



2017-2018 Early FAFSA

The Early FAFSA, sometimes referred to as the Prior Prior Year FAFSA, is part of an Executive Order issued by President Obama that will shift the timeframe for completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) from January of the year a student will enter college, to October of the year before.

Who does this affect?

All first year students who will enter college in 2017 and all continuing students, both undergraduate and graduate.

What is different?

The FAFSA will be available in October as opposed to January.

When a Student Is Attending College (School Year)	When a Student Can Submit a FAFSA	Which Year's Income Information Is Required
July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017	January 1, 2016	2015
July 1, 2017–June 30, 2018	October 1, 2016	2015
July 1, 2018–June 30, 2019	October 1, 2017	2016

When can I submit my 2017/2018 FAFSA and when is the deadline?

You can begin applying on October 1, 2016. The deadline for undergraduate students is March 2, 2017 and for graduate students is April 1, 2017.

Where do I apply?

The FAFSA is available at: www.fafsa.gov

Why is this change significant?

This is one of the biggest changes in the financial aid industry. It will benefit families as it allows more time to apply and will give families a greater opportunity to utilize the Data Retrieval Tool (DRT). See below for more information.

How does this affect me?

All students will be able to apply for financial aid earlier!

Resources:

- The Department of Education's [Federal Student Aid Office](#).
- [A letter to college students and parents](#) from the Federal Student Aid Office.
- The USD Office of Financial Aid homepage provides help with the [Data Retrieval Tool](#) process.