

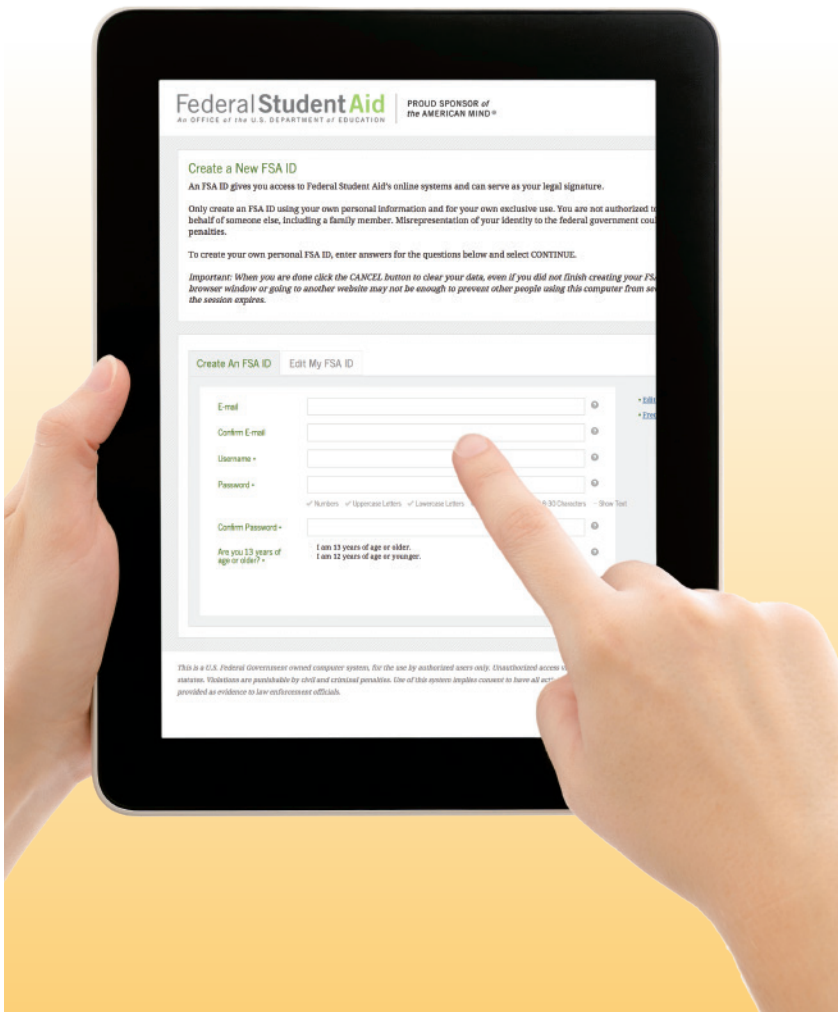
# Journey to College

## Best practices for creating an FSA ID

Visit [studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/filling-out/fsaid](http://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/filling-out/fsaid) to learn about and create an FSA ID.

### You will need your:

- ✓ First and last name (must match exactly what is on your SSN card)
- ✓ Date of birth
- ✓ Social Security number (must have an SSN to create an FSA ID)
- ✓ Email address (email address cannot be shared or used for multiple FSA IDs)



## Step 1

Select the “Create an FSA ID Now” at the top of the webpage.

For helpful tips while creating your FSA ID, click on the question mark (?) after each answer and always select the “Show Text” box to help ensure accuracy.

## Step 2

Enter your email address, along with your chosen username and password.

It’s important to have access to your email address in order to receive the authorization code. Be sure to use an email address you’ll have access to for years to come. Students and parents cannot use the same email address to create their FSA ID. If you received a “Username taken” message, you will need to create a different username that is not currently being used.

More 

## Step 3

Add your personal and demographic information. It's important that your Social Security number, name, and date of birth match exactly what is on your SSN card.

## Step 4

When answering your challenge questions make sure the answers will be easy to remember and always select the "Show Text" box.

For challenge questions one and two, you will need to select a question from the dropdown menu then answer your question. For question three and four, you will be asked to make your own questions then answer them accordingly. You may also choose a significant date as an optional fifth challenge question.

If you do not remember your username and password, you can retrieve your information via your verified email address or by successfully answering your challenge questions. You can also provide a cell phone number to receive a secure code via text message. However, this process is not always instantaneous. It is best to choose a username and password that you will easily remember.

## Step 5

Your last step will be to review and accept the FSA ID terms and conditions. An email confirmation will be sent to the email address provided. It's important that you do not close the email verification page during this process! Open another browser to login to your email account to receive your six-digit code from FSA-ID@ed.gov.

Once you have verified your email address, you can now use your email address and/or your username to complete the FAFSA ([studentaid.ed.gov/sa/afsa](http://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/afsa)), apply for and repay a federal student loan ([www.studentloans.gov/myDirectLoan/index.action](http://www.studentloans.gov/myDirectLoan/index.action)), view your federal student loan and grant history ([nslds.ed.gov/nslds/nslds\\_SA/](http://nslds.ed.gov/nslds/nslds_SA/) or [studentaid.ed.gov/sa/](http://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/)), and apply for a TEACH grant ([studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/grants-scholarships/teach](http://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/grants-scholarships/teach)).

### Will your parent need an FSA ID?

If you are a dependent student, at least one of your parents will need an FSA ID in order to sign your FAFSA. To determine if you're a dependent student for the 2020–21 school year, please answer yes or no to the following questions:

- Y  N Were you born before Jan. 1, 1997?
- Y  N Are you married?
- Y  N Will you be working on a master's degree or doctoral degree at the beginning of the 2020-21 school year?
- Y  N Are you a veteran or active duty member of the U.S. Armed Forces?
- Y  N Do you have children who will receive more than half of their support from you?
- Y  N Do you have any dependents (other than a child or spouse) who live with you and who receive more than half of their support from you?
- Y  N At any time since you turned age 13, were both your parents deceased, were you in foster care, or were you a dependent or ward of the court?
- Y  N Have you been declared an emancipated minor by a court in the state where you have your legal residence?
- Y  N Have you been placed in legal guardianship by a court in the state where you have your legal residence?
- Y  N At any time on or after July 1, 2019, did your high school or school district homeless liaison determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless?
- Y  N At any time on or after July 1, 2019, did the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?

If you did NOT answer "yes" to any of the questions above, you are considered a "dependent" student and at least one of your parents will need to create an FSA ID.