



Important Changes to FAFSA for 2023-24

The FAFSA is being changed for the 2023-24 year (with the application opening of October 1, 2022). There are FIVE main changes to pay close attention to. In summary, they are:

(1) *The FAFSA will be shorter...MUCH shorter!*

- It will now be 36 questions (instead of 108)
- 2 pages only (instead of 6)
- It will now better align with Federal Income Tax
- There will be less opportunity for error or fraud
- The simplicity of it should benefit low income families

(2) *The Expected Family Contribution - or EFC - is being renamed.*

- The EFC was what a family should expect to pay (at minimum)
- This will now be the SAI, or Student Aid Index
- Note that this will not make the overall task easier to complete or make college more affordable, but it does help to make the terminology less confusing and misleading

(3) *Changes for if parent are divorced or separated.*

- The FAFSA used to be completed by the parent household where the student spent most of his/her time
- Now it will be completed by the parent who provides greater financial support for the student.

(4) *Changes for families with multiple students enrolled at the same time.*

- FAFSA used to divide the parent assessment by the number of family members attending college
- Two in college, a 50% reduction. Three, a 66% reduction.
- The old way of FAFSA had focused on cash flow, not wealth and income protection allowance based on the size of the family.
- The new FAFSA removes both -- the FAFSA will NOT divide the parent assessment by the number of family in college. In turn, there will be less aid for multi-student families.

(5) *The income protection levels will increase.*

- PIPA (Parental Income Protection Allowance) increases by 20%
- SIPA (Student Income Protection Allowance) increases by 35%
- This increase could very well end up as thousands more in aid!
- The asset protection will remain unchanged

Any questions? Be sure to contact Linda Brannan, Financial Aid Advisor to schedule an appointment!

Appointment link: <https://calendar.app.google/vicW3YnHJdszMILG6>