

What is the FSA ID?

Your FSA ID consists of two elements — a username and a password — that you and your parents will use to log in to federal student aid websites. Once your information is verified with the Social Security Administration (one–three days from the date you apply), you will be able to use your FSA ID to access your personal information on any U.S. Department of Education website:

At fafsa.ed.gov, you will be able to electronically sign your (or your child's) FAFSA, import your tax information from the IRS, make online corrections to an existing FAFSA, as well as view or print an online copy of your Student Aid Report.

At studentloans.gov you can complete your Entrance Counseling, Exit Counseling, sign a Master Promissory Note or complete a PLUS Loan request.

At nslds.ed.gov you can look up your loan servicer's contact information or view a history of your loans.

Do I need an FSA ID?

You will need an FSA ID to fill out, sign and submit the FAFSA form electronically. Without a FSA ID, you'll need to print, sign and mail the FAFSA signature page to submit your application, a much longer process.

You also need an FSA ID to access your student loan records and make changes to your FAFSA online.

How do I get an FSA ID?

To create an FSA ID, simply [visit the Federal Student Aid website](#). You'll need to provide an email address, select a username and password, and enter your full name, date of birth and Social Security number.

When should I get an FSA ID?

You can apply for an FSA ID at any time, so there's no need to wait until you fill out your FAFSA. If you do wait until then, however, you will be prompted to apply for one before you submit the form.

Is my FSA ID activated immediately?

Yes and no. You can use your FSA ID right away to sign and submit your FAFSA electronically, but you'll need to wait a few days to use it for other purposes, such as signing a promissory note. If you already have a FAFSA personal identification number, though, you can link it to your new FSA ID and start using the ID right away.

Do parents need an FSA ID?

If you're applying for financial aid as a dependent, one of your parents will be required to sign the FAFSA. In that case, he or she needs a unique FSA ID to sign electronically. Not sure if you're considered dependent or independent? [Check out this flowchart.](#)

What if I forget my username or password?

No problem. Just go to the login page on any of the federal student loan websites and select "Forgot Username" or "Forgot Password" to reset your credentials. From there, you can either answer three challenge questions or request a secure code. If you choose the latter, the code will be sent to the email provided when you created your FSA ID.

Can I change my FSA ID information?

Yes. And you should update your details as soon as possible if your email, mailing address or contact phone number changes. Just visit the Federal Student Aid website and select "[Edit My FSA ID.](#)" You can also use this tab to update your challenge questions, change your password or disable or enable your FSA ID.

Does my FSA ID expire?

Your username does not expire. But your password expires every 18 months, unless you change it more often.

What about my FAFSA PIN?

The Department of Education [officially retired the PIN](#) on May 10, 2015. If you haven't logged in to the FSA website since then, your PIN will no longer work and you'll need to create a more secure FSA ID. If you associate your PIN with your new FSA ID, you'll save the one to three days that it usually takes for the Social Security Administration to verify your information.