

Common Issues to Avoid When Completing Your FAFSA (Undergraduate Students)

1. **FSA ID:** Have it handy...it's your username and password used to log in to most U.S. Department of ED websites like FAFSA, <https://studentaid.gov/> etc.

- Need to create one? Visit <https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch> to enter your login information, enter your personal information, submit and verify your email address.
- See the FSA ID YouTube tutorial: <https://youtu.be/iTb7hMVtzco>

2. **Priority Filing Date:** This date is the receipt date of your FAFSA with the federal processor. The priority filing date of **January 15, 2023** is used in conjunction with other data when determining eligibility for certain types of funds. We recommend that you file before the priority filing date in case you need time to resolve any potential issues with your FSAID when electronically signing your FAFSA.

3. **Marital Status:** Report your marital status as of the date you filed the FAFSA.

- **For dependent students:**
 - **Is your parent married now but wasn't married in 2021?** If your parent recently married and had filed taxes separately from their new spouse for the year for which you are reporting their income, you now need to include both your parent's and your parent's spouse's financial information when filing the FAFSA (combine your parent's and your parent's spouse's income, assets, and household size).
 - **Is your parent not married now but was married in 2021?** If your parent is separated/divorced/widowed as of the date you file your FAFSA, you would then report their income, assets, and household size excluding their spouse's information.
- **For independent students:**
 - **Are you married now but weren't married in 2021?** If you recently married and had filed taxes separately for the year for which you are reporting income, you now need to include your spouse's financial information when filing the FAFSA. (Combine your and your spouse's income, assets, and household size).
 - **Are you not married now but were married in 2021?** If separated/divorced/widowed as of the date you file your FAFSA, you would then report your income, assets, and household size excluding your spouse's information.

4. **Social Security Number and Name:** Report your correct Social Security number and legal name.

5. **Should you report scholarships you received on your FAFSA?** Only report scholarships on your FAFSA if you were required to file a 2021 federal tax return AND you had to include the scholarship as income on that tax return.

6. **Address Matching:** If you plan on using the IRS Data Retrieval Tool to upload your taxes, you **MUST** use the exact same address on your FAFSA and your 2021 federal tax return. Minor variations (such as using Ave. instead of Avenue) may make you ineligible to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool. **We highly recommend using the IRS DRT as it is the most accurate method of reporting your tax information and reduces the chances that we will need to ask you for additional information when we review your file.**

7. **When you apply** for the 2023-24 FAFSA, please make sure that OHSU is listed as a school to receive your information (school code: 004883). You should also receive a confirmation email from FAFSA once it has been submitted.