

WHAT DO I NEED TO COMPLETE MY FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION?

To apply for the **FALL 2016 - SPRING 2017** academic year (*July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017*) FAFSA and TAP applications, you will need the following information that apply to you and/or parents:

Independent & Dependent students:

- Your FSA ID (<https://fsaid.ed.gov/>) with unique email
- Your Social Security number
- Date of marriage/separation/widowed
- Alien Registration/Permanent Resident Number (if you are not a U.S. citizen)
- **2015** Federal tax forms ([1040/1040A/1040EZ](#)) & [W2 forms](#) for yourself, for your spouse if you are married
- **2015** New York State tax forms ([IT-201](#)) for NY state tax filers
- **2015** income from:
 - Self-employment (*If income = at least \$10,000, tax filing is required*)
 - Amount given from other person (such as a relative) for living and personal expenses
 - Support given for child from non-custodial parent such as child support
- **2015** Unemployment income
- **2015** Untaxed income, such as Social Security benefits, Temporary Assistance for Needy Family (TANF), Veterans benefits
- Recent Savings & Checking accounts, Investments, Business and Farm assets

Dependent students will also need:

- Parents FSA ID (<https://fsaid.ed.gov/>) with unique email
- Parents' Social Security numbers
- Parents' date of birth
- Date parents were married/separated/widowed
- Parents' **2015** Federal tax forms ([1040/1040A/1040EZ](#)) & [W2 forms](#)
- Parents' **2015** New York State tax forms ([IT-201](#)) for NY state tax filers
- Parents' **2015** income from:
 - Self-employment (*If income = at least \$10,000, tax filing is required*),
 - Amount given to parent from other person (such as a relative) for living and personal expenses
 - Support given to parent for child from non-custodial parent such as child support
- Parents' **2015** unemployment income
- Parents' **2015** untaxed income, such as Social Security benefits, Temporary Assistance for Needy Family (TANF), Veterans benefits
- Parents' information on Recent Savings & Checking accounts, Investments, Business and Farm assets

NOTE: INCOME TAX FILERS SHOULD WAIT APPROXIMATELY 2-3 WEEKS AFTER THEIR TAXES HAVE BEEN ELECTRONICALLY FILED TO APPLY FOR FINANCIAL SO THAT IRS DATA CAN BE LINKED TO THE FAFSA APPLICATION. WE RECOMMEND THAT YOU APPLY AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE TO AVOID DELAYS AND TO GIVE YOURSELF TIME TO RESOLVE FURTHER REQUESTED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

HOW DO I KNOW IF I AM A DEPENDENT OR AN INDEPENDENT STUDENT?

These questions are used to determine, whether you are a dependent or an independent student for the **FALL 2016 - SPRING 2017** (*July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017*) academic year.

- Were you born before January 1, 1993?
- As of today, are you married?
- At the beginning of the 2016-2017 school year, will you be working on a master's or doctorate program?
- Are you currently serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces for purposes other than training?
- Are you a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces?
- Do you have children who will receive more than half of their support from you between July 1st 2016 and June 30th 2017?
- Do you have dependents (other than your children or spouse) who live with you and who receive more than half of their support from you, now and through June 30th 2017?
- 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?
- Are you or were you an emancipated minor as determined by a court in your state of legal residence?
- Are you or were you in legal guardianship as determined by a court in your state of legal residence?
- At any time on or after July 2015, did your high school or school district homeless liaison determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless?
- At any time on or after July 2015, did the director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless?
- At any time on or after July 2015, 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?

Under Financial Aid regulations, you are considered a DEPENDENT student unless you can answer "yes" to one or more of the above questions. If you are considered a dependent student, in order to process your financial aid application, must provide your information and your parent's information regardless:

- if your parent does or does not live with the you,
- if your parent does or does not live in the United States
- if your parent's income was earned in dollars or not
- if your parent does or does not provide you with financial support,
- if your parent did or did not claim you on their tax forms,
- if your parent does or does not file taxes,

*If you have a special or unusual circumstance, speak to a Financial Aid counselor.