




# Financial Aid for College

Presented by the Office of Student Financial Aid





# Today's Journey

- Basics of Applying for Federal Student Aid (Grants and Loans)
  - Identify Your FAFSA Contributors
  - Prepare Your Contributors
  - Create Your Account
  - Understand How to Complete the FAFSA Form
  - Determining Your Eligibility for Federal Financial Aid
- 

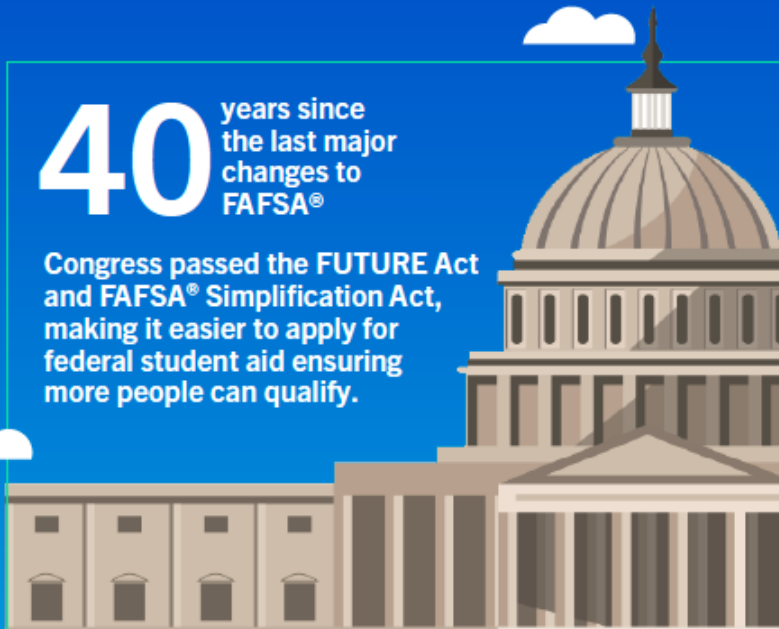
A better FAFSA® process means a better future for everyone.

AWARD  
YEAR  
2024-2025

Full implementation is right around the corner.

40 years since the last major changes to FAFSA®

Congress passed the FUTURE Act and FAFSA® Simplification Act, making it easier to apply for federal student aid ensuring more people can qualify.



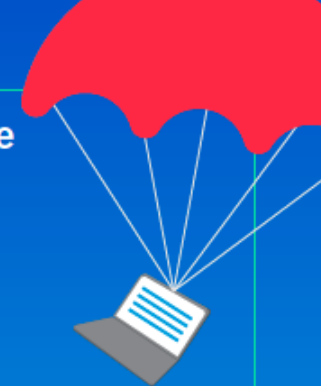
Connecting more people with more funds.

Streamlining application questions.

Developing a better user experience.

930,000

additional Pell Grant award recipients (estimated).



Connecting over 7 million students with more than \$114 billion in aid.



Knowledge Center



Training Center



Financial Aid Toolkit



FSA Partner Emails



Customer Service Center

The support you need and deserve.  
Now and in the future.


**BETTER  
FAFSA®**  
BETTER FUTURE



# Federal Student Aid Overview

- You must submit the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®)** form each year
- Federal Student Aid provides more than \$111 billion in grants, work-study funds and student loans

## **Complete the FAFSA to see if you are eligible to receive:**

- ✓ Federal Grants
  - ✓ Federal Work-Study
  - ✓ Federal Student Loans
  - ✓ State Grants
  - ✓ Grants from your college, career or trade school
  - ✓ Scholarships from your college, career or trade school
  - ✓ Scholarship from outside organizations
- 




# Federal Student Aid Overview

## Myth

- You won't qualify for any federal student aid because you or your family makes too much money, so there is no point in completing the FAFSA form


## Fact

- Most students are eligible to receive financial aid
  - While your income is taken into consideration, there is no income cut-off to qualify for federal student aid
- 






# Information You May Need to Complete the FAFSA

- 2022 Federal Income Tax Return
  - Records of child support received
  - Current balances of cash, checking and/or savings
  - Net worth of investments, businesses and farms
- 

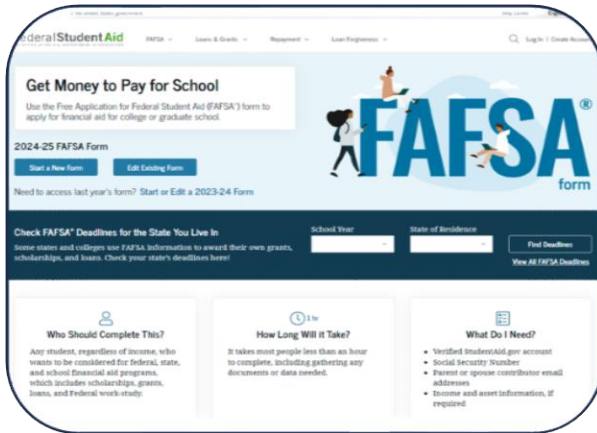


# FAFSA Form

When the 2024-25 FAFSA becomes available in December 2023, follow these steps to complete and submit your form:

1. Visit [FAFSA.gov](https://fafsa.gov) and select the “Start a New Form” option
  2. Log in to your [StudentAid.gov](https://studentaid.gov) account to access and start your FAFSA form
  3. Provide your information and answers within the form as instructed
  4. Invite any contributors who are identified based on the answers you provide
  5. Once you and your contributors have provided all the required information, consent and approval, and signatures on your respective sections of the FAFSA form, submit your form
- 

# FAFSA Guidelines



Submit the FAFSA  
beginning in  
December 2023



Check priority deadlines  
at every school you are  
considering

- **March 1**



2024-25 FAFSA will use  
2022 federal tax information

- Direct Data Exchange  
pulls income information  
from IRS into the FAFSA



# FAFSA - Free Application for Federal Student Aid

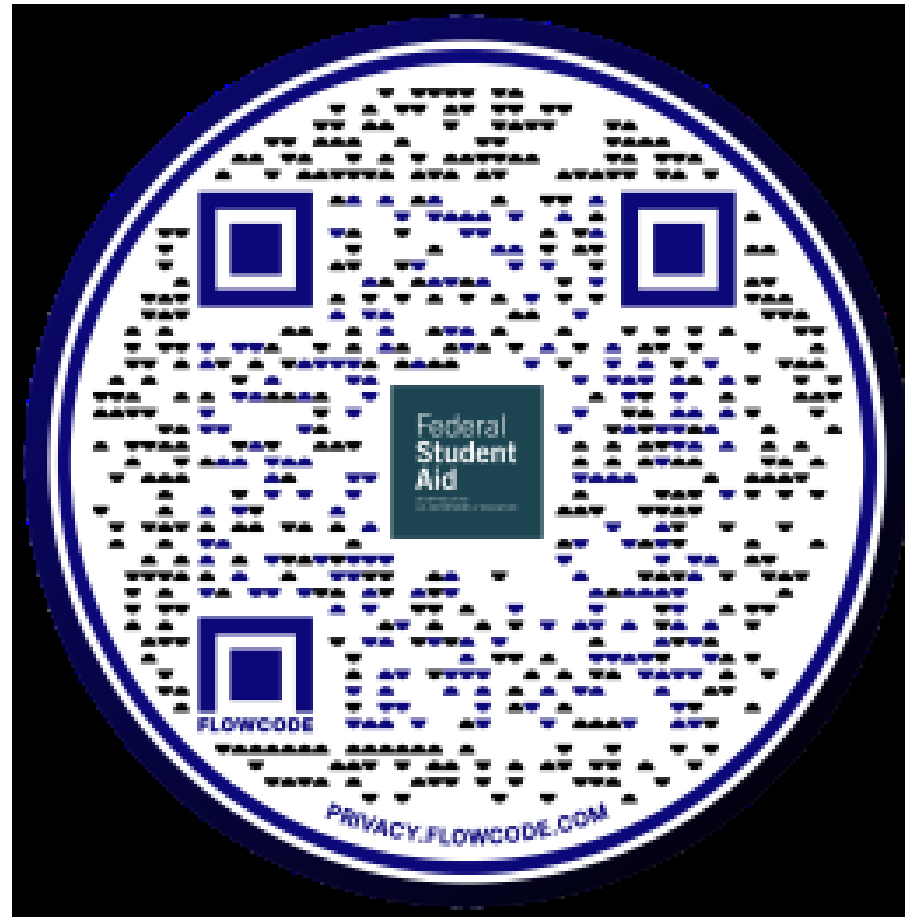


Online FAFSA



PDF FAFSA

# Federal Student Aid Estimator





# FAFSA Simplification

## Big changes to the 2024-2025 FAFSA:

- FAFSA availability date
  - December 31
  - 2025-26 FAFSA available October 1
- Number of questions reduced from 108 (maximum) to 36 questions
- Parent who has supported the student financially more than 50% in the last year
  - If financial support is 50/50, student must provide the information for the parent whose income is highest





# FAFSA Contributors





# New to the FAFSA: Contributors

- A contributor is anyone required to provide information, a signature, and consent and approval to have their federal tax information transferred directly from the IRS into the FAFSA form
- Information provided by the contributors will be used to determine your eligibility for federal student aid
- Contributors are not financially responsible for your education expenses








# Who is a Contributor

A contributor is:

- You (the student)
- Your biological or adoptive parent(s)
- Your spouse
- Your parent(s) spouse (stepparent)

Not a contributor:

- Nonadoptive grandparents
  - Foster parents
  - Your fiancé
  - The other biological parent when they are not married to or do not live with the parent contributor on the FAFSA
- 

# FAFSA Simplification

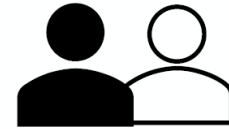
## Big changes to the 2024-2025 FAFSA:

- FAFSA Contributors
  - All contributors must provide consent
  - All contributors must have an FSA ID
- Consent is required for tax data
  - Consent to transfer tax data: Direct Data Exchange (DDX)
- Assets
  - Family farm and small businesses must be counted in assets
- Can now add up to 20 schools on FAFSA

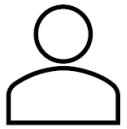
## Contributors Within the 2024-25 FAFSA



Student



Parent and  
Parent Spouse



Student  
Spouse

Contributors &  
Federal Student Aid Identification (FSA ID)

# Federal Student Aid Identification - FSA ID

## Important 2024-2025 FASFA Information

These FASFA Contributors are required to have a Federal Student Aid Identification (FSA ID) if applicable!



Student



Parent and Parent Spouse



Student Spouse

Students and Parent(s) must create own FSA ID.

*\*If one is already created, no action needed!*

This is used for FASFA completion and access to U.S. Department of Education funding.

FSA ID will be used throughout financial aid process, including future school years.

*\* ID Activation takes 3 business days*

Get Started Now!



Attend a Financial Aid Event!



# New to the FAFSA: Consent and Approval

- You (the student) and any additional contributors identified on your FAFSA form must provide consent and approval
- Consent and approval is required for contributors who
  - Do not have a Social Security Number
  - Filed taxes outside of the US
  - Didn't file taxes at all





# Completing the FAFSA





# FAFSA Role

**FAFSA<sup>®</sup>** FORM 2024–25

Welcome, Raya,  
to the FAFSA<sup>®</sup> Form

I am starting the FAFSA form as a

☒ Student 

☐ Parent 

Previous Continue



# Determining Dependency Status

☐ The student is currently serving on active duty in the U.S. armed forces for purposes other than training.

☐ The student is a veteran of the U.S. armed forces.

☐ The student has children or other people (excluding their spouse) who live with them and receive more than half of their support from the student now and between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025.

☐ At any time since the student turned 13, they were an orphan (no living biological or adoptive parent).

☐ At any time since the student turned 13, they were a ward of the court.

☐ At any time since the student turned 13, they were in foster care.

☐ The student is or was a legally emancipated minor, as determined by a court in their state of residence.

☐ The student is or was in a legal guardianship with someone other than their parent or stepparent, as determined by a court in their state of residence.

☐ None of these apply.

- If you can answer yes to any of these questions, you are considered independent and will only need to list a contributor of a spouse if applicable
- If you can answer no to all these questions, you are dependent and must provide parent contributor(s)



# Which Parent is a Contributor to your FAFSA?

Did one parent provide more financial support than the other parent over the past 12 months?

*If both parents provided an exact equal amount of financial support or if they don't support the student financially, select "No," and refer to the parent with the greater income or assets in the next question.*

☐ Yes

☐ No

Has the parent you identified in the previous question remarried?

☒ Yes

☐ No



## Provide Information for the Parent and Stepparent

Based on your answers in the previous section, you'll need to provide information about the parent and stepparent on the FAFSA® form. You can invite the parent and stepparent to the form so they can complete their required sections.

# FAFSA Role

- Identifying contributors
- Emails are sent to each contributor inviting them to complete the FAFSA

**FAFSA**<sup>®</sup> FORM 2024–25 Student: Raya Tran

**Understanding the FAFSA<sup>®</sup> Form**  
2 of 4

**Contributors to the FAFSA<sup>®</sup> Form**



**Parents or Spouses**

Your answers on the FAFSA form will determine if any contributors need to be identified. These contributors will complete their own sections of the form and are asked to provide personal and financial information, but will not become financially responsible for your education.



**How to Invite**

Contributors will need to log in with their own FSA ID to provide their information. To invite a contributor to your FAFSA form, you'll need to provide their name, date of birth, Social Security number, and email address.

[Information or Documents You May Need](#) ^

You might need the following information or documents as you fill out the FAFSA form:

- Tax returns
- Records of child support received
- Current balances of cash, savings, and checking accounts
- Net worth of investments, businesses, and farms

[Previous](#) [Continue](#)



# FAFSA Invitations

- Student provides personal information about parents to invite them to complete the parent portion of the FAFSA
- If a student only invites one parent and two are required, the parent will have the opportunity to invite the second parent

The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2024-25 interface for Student Raya Tran. At the top, a progress bar indicates five steps: 1. Personal Circumstances (active), 2. Demographics, 3. Financials, 4. Colleges, and 5. Signature. Below the progress bar, the heading 'Invite Parents to your FAFSA® Form' is displayed. A light blue box contains the text: 'You will need to provide information for your parents. Based on your answers in the previous section, you'll need to provide information about both of your parents on your FAFSA form. You can invite your family members to your form to help you complete all required sections.' Below this, a green box states: 'Enter names of parents, identified on the prior page, and we'll send electronic requests on your behalf.' A note below that says: 'Please make sure to provide information that your parents would use to login to StudentAid.gov.' The form is divided into two columns. The left column is for a 'Parent' and the right column is for a 'Parent Spouse' (marked as optional). Each column has input fields for 'First Name', 'Last Name', and 'Date of Birth' (with sub-fields for Month, Day, and Year). The 'Parent' section has 'Alcina' for First Name and 'Tran' for Last Name, with the Date of Birth set to 05/05/1973. The 'Parent Spouse' section has empty input fields.



FOR DEMONSTRATION PURPOSES ONLY

The contributor receives an email inviting them to help complete the student's form

*Note: The example below is only representative of the content, not the final appearance*

Federal Student Aid

## Help Complete Raya's Form

Alcina,

Raya T can't be eligible for federal student aid without your input. Help them complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) form.

Providing information as a contributor does not make you financially responsible for Raya's education costs. Completing the FAFSA form is how they qualify for student aid including

- Federal Pell Grants,
- federal student loans,
- state financial aid, and
- school financial aid.

Log in with your FSA ID (account username and password) to complete your section.

**Note: Forms are deleted after 45 days of inactivity.**

Don't recognize Raya? Read [What To Do if You Got an Invite and Don't Recognize the Sender](#).

Log In

### Why You Were Invited

Without your input, Raya won't be eligible for federal student aid.

### Reasons To Finish Early

Here's why it's a good idea to finish as soon as possible:

- States and schools have different deadlines for student aid. Check the "[FAFSA® Deadlines](#)" page for more information.
- You may need extra time to make corrections after you submit.

### Can't Find Raya's Form?

Read [Can't Find FAFSA Form](#).

# SAI: Student Aid Index

## SAI replaces EFC

- This index number is used to project need for the student
- $\text{Cost of Attendance} - \text{SAI} = \text{Need}$
- SAI can be a negative number but is treated as a 0
- Number in college is eliminated - SAI will not be divided by number in college





# Financial Aid Eligibility





# Federal Pell Grant Eligibility

- Maximum Pell and minimum Pell are not determined by the SAI but rather the Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) compared to the Federal Poverty Line
- If a student does not meet these percentages for maximum or minimum Pell, then their SAI is used to calculate Pell eligibility
- More students should become Pell eligible



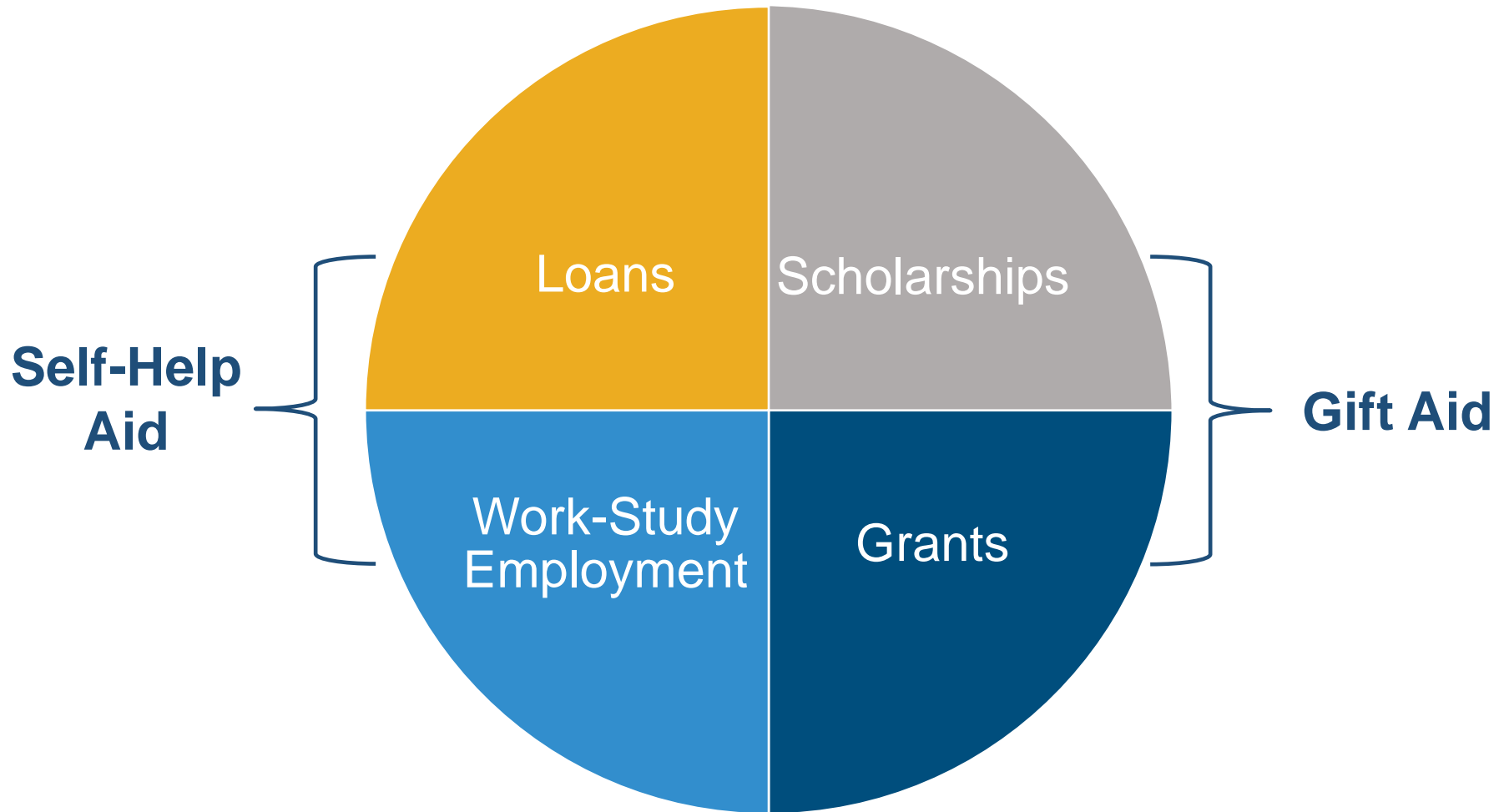
# Federal Pell Grant Eligibility

- Starting with the 2024-25 FAFSA, Pell will be paid per credit hour

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%



# Types of Financial Aid





# Federal Student Aid Programs

Federal Pell Grant

Federal Supplemental  
Educational  
Opportunity Grant  
(FSEOG)

Teacher Education  
Assistance for College  
and Higher Education  
(TEACH) Grant

Federal Work-Study  
(FWS)

Federal Direct Student  
Loans (Direct Loans)

Federal PLUS Loans



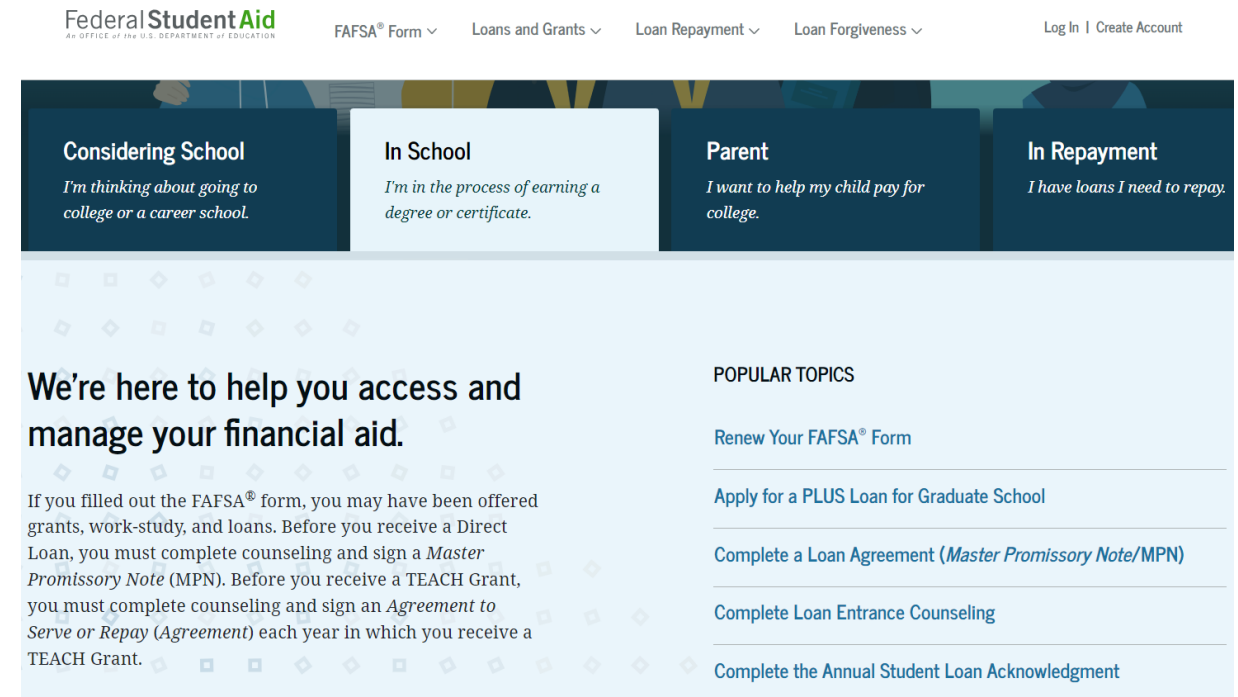
# Federal Direct Loans

- Subsidized
- Unsubsidized
  - Freshman maximum: \$5,500
  - Fixed interest rate is 5.5%\*
  - Origination fee is 1.057%

## Go to StudentAid.gov

- Sign in using FSA ID
- Complete Entrance Counseling
- Sign the Master Promissory Note (MPN)

\* Rates for 2023-2024



The screenshot shows the Federal Student Aid website. At the top, there's a navigation bar with the logo "Federal Student Aid" and links for "FAFSA® Form", "Loans and Grants", "Loan Repayment", "Loan Forgiveness", "Log In", and "Create Account". Below the navigation bar, there are four main sections: "Considering School" (I'm thinking about going to college or a career school.), "In School" (I'm in the process of earning a degree or certificate.), "Parent" (I want to help my child pay for college.), and "In Repayment" (I have loans I need to repay.). The "In School" section is highlighted. Below these sections, there's a large blue area with the text "We're here to help you access and manage your financial aid." and a paragraph explaining the process. To the right, there's a "POPULAR TOPICS" section with links: "Renew Your FAFSA® Form", "Apply for a PLUS Loan for Graduate School", "Complete a Loan Agreement (Master Promissory Note/MPN)", "Complete Loan Entrance Counseling", and "Complete the Annual Student Loan Acknowledgment".

Studentaid.gov




# Professional Judgment





# Introducing Provisionally Independent Status for Students With Unusual Circumstances

- Starting with the 2024-25 award year, you will be granted a dependency status of **provisionally independent** if you indicate having unusual circumstances on your FAFSA form. With a provisionally independent status, you will be able to complete and submit your form without parent information.
  - Unusual circumstances refer to a situation where you are unable to contact a parent or where contact with a parent would pose a risk to you
  - Contact the school you plan to attend to complete the application process to become an independent student
- 





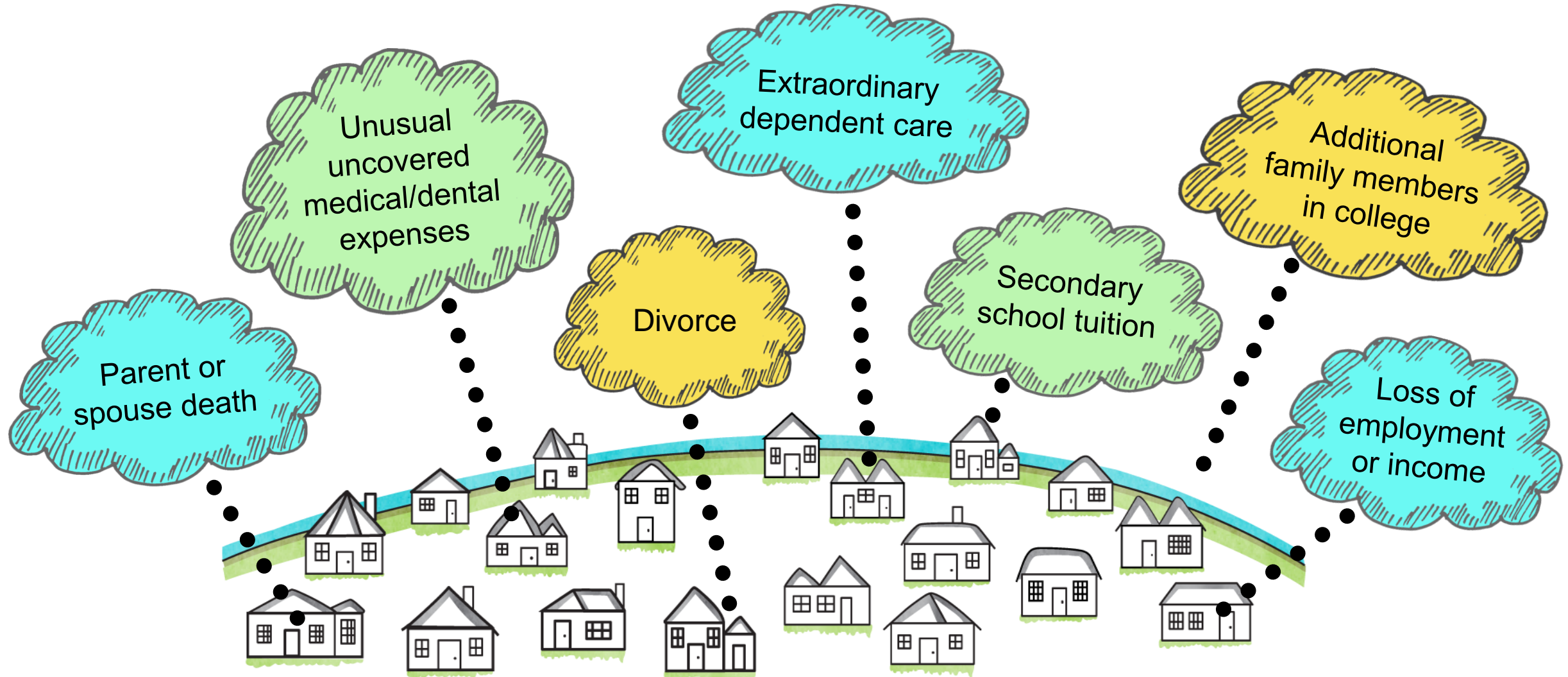
# Professional Judgment

## Dependency Override is now Unusual Circumstances

- Conditions that justify an institution making an adjustment to a student's dependency status:
  - Someone other than the parent has legal custody of the student
  - Parent(s) are deceased
  - No relationship with parent(s)
- Student follows institution's process for dependency override determination
  - Student will need to contact their school for the application



# Professional Judgment



# Questions?

**Student Financial Aid Office**

330-244-3251

starkfinancialaid@kent.edu

[www.kent.edu/stark/financial-aid](http://www.kent.edu/stark/financial-aid)

