Thank you for being here!

Questions submitted during RSVP

Questions today? Please use the Webinar Q&A function, not Chat

We will follow-up if there are questions that we don’t have answers to today

This webinar is being recorded and will be available on our Faculty/Staff webpage
Art Young

Executive Director, OSFA
AGENDA

- What is FAFSA Simplification?
- Pell Grant Changes
- Timelines
- Financial Aid Offer
- Known Issues/Concerns/Potential Impacts
- Resources for You and Students
What is FAFSA Simplification?
What is FAFSA Simplification?

The FAFSA Simplification Act was enacted by Congress as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021. This law:

- Reduces the number of FAFSA questions
- Expands Pell Grant eligibility
- Removes outdated restrictions to make federal student aid more accessible to students

State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (SHEEO) FAFSA Simplification Brief offers useful highlights and analysis.
17.7% are expected to experience an increase from EFC to SAI (less need-based aid)

74.1% are expected to experience a decrease from EFC to SAI (more need-based aid)

8.2% are expected to have an SAI equal to EFC
INDEPENDENT STUDENTS

2.9% are expected to experience an **increase** from EFC to SAI (less need-based aid)

77.4% are expected to experience a **decrease** (more need-based aid)

https://sheeo.org/fafsasimplificationbrief/
RETRAIN YOUR BRAIN

WHAT'S NEW?

EFC → SAI
AUTO ZERO → -$1500
DRT → DDX
SAR → FSS
PARENT → CONTRIBUTOR
HH SIZE → FAMILY SIZE
EFA → OFA
FAFSA → FAFSA FORM
ROOM/BOARD → FOOD/HOUSING

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
Changes Specific to 2024-2025

- Reducing the number of FAFSA questions from 108 to 36
- Future Act Direct Data Exchange (FA-DDX) to import federal tax information
- Contributors and Consent
- Student Aid Index (SAI) replaces Expected Family Contribution (EFC)
- Streamlined process for students who have unusual circumstances and students who are unaccompanied homeless youth or are/have/at risk of homelessness (Provisional Independence)
- New Rules for Pell Eligibility
FAFSA Simplification (changes by year)

Repeal of Subsidized Usage Limit Applies (SULA) – 2021-22

Removal of negative consequences for drug convictions/failure to register with Selective Service System (SSS) – 2021-22

Changes to Cost of Attendance (COA) labels and methodology – 2023-24

Reducing the number of FAFSA questions from 108 to 36 – 2024-25

Future Act Direct Data Exchange (FA-DDX) to import federal tax information – 2024-25
  • Replaces IRS Data Retrieval Tool (DRT)
  • Requires consent for need analysis
  • Streamlines applications for Income-Driven Repayment (IDR) and Total & Permanent Disability (TPD)

Provisional Independence – 2024-25

Student Aid Index (SAI) replaces Expected Family Contribution (EFC) – 2024-25

New Pell Grant Eligibility and Formulas – 2024-25
Pell Grant Changes
Pell Grant Changes (beginning in 2024-25)

- SAI does not determine eligibility for Max and Minimum Pell
- Direct proration for less than 12 units (full-time)
- Maximum Pell award for non-tax filers and those at or below 175% or 225% of the poverty level
- Minimum Pell award also based on poverty level (up to 400%)
- Middle Pell award calculated using SAI
- Half-time requirement for 150% Pell removed
35.2% are anticipated to experience an **increase** in their Pell Grant award and 6.8% are expected to **gain Pell eligibility**

1.1% are anticipated to **lose** Pell eligibility

62.8% are anticipated to experience **no change** in their Pell Grant award

https://sheeo.org/fafsasimplificationbrief/
PELL ELIGIBILITY

INDEPENDENT STUDENTS

30.2% are anticipated to experience an increase to their Pell Grant Award

69.2% are expected to experience no change in their Pell Grant Award

https://sheeo.org/fafsasimplificationbrief/
Other changes that could impact Pell Eligibility

- Number in College not considered in the SAI calculation
- Family size aligns with federal tax dependents
- Income Protection Allowance (IPA) increased
- State/Other Tax Allowance removed
- Small business/family farm exclusion eliminated
- Change to who the FAFSA parent should be in cases of divorce/separation
FAFSA UPDATES
From FAFSA Open Date to Students Awarded Date

- **2024-2025 Release Date**: December 31, 2023
- **ED to Begin FAFSA Processing & Sending to Schools**: First-half of March
- **2024-2025 Financial Aid Offers**: Late-Spring
Financial Aid Offer
Financial Aid Offer

Digital Financial Aid Offer

- Help text
- Videos pertaining to aid the student has been offered
- Information used to create aid offer: Enrollment (Full-Time assumption for initial offer), Campus, Residency, Career
- Helpful next steps
- Accessible via Student Services Center and a link sent when offer is created
- Notifications: Current and New Admits receive an email, New Admits also receive a text message (if opted in)
Known Issues & Concerns
UNABLE TO SUBMIT FAFSA BY ON-TIME DATE
Due to the delays, the University of Arizona pushed the FAFSA on-time date for all students to May 1.

STUDENTS WHOSE CONTRIBUTOR(S) DO NOT HAVE SSNs
ED announced last week that this issue has been resolved. However, two remaining issues were identified: one being that all non-SSN users need to manually enter their financial information and two, an error occurring when there are conflicts with regard to the contributor’s PII. ED created this tips document for students with contributors who do not have an SSN.

STUDENTS UNABLE TO MAKE CORRECTIONS/FAFSA NOT PROCESSED
Until all FAFSA records begin to be processed by ED, no corrections can be made. Students should not be alarmed, for the FAFSA on-time date, we look at the date the student originally submitted the FAFSA. Corrections can be made later, when processing begins.
Known Issues, Concerns & Possible Impacts

DELAYED ABILITY TO MAKE DECISIONS BY COMMIT DATE
OSFA is sharing/creating resources to help incoming students/families estimate cost and aid through our Bear Down & Wise Up workshops. Our new and improved Net Price Calculator launched last month and is an invaluable tool for incoming First-Year students to estimate costs and aid. Enrollment deposits paid can be refunded through May 15th.

DELAYED ABILITY FOR STUDENTS TO DECIDE IF THEY ARE RETURNING TO ARIZONA
While there may be some who lose Pell or receive reduced Pell, all projections point to expansion of Pell for a majority of our students. We are also committed to working with students who receive less gift-aid as a result of the FAFSA changes. Please encourage students in this situation to connect with OSFA.

DEPARTMENTS NOT ABLE TO START AWARDING DEPARTMENTAL SCHOLARSHIPS/STIPENDS
For awards that require a submitted FAFSA and/or demonstrated unmet need, this can cause a delay. However, this does not change the process for departments, they will be able to see unmet need and the information they use now to award aid.
Known Issues, Concerns & Possible Impacts

IMPACT ON INSTITUTIONAL AID (AZP, ANS, AZA, ETC.)

- The FAFSA on-time date has been pushed back to May 1st for all students and the General Aid Appeal will be available in mid-May, if students were not able to meet this submission date
- ANS is not dependent on SAI or Pell eligibility, just the FAFSA submission date so ANS should see very little impact
- AZP, AZA and University Grant do depend on SAI and/or Pell eligibility which could cause students’ eligibility to change… see item below!

STUDENTS RECEIVING LESS FUNDING THAN PRIOR YEARS

This is possible, however, in general, national and internal projections indicate that we will likely see an increase in both Pell-eligible students and the amount of Pell a student is awarded in comparison to years past. Students who may be losing Pell and/or other institutional aid should reach out to OSFA to talk through their situation specifically as there could be appeal options for them. In addition, we will keep a close eye on this group and have planned targeted outreach efforts.
Helpful Resources & What You Can Do
Resources for You and Students

2024-2025 FAFSA Resources page for Faculty/Staff
OSFA webpage, created especially for campus partners, with the most up-to-date information on the 2024-2025 FAFSA Resources for Faculty/Staff
OSFA webpage, created especially for campus partners, that contains a collection of resources and information to help you help students!

Connect with OSFA using our Campus Partner Referral System!
We don’t expect you to be FAFSA experts by any means. Connect with us when students have questions you cannot answer, when students have extenuating circumstances that we need to discuss with them, or when you have questions!

Federal Student Aid for FAFSA technical issues
Federal Student Aid offers support to students/contributors experiencing technical difficulties with their FAFSA.

FAFSA Filing Workshop and FAFSA Drop-In Sessions
All workshops are open to students and staff!
THANK YOU