

GOOD EVENING!



Office of
Scholarships and Financial Aid
Office of the Provost



Facilitated by: The
Office of
Scholarships &
Financial Aid

FAFSA WORKSHOP*
MARCH 28, 2024
7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

*This session is being recorded for internal purposes

THE TEAM



Carl Gordon, Associate
Director/Advising

Frank Gomez, Associate
Director/Federal Processing

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Manager/SFA Call Center

AGENDA

Background

Why File a FAFSA?

Verification

Important Dates

Answers to Your Questions



BACKGROUND/CHANGES

The FAFSA Simplification Act was enacted into law as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, and amended by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022.

This legislation made significant changes to the application and is intended to expand the Federal Pell Grant to more students and will link student eligibility to family size and the federal poverty level.

MORE BACKGROUND/CHANGES

The simplified FAFSA has fewer questions, down from over 100 to about 18 for the student applicant and 18 for the family.

The former Expected Family Contribution, or EFC, has been replaced with the Student Aid Index, or SAI.

You can now list up to 20 colleges on the FAFSA!

OTHER CHANGES

The FAFSA is available in the 11 most common languages spoken in the U.S.

IRS imports the required tax information

Each person who must provide information on the FAFSA is called a contributor and will need a unique FSA ID (username and password).



FIRST QUESTION BREAK

We will take about 2 minutes to answer questions

WHY FILE THE FAFSA?

Colleges and universities across the country use the FAFSA to award federal, state, and institutional aid. The FAFSA SAI is used to determine your eligibility for:

Grants

College Work-Study

Student Loans



WHY FILE THE FAFSA?

Complete the FAFSA application every year at

www.studentaid.gov

- The FAFSA application deadline for priority funding is April 15, 2024
- Application for 2024-2025 opened in December 2023
 - For 2025-2026 it is expected to go back to October 1st
- For the 2024-2025 academic year you will provide 2022 income information
- Each person (contributor) who has to provide information must have an FSA UserID and password.

WHY FILE THE FAFSA?

After you successfully submit your FAFSA and ED processes it, you will receive a FAFSA Summary Sheet (FSS) via email

Please review the FSS to make sure answers are correct and for the verification flag

Verification means additional documents are required to complete the application

UH will send an email to students whose FAFSAs have been selected for verification

UH must have your social security number in our system to be able to receive your FAFSA. If you did not provide it on you application for Admissions, Contact the Office of the University Registrar: 713-743-1010, option #7/uhour@uh.edu





SECOND QUESTION BREAK

We will take about 2 minutes to answer questions

SPECIAL/UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES

If a family's income has been negatively impacted by:

- Loss of income
- Loss of benefits (unemployment)
- Death in the family (wage earner)
- Separation or divorce

Contact us to discuss submitting a Financial Reconsideration Appeal (FRA).

If you are not able to provide parent information on your FAFSA please contact us to discuss available options.

VERIFICATION



- The U. S. Department of Education may select your FAFSA for a process called **verification**.
- If your FAFSA is selected for verification you will be required to submit additional documents to complete your financial aid application.
- You can tell if your FAFSA was selected by reviewing your FAFSA Summary Sheet (FSS) and reviewing the comments
 - We will also notify you by email if additional documents are required to complete your application

VERIFICATION

- UH uses Proverifier Plus to handle most of our verification processing.
 - Some documents will have to be submitted directly to UH (example: proof of citizenship status)
- You will see a tile on your AccessUH account for ProVerifier Plus
- Upload your required documents there
- Your Financial Aid application must be received by April 15, 2024 to be considered for priority funding.

IMPORTANT DATES



Deadline date for priority funding is April 15, 2024



Access to correcting your FAFSA is scheduled for 'first half' of April.
-Includes being able to add school codes



Initial aid offers expected to start in late April 2024 for complete applications.

YOUR TOP QUESTIONS ANSWERED



WHO IS MY PARENT ACCORDING TO THE FAFSA?

- If married, both of your parents' information must be included. If they filed their taxes as married/filing separate than each parent is a contributor. If they filed a joint tax return, only one parent has to be listed as a contributor.
- If your parents are divorced or separated or never married and do not live together, than you report the information for the parent who provided you with more financial support during the last 12 months. If each parent contributed equally, then the parent with the greater income/assets is the contributor.
- If your parent is widowed, that parent is the contributor.

WHAT IF I HAVE A STEP-PARENT?

Your step-parent is considered a parent if the step-parent adopted you. If your step-parent did not adopt you, the step-parent will be considered as a parent spouse contributor on your FASFA and will report his/her information.

WHAT IF I LIVE WITH SOMEONE ELSE OTHER THAN MY PARENTS?

It does not matter if you do not live with your parent or parents; you still must report information about them if you are considered a dependent student for FAFSA purposes.

The following people are not your parents unless they have legally adopted you:
grandparents, foster parents, legal guardians, siblings, uncles or aunts, and widowed step-parents.

WHAT IF I AM UNABLE TO PROVIDE PARENT INFORMATION DUE TO UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES

- Unusual circumstances may include the following:
 - Parent(s) is/are incarcerated
 - You have left home due to an abusive family environment
 - You are a victim of human trafficking
 - You have been granted refugee or asylee status
 - You were abandoned by or are estranged from your parent(s) and have not been adopted

CAN A PARENT OR SPOUSE WITHOUT A SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER GET AN FSA ID?

Individuals who do not possess a SSN will be required to complete the StudentAid.gov account creation process specifically developed for those without a SSN.

https://www.nasfaa.org/uploads/documents/FSA_ID_without_SSN.pdf

HOW CAN I CHANGE SCHOOLS AFTER I SUBMIT MY FAFSA FORM?

You can add schools to your FAFSA by:

- Go to www.studentaid.gov
- Login with your FSA ID
- Select your processed FAFSA form submission
- Select 'Add or Remove Schools'
- Update your school list and submit your correction
- UH School code = 003652

WHAT IF MY PARENTS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT PROVIDING THEIR INFORMATION BECAUSE OF THEIR CITIZENSHIP STATUS?

Your parents' citizenship status does not affect your eligibility for federal student aid.

In fact, the FAFSA does not even ask about your parents' status!

WHAT IS THE SAI?

- The Student Aid Index, or SAI, is an eligibility index number that financial aid offices use to determine how much federal aid you would receive if you attend that school. This number results from the information you provide on your FAFSA.
- Note: The number is not a dollar amount of eligibility or what your family is expected to provide. A negative SAI indicates a student has a higher need.



**FAQS WILL BE UPDATED ON OUR
WEBSITE AFTER THIS WORKSHOP**

www.uh.edu/financial/

CONTACT US



SCHOLARSHIPS &
FINANCIAL AID
713-743-1010, option 5
Visit us at the
Welcome Center*
Uh.edu/financial
sfa@central.uh.edu



*** Welcome Center Hours**

Monday – Thursday: 8am to 5pm; Friday: 9am to 5pm

Virtual appointments available via Navigate



1-800-433-3243



Hours of Operation:

- Monday – Friday: 8 A.M. – 10 P.M. Eastern Time (ET)
- Saturday: 11 A.M. – 5 P.M. ET
- Sunday: Closed
- Closed on all federal holidays

Federal Student Aid Help Center
<https://studentaid.gov/contact>

THANK YOU!



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