Data Elements and Justification

**2024-2025 *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) form**

Purpose: The Data Elements and Justification is provided to accompany the review of the 2024-25 FAFSA form. It identifies the data elements associated with each FAFSA question and provides the justification for including each question on the FAFSA form.

| **Question****Numbers(s)#** | **Data Element(s)** | **Data Element(s) Justification** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Student Identity Information* First name
* Middle name
* Last name
* Suffix
* Date of birth
* Social Security number (SSN)
* Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN)

The ITIN is collected when the student doesn’t have an SSN.  | Data Elements Specific to FAFSA Simplification ActIndividual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN)-Additional Data Element specific to FUTURE Act |
| 2 | Student Contact Information* Mobile phone number
* Email address
* Permanent mailing address
* City
* State
* ZIP code
* Country
 | Data Elements Specific to FAFSA Simplification Act |
| 3 | Student Current Marital Status | Data Elements Specific to FAFSA Simplification Act |
| 4 | Student College or Career School Plans* Grade level in college 20XX-20XX
* First bachelor's degree before 20XX - 20XX school year
* Pursuing teacher certification
 | Data Elements Specific to FAFSA Simplification ActPursuing Teacher Certification-Additional Data Element Required for Eligibility Determination |
| 5 | Student Personal Circumstances-* Active duty
* Veteran
* Children or other dependents
* Orphan
* Ward of court
* Foster care
* Emancipated minor
* Legal guardianship
* None of these apply
 | Data Elements Specific to FAFSA Simplification Act |
| 6 | Student Other Circumstances:* Unaccompanied and homeless or self-supporting and at risk of being homeless

Entity who provided homeless or self-supporting and at risk of homelessness determination:* Director or designee of an emergency or transitional shelter, street outreach program, homeless youth drop-in center, or other program serving those experiencing homelessness
* The student’s high school or school district homeless liaison or designee
* Director or designee of a project supported by federal TRIO or GEAR UP program grant
* Financial Aid Administrator (FAA)
* None of these apply
 | Data Elements Specific to FAFSA Simplification Act |
| 7  | Student Unusual Circumstances | Data Elements Specific to FAFSA Simplification Act |
| 8 | Apply for a Direct Unsubsidized Loan Only | Data Elements Specific to FAFSA Simplification Act |
| 9 | Family SizeThis question is N/A when the student has been determined to be dependent.  | Data Elements Specific to FAFSA Simplification Act |
| 10 | Number in CollegeThis question is N/A when the student has been determined to be dependent.  | Data Elements Specific to FAFSA Simplification Act |
| 11 | Student Demographic Information* Gender
 | Data Elements Specific to FAFSA Simplification Act |
| 12 | Student Race and Ethnicity* Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin
* Race
 | Data Elements Specific to FAFSA Simplification Act |
| 13 | Student Citizenship* Citizenship status
* A-number
 | Data Elements Specific to FAFSA Simplification Act |
| 14 | Student State of Legal Residence-* State
* Legal residence date
 | Data Elements Specific to FAFSA Simplification Act |
| 15 | Parent Education Status | Data Elements Specific to FAFSA Simplification Act |
| 16 | Parent Killed in the Line of Duty  | Additional Data Elements Required for Eligibility Determination |
| 17 | Student High School Completion Status-* High school (HS) or equivalent completed
* HS Name
* City
* State
* State-recognized high school equivalent
* Issuing state
 | Data Elements Specific to FAFSA Simplification Act |
| 18 | Federal Benefits Received* Earned income Tax Credit (EITC)
* Federal housing assistance
* Free or reduced-price school lunch
* Medicaid
* Refundable credit for coverage under a qualified health plan (QHP)
* Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
* Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
* Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
* Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
* None of these apply

This question is N/A when the student has been determined to be dependent. | Data Elements Specific to FAFSA Simplification Act |
| 19 | Student Tax Filing Status* Filed 1040 or 1040-NR
* Filed non-U.S. tax return
* Filed joint return with current spouse
 | Required to Determine Accuracy |
| Question 20- Student XXXX Tax Return Information |
| a | Filing statusThe response to this question may be available through the direct data exchange with the IRS.  | Data Elements Specific to FUTURE Act |
| b | Income earned from workThe response to this question may be available through the direct data exchange with the IRS. | Data Elements Specific to FUTURE Act |
| c | Tax exempt interest incomeThe response to this question may be available through the direct data exchange with the IRS. | Data Elements Specific to FUTURE Act |
| d | Untaxed portions of IRA distributionsThe response to this question may be available through the direct data exchange with the IRS. | Data Elements Specific to FUTURE Act |
| e | IRA rollover | Data Elements Specific to FAFSA Simplification Act |
| f | Untaxed portions of pensionsThe response to this question may be available through the direct data exchange with the IRS. | Data Elements Specific to FUTURE Act |
| g | Pension rollover | Data Elements Specific to FAFSA Simplification Act |
| h | Adjusted gross incomeThe response to this question may be available through the direct data exchange with the IRS. | Data Elements Specific to FUTURE Act |
| i | Income tax paidThe response to this question may be available through the direct data exchange with the IRS. | Data Elements Specific to FUTURE Act |
| j | EITC received during tax year? | Additional Data Elements Required for Eligibility Determination |
| k | IRA deductions and payments to self-employed SEP, SIMPLE, and qualified plansThe response to this question may be available through the direct data exchange with the IRS. | Data Elements Specific to FUTURE Act |
| l | Education creditsThe response to this question may be available through the direct data exchange with the IRS. | Data Elements Specific to FUTURE Act |
| m | Filed Schedule A, B, D, E, F or H?The response to this question may be available through the direct data exchange with the IRS. | Data Elements Specific to FUTURE Act |
| n | Net profit or loss from IRS Form 1040 Schedule C amountThe response to this question may be available through the direct data exchange with the IRS. | Data Elements Specific to FUTURE Act |
| o | College grants, scholarships, or AmeriCorps benefits (optional) | Data Elements Specific to FAFSA Simplification Act |
| p | Foreign earned income exclusion | Data Elements Specific to FAFSA Simplification Act |
| 21 | Annual Child Support Received | Data Elements Specific to FAFSA Simplification Act |
| 22 | Student Assets* Total of cash, savings, and checking accounts
* Net worth of current investments
* Net worth of businesses/investment farms
 | Data Elements Specific to FAFSA Simplification Act |
| 23 | College Selections  | Data Elements Specific to FAFSA Simplification Act |
| 24 | Student Consent and Signature* Consent to retrieve and disclose federal tax information (FTI)
* Signature
* Signature date
 | Data Elements Specific to FUTURE Act |
| Student Spouse Data Elements must be completed when the student is married or remarried.  |
| 25 | Student Spouse Identity Information* First name
* Middle name
* Last name
* Suffix
* Date of birth
* SSN
 |  Data Elements Specific to FAFSA Simplification Act |
| 26 | Student Spouse Contact Information* Email address
 | Data Elements Specific to FAFSA Simplification Act |
| Student Spouse: The following data elements are N/A unless student is married and did not file a joint tax return with their current spouse.  |
| 25 | Student Spouse Identity Information* ITIN

The ITIN is collected when the student’s spouse doesn’t have an SSN.  | Data Elements Specific to FUTURE Act |
| 26 | Student Spouse Contact Information* Mobile phone number
* Permanent mailing address
* City
* State
* ZIP code
* Country
 | Data Elements Specific to FAFSA Simplification Act |
| 27 | Student Spouse Tax Filing Status* Filed 1040 or 1040-NR
* Filed non-U.S. tax return
 | Required to Determine Accuracy |
| Question 28: Student Spouse XXXX Tax Return Information |
| a |  Filing statusThe response to this question may be available through the direct data exchange with the IRS. | Data Elements Specific to FUTURE Act |
| b | Income earned from workThe response to this question may be available through the direct data exchange with the IRS. | Data Elements Specific to FUTURE Act |
| c | Tax exempt interest incomeThe response to this question may be available through the direct data exchange with the IRS. | Data Elements Specific to FUTURE Act |
| d | Untaxed portions of IRA distributionsThe response to this question may be available through the direct data exchange with the IRS. | Data Elements Specific to FUTURE Act |
| e | IRA rollover | Data Elements Specific to FAFSA Simplification Act |
| f | Untaxed portions of pensionsThe response to this question may be available through the direct data exchange with the IRS. | Data Elements Specific to FUTURE Act |
| g | Pension rollover | Data Elements Specific to FAFSA Simplification Act |
| h | Adjusted gross incomeThe response to this question may be available through the direct data exchange with the IRS. | Data Elements Specific to FUTURE Act |
| i | Income tax paidThe response to this question may be available through the direct data exchange with the IRS. | Data Elements Specific to FUTURE Act |
| j | IRA deductions and payments to self-employed SEP, SIMPLE, and qualified plansThe response to this question may be available through the direct data exchange with the IRS. | Data Elements Specific to FUTURE Act |
| k | Education creditsThe response to this question may be available through the direct data exchange with the IRS. | Data Elements Specific to FUTURE Act |
| l | Filed Schedule A, B, D, E, F or H?The response to this question may be available through the direct data exchange with the IRS. | Data Elements Specific to FUTURE Act |
| m |  Net profit or loss from IRS Form 1040 Schedule C amountThe response to this question may be available through the direct data exchange with the IRS. | Data Elements Specific to FUTURE Act |
| n | Foreign earned income exclusion | Data Elements Specific to FAFSA Simplification Act |
| 29 | Student Spouse Consent and Signature* Consent to retrieve and disclose FTI
* Signature
* Signature date
 | Data Elements Specific to FUTURE Act |
| Parent: The following data elements are N/A unless student has been determined to be dependent.  |
| 30 | Parent Identity Information* First name
* Middle name
* Last name
* Suffix
* Date of birth
* SSN
* ITIN

The ITIN is collected when the parent doesn’t have an SSN.  | Data Elements Specific to FAFSA Simplification ActIndividual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN)-Data Elements Specific to FUTURE Act |
| 31 | Parent Contact Information* Mobile phone number
* Email address
* Permanent mailing address
* City
* State
* ZIP code
* Country
 | Data Elements Specific to FAFSA Simplification Act |
| 32 | Parent Current Marital Status | Data Elements Specific to FAFSA Simplification Act |
| 33 | Parent State of Legal Residence* State
* Legal residence date
 | Data Elements Specific to FAFSA Simplification Act |
| 34 |  Family Size | Data Elements Specific to FAFSA Simplification Act |
| 35 | Number in College | Data Elements Specific to FAFSA Simplification Act |
| 36 | Federal Benefits Received* Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)
* Federal housing assistance
* Free or reduced-price school lunch
* Medicaid
* Refundable credit for coverage under a qualified health plan (QHP)
* Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
* Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
* Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
* Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
* None of these apply
 | Data Elements Specific to FAFSA Simplification Act |
| 37 | Parent Tax Filing Status* Filed 1040 or 1040-NR
* Filed non-U.S. tax return
* Filed joint return with current spouse
 | Required to Determine Accuracy |
| Question 38: Parent XXXX Tax Return Information |
| a | Filing statusThe response to this question may be available through the direct data exchange with the IRS. | Data Elements Specific to FUTURE Act |
| b | Income earned from workThe response to this question may be available through the direct data exchange with the IRS. | Data Elements Specific to FUTURE Act |
| c | Tax exempt interest incomeThe response to this question may be available through the direct data exchange with the IRS. | Data Elements Specific to FUTURE Act |
| d | Untaxed portions of IRA distributionsThe response to this question may be available through the direct data exchange with the IRS. | Data Elements Specific to FUTURE Act |
| e | IRA rollover | Data Elements Specific to FAFSA Simplification Act |
| f | Untaxed portions of pensionsThe response to this question may be available through the direct data exchange with the IRS. | Data Elements Specific to FUTURE Act |
| g | Pension rollover | Data Elements Specific to FAFSA Simplification Act |
| h | Adjusted gross incomeThe response to this question may be available through the direct data exchange with the IRS. | Data Elements Specific to FUTURE Act |
| i | Income tax paidThe response to this question may be available through the direct data exchange with the IRS. | Data Elements Specific to FUTURE Act |
| j | EITC received during tax year? | Additional Data Elements Required for Eligibility Determination |
| k | IRA deductions and payments to self-employed SEP, SIMPLE and qualified plansThe response to this question may be available through the direct data exchange with the IRS. | Data Elements Specific to FUTURE Act |
| l | Education creditsThe response to this question may be available through the direct data exchange with the IRS. | Data Elements Specific to FUTURE Act |
| m | Filed Schedule A, B, D, E, F or H?The response to this question may be available through the direct data exchange with the IRS. | Data Elements Specific to FUTURE Act |
| n | Net profit or loss from IRS Form 1040 Schedule C amountThe response to this question may be available through the direct data exchange with the IRS. | Data Elements Specific to FUTURE Act |
| o | College grants, scholarships, or AmeriCorps benefits (optional) | Data Elements Specific to FAFSA Simplification Act |
| p | Foreign earned income exclusion | Data Elements Specific to FAFSA Simplification Act |
| 39 | Annual Child Support Received | Data Elements Specific to FAFSA Simplification Act |
| 40 | Parent Assets* Total of cash, savings, and checking accounts
* Net worth of current investments
* Net worth of businesses/investment farms
 | Data Elements Specific to FAFSA Simplification Act |
| 41 | Parent Consent and Signature* Consent to retrieve and disclose FTI
* Signature
* Signature date
 | Data Elements Specific to FUTURE Act |
| Other Parent data elements must be completed when the parent is married, remarried, or unmarried and both legal parents living together. |
| 42 | Other Parent Identity* First name
* Middle name
* Last name
* Suffix
* Date of birth
* SSN
 | Data Elements Specific to FAFSA Simplification Act |
| 43 | Other Parent Contact Information:Email address | Data Elements Specific to FAFSA Simplification Act |
| Other Parent: The following data elements are N/A unless the parent and other parent listed on the form did not file a joint tax return. |
| 42 | Other Parent Identity:ITIN | Data Elements Specific to FUTURE Act |
| 43 | Other Parent Contact Information* Mobile phone number
* Permanent mailing address
* City
* State
* ZIP code
* Country
 | Data Elements Specific to FAFSA Simplification Act |
| 44 | Other Parent Tax Filing Status* Filed 1040 or 1040NR
* Filed non-U.S. tax return
 | Required to Determine Accuracy |
| Question 45: Other Parent XXX Tax Return Information |
| a | Filing statusThe response to this question may be available through the direct data exchange with the IRS. | Data Elements Specific to FUTURE Act |
| b | Income earned from workThe response to this question may be available through the direct data exchange with the IRS. | Data Elements Specific to FUTURE Act |
| c | Tax exempt interest incomeThe response to this question may be available through the direct data exchange with the IRS. | Data Elements Specific to FUTURE Act |
| d | Untaxed portions of IRA distributionsThe response to this question may be available through the direct data exchange with the IRS. | Data Elements Specific to FUTURE Act |
| e | IRA rollover | Data Elements Specific to FAFSA Simplification Act |
| f | Untaxed portions of pensionsThe response to this question may be available through the direct data exchange with the IRS. | Data Elements Specific to FUTURE Act |
| g | Pension rollover | Data Elements Specific to FAFSA Simplification Act |
| h | Adjusted gross incomeThe response to this question may be available through the direct data exchange with the IRS. | Data Elements Specific to FUTURE Act |
| i | Income tax paidThe response to this question may be available through the direct data exchange with the IRS. | Data Elements Specific to FUTURE Act |
| j | IRA deductions and payments to self-employed SEP, SIMPLE, and qualified plansThe response to this question may be available through the direct data exchange with the IRS. | Data Elements Specific to FUTURE Act |
| k | Education creditsThe response to this question may be available through the direct data exchange with the IRS. | Data Elements Specific to FUTURE Act |
| l | Filed Schedule A, B, D, E, F or H?The response to this question may be available through the direct data exchange with the IRS. | Data Elements Specific to FUTURE Act |
| m | Net profit or loss from IRS Form 1040 Schedule C amountThe response to this question may be available through the direct data exchange with the IRS. | Data Elements Specific to FUTURE Act |
| n | Foreign earned income exclusion | Data Elements Specific to FAFSA Simplification Act |
| 46 | Other Parent Consent and Signature* Consent to retrieve and disclose FTI
* Signature
* Signature date
 | Data Elements Specific to FUTURE Act |
| Preparer Data Elements are required if someone other than the student, student spouse, parent, or other parent completes the form on the applicant’s behalf. |
| 47 | Preparer Identity Information* First name
* Last name
* SSN
* Employer Identification Number (EIN)
 | Data Elements Specific to FAFSA Simplification Act |
| 48 | Preparer Contact Information* Affiliation/Organization
* Permanent mailing address
* City
* State
* ZIP code
 | Data Elements Specific to FAFSA Simplification Act |
| 49 |  Preparer Signature* Signature
* Signature date
 |  |