student financial services, bursars, and others.
- A thorough review of your current admissions and financial aid deadlines and practices as the 2024-25 FAFSA form will be available in December 2023.
- An increased number of students determined to be eligible for federal financial aid programs may require more staffing.
- Potential changes to your current enrollment and/or retention strategies for utilizing institutional student aid programs and/or funds.
- More resources may be needed for software, security, and systems updates, as well as training to implement those changes.
- Insufficient financial resources for items like staffing, software updates, and training may increase risks of non-compliance, which could lead to audit findings, fines, and/or liabilities.

<https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/electronic-announcements/2023-04-12/fsa-letter-presidents-chancellors-and-ceos-changes-federal-student-aid-and-2024-25-fafsa-process>

Electronic Announcement

11/15/2023

- The improved FAFSA form will be available for students and parents by Dec. 31, 2023. Students who complete the form will receive a confirmation and see their estimated student aid eligibility.
- Schools will begin receiving aid eligibility information, including Institutional Student Information Records (ISIRs), by the end of January 2024, with information on paper forms to follow.

<https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/electronic-announcements/2023-11-15/update-simplified-streamlined-redesigned-2024-25-fafsa>

Federal Student Aid Announcement

12/31/2023



Federal Student Aid ✓

December 31, 2023 · 🌐

Last night we started the soft launch of the 2024-25 FAFSA® form. During the soft launch, we will make the form available for periods of time over the coming days while we monitor site performance and respond to any potential issues. We will also be initiating pauses to the site, during which time the form will not be available while we conduct site maintenance.

Students and families will have ample time to complete the 2024-25 FAFSA and do not need to rush to fill out the form immediately during the soft launch. If you visit the site during a pause, check back later to access the form.

Visit <https://StudentAid.gov/announcements-events/fafsa-support> for more information on what to expect during the soft launch.

NASFAA News 1/9/2024

First reported by NPR and shortly thereafter confirmed by an ED spokesperson in an email to NASFAA and other member-based organizations, the department said it will be updating data tables used in the Student Aid Index (SAI) calculation to account for inflation for the 2024-25 award year.

Electronic Announcement

1/30/2024

Post-Processing Experience for Institutions, State Higher Ed Agencies, and Designated Scholarship Organizations

- Institutions, state higher ed agencies, and designated scholarship organizations will begin receiving batches of FAFSA information (ISIRs) starting in the first half of March. The information transmitted to schools will include the updated SAI tables.
- We are continuing to test several vendor built systems and we will provide regular progress updates to schools and stakeholders as we move forward.
- As in previous years, when the Congressional appropriations process has completed and determined the 2024-25 Maximum Federal Pell Grant award amount, ISIRs will be re-processed to reflect that update.

Impact on Financial Aid Offices

- Applicants find the new application challenging.
- Set up systems for new aid year, including rewriting rules underlying processes.
- Rewriting reports with revised system data elements.
- Backlog of ISIR's to process when available.

New Federal Pell Calculation

Credit Hours	Enrollment Category (Old)	Enrollment Intensity (New)
12 (or more)	Full-Time	100%
11	Three-Quarter Time	92%
10		83%
9		75%
8	Half-Time	67%
7		58%
6		50%
5	Less-than-Half-Time	42%
4		33%
3		25%
2		17%
1		8%

Questions?

Myrna Perkins
Chief Accreditation Officer
Director of Financial Aid
Barton Community College
perkinsm@bartonccc.edu
(620) 792-9201