What is your favorite movie or TV show?

u.aspire

FAFSA Follow-up & Verification

Pennsylvania Department of Education

### **About Your Trainer**



Kelly Tran (she/her)

Manager of Training & Technical Assistance

- First generation college student
- Born and raised in the Bronx
- Favorite show: Suits!

### Agenda

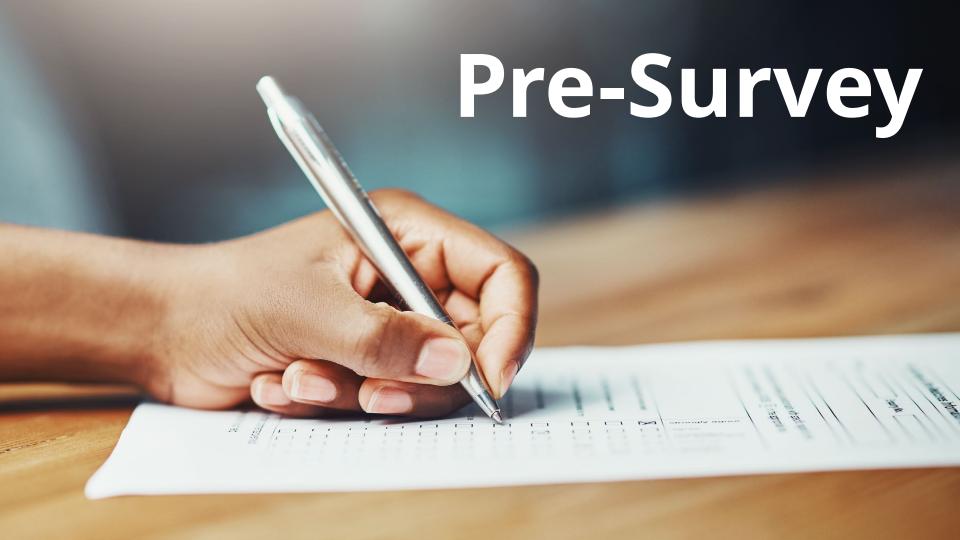
- Pre-Survey
- FAFSA Submission vs. Completion
- FAFSA Submission Summary Review
- Verification
- Tips for Supporting Students
- Post-Survey & Evaluation

# Learning Objectives

#### By the end of today's training, you will be able to:

- Describe what a FAFSA Submission Summary is and the information it provides
- Help students troubleshoot common FAFSA Submission Summary notifications
- Explain verification in student-friendly terms
- Name three best practices for helping students navigate the verification process





# 24-25 FAFSA Updates



# Temporary Workaround



- FSA will allow contributors without SSN to temporarily bypass the identity validation process
- Users can contribute immediately, and help their eligible student to submit the FAFSA



# Paper FAFSA Updates



- Paper FAFSAs will begin processing in late June
- Students who submitted a paper FAFSA should complete the form online, unless they completed the paper form to meet financial aid deadlines
- Any electronically-submitted FAFSA will override the submission date of an earlier paper FAFSA submission

# FAFSA Submission vs. Completion

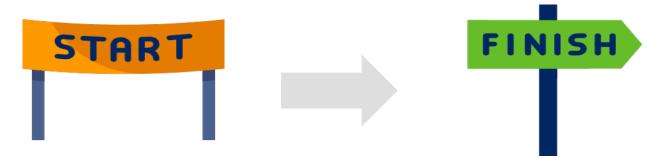


### Please chat in...

# When is a FAFSA application complete?



### Submission vs. Completion



- Last contributor clicks "submit" on the FAFSA
- FAFSA may not be accurate or complete

 Student reviews their FAFSA Submission Summary and makes any necessary corrections or updates to their FAFSA

### Submission Summary Review



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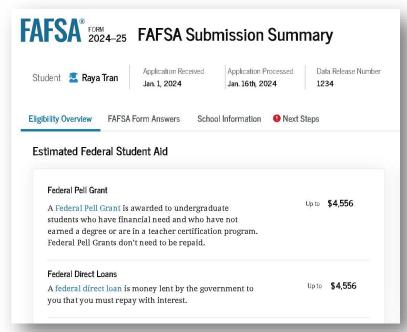
# FAFSA Submission Summary



### **FAFSA Submission Summary**



- Previously called the Student Aid Report
- Includes information reported on the FAFSA and important next steps
- Usually becomes available
   3-5 days after FAFSA
   submission



### Please chat in...

What information will the FAFSA Submission Summary provide?



# **Key Information**

Student Aid Index Federal Aid Eligibility

**College List** 

Federal Verification

Follow-up Steps

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### FAFSA Submission Summary







### FAFSA Submission Summary

Application Received Application Processed Data Release Number Viewing: Submission 1 Student 🙎 Raya Tran Dec. 3, 2023 Jan. 16th, 2024 1234 **Eligibility Overview FAFSA Form Answers** School Information Next Steps Estimated Federal Student Aid Federal Pell Grant View All of Your Federal Student Aid in One Place Up to \$4.556 A Federal Pell Grant is awarded to undergraduate students who have financial need and who have not View detailed information about your earned a degree or are in a teacher certification program. federal loan and grant aid, including Federal Pell Grants don't need to be repaid. your enrollment history, payment history, and subsidized usage. Federal Direct Loans **Visit Aid Summary** A federal direct loan is money lent by the government to you that you must repay with interest.

#### Federal Work-Study

Federal Work-Study is a way for students to earn money to pay for school through part-time jobs on or off campus.

You May Be Eligible

Amounts shown here are only estimates of federal student aid based on full-time enrollment and the average cost of attendance. Your school will determine how much student aid to offer you, which may include additional aid from your school or state.

#### Learn more about financial aid



#### Keep in mind, this is only an estimate

Always refer to your school's financial aid offer for a final determination of financial aid available.

#### Find the Right College or Career School

Use the College Scorecard to compare schools by size, location, graduation rate, and more.

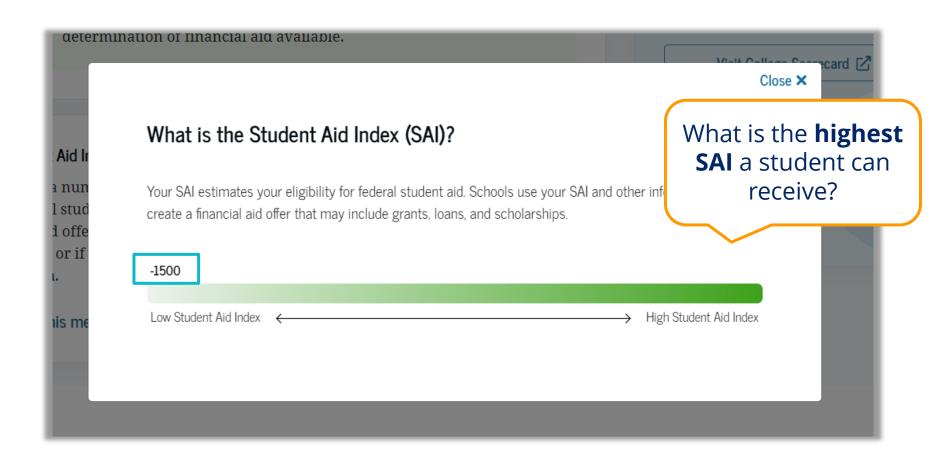
Visit College Scorecard <a>IZ</a>



#### Your Student Aid Index (SAI)

Your SAI is a number used by your school to determine your federal student aid eligibility and to build your financial aid offer. Your SAI may change due to verification or if you update or correct your FAFSA information. What does this mean?

-355

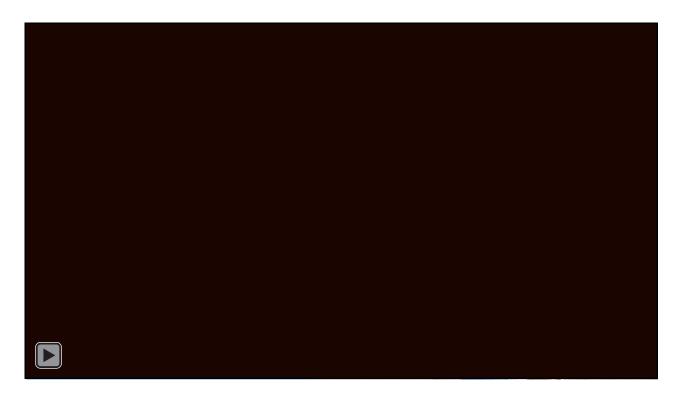




### FAFSA Submission Summary

Application Received Application Processed Data Release Number Viewing: Submission 1 Student Raya Tran Dec. 3, 2023 Jan. 16th, 2024 1234 Eligibility Overview FAFSA Form Answers School Information Next Steps Your FAFSA® Form Answers View All of Your Federal Student Aid in Review your responses carefully and make sure all the information you Make a Correction provided is correct. Start a correction to fix any errors and ensure that your One Place form is processed correctly. View detailed information about your federal loan and grant aid, including Student Sections Expand All ~ your enrollment history, payment history, and subsidized usage. Introduction  $\langle \vee \rangle$ Personal Identifiers **Visit Aid Summary** Section 1  $\langle \rangle$ Personal Circumstances Find the Right College or Career School Use the College Scorecard to compare Section 2 schools by size, location, graduation  $\langle \nabla \rangle$ **Demographics** rate, and more.

# Making FAFSA Corrections



### Updating the FAFSA

 According to FSA, only certain items should be changed after the FAFSA is signed

#### **Update**

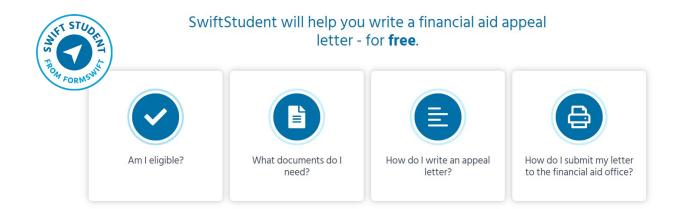
- Any info was incorrect
- College list changes
- Dependency changes

#### **Don't Update**

- If assets change
- Previous year's income with current income

### What If Income Has Changed?

- The student can submit a special circumstances appeal to the financial aid office
- Financial aid administrators can use "professional judgement" to adjust the student's financial aid





### FAFSA Submission Summary

Student 🙎 Raya Tran

Application Received Jan. 2, 2024

Application Processed Jan. 16th, 2024

Data Release Number 1234

Viewing: Submission 1

**Eligibility Overview** 

**FAFSA Form Answers** 

School Information

• Next Steps

#### Find an Affordable School

Many schools offer the opportunity to attend college affordably. Learn about the costs and benefits associated with the schools you listed on your form.

Learn More on College Scorecard

Showing results for family income between \$0−\$30,000 ∨

School Name	Graduation Rate	Retention Rate	Transfer Rate	Default Rate	Median Debt Upon Completion	Average Annual Cost
George Washington University	15%	89%	26%	64%	\$56,000	\$102,000
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill	26%	76%	25%	34%	\$24,000	\$38,000
University of California, North Ridge	55%	65%	35%	15%	\$19,000	\$24,000

View All V



Student 🙎 Raya Tran

Application Received

Jan. 2, 2024

Application Processed Jan. 16th, 2024

Let's review what next steps students may see in this section

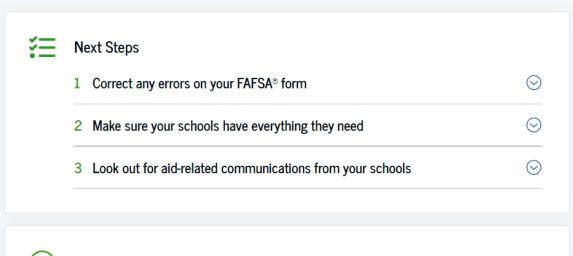
Viewing: Submission 1

Eligibility Overview

FAFSA Form Answers

School Information

Next Steps



#### View All of Your Federal Student Aid in One Place

View detailed information about your federal loan and grant aid, including your enrollment history, payment history, and subsidized usage.

**Visit Aid Summary** 

For Your Awareness

VA Education and Training Benefits help veterans, service members, and their

Find the Right College or Career School

### **Contributor Consent**



# Providing Consent FAQ

**Q:** Can contributors provide consent after FAFSA submission?

A: Yes

**Q:** Can contributors revoke consent after FAFSA submission?

A: No

# Verify Personal Identifiers



### Verify Personal Identifiers

"The Social Security
Administration (SSA) did
not confirm that you are a
U.S. citizen."



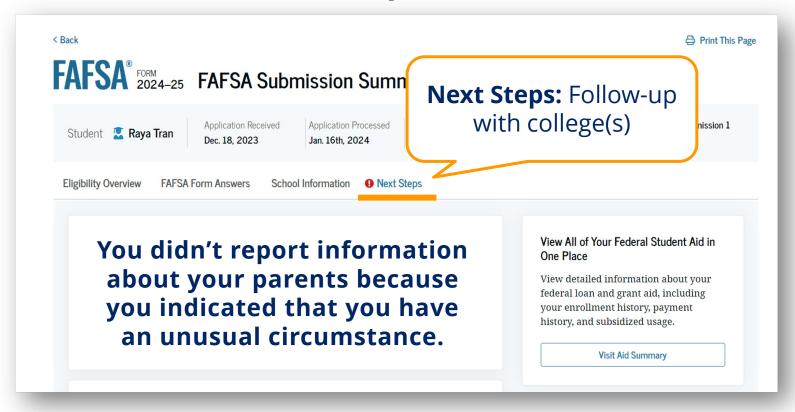
Submit documentation of U.S. citizenship to the financial aid office

"The date of birth (DOB)
you reported on the
FAFSA does not match
the SSA's records."



Contact the SSA to correct their records and submit proof of DOB to the financial aid office

### Provisional Independent Status

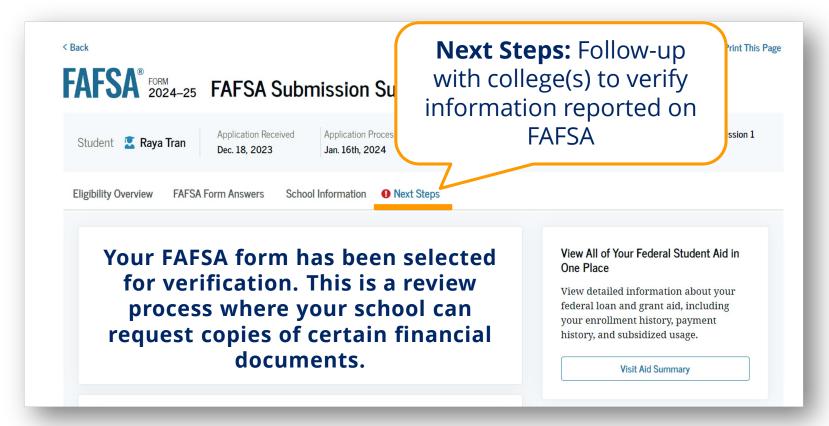


### Dependency Override

- Per college decision
- Not guaranteed
- Be prepared to provide proof of unusual circumstances
  - Official document(s)
  - Letter of Support

20	24–2025 Dependency Override Request	drexel.edu/drexelcentral
_	re note that this form is ONLY for U.S. citizens or permanent residents.	TOTIII
Comp	plete this form if you do not meet the federal criteria to be considered indep pelling reason for excluding parent information on your 2024—2025 Free Ap	endent for financial aid purposes but can demonstrate a plication for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
Date		
Stude	ent's Name Uni	versity ID
_ :	New Request Renewal Request	
pleas	plete this form based on your relationship with your biological or legal pares se be assured that any information you share with Drexel University's Office ant a dependency override are listed below. Please mark all that apply to you	of Financial Aid will remain confidential. Conditions that MAY
0	Abandonment: Your parent(s) retained legal custody of you, but voluntarily or you cannot readily reach them. You have not had contact with your parent inancial support for an extended period of time.	
	Abuse: Your health or safety was at risk due to living with your parent(s) in a or substance (drug/alcohol) abuse.	n environment that included physical, sexual, emotional, verba
	incarceration: At least one parent is in prison as a result of their participation, support from your other parent.	on in illegal activities and you do not have contact with or receive
□ <u>B</u>	institutionalization: At least one parent is institutionalized and lacks the montact with or receive any support from your other parent.	ental capacity to complete the FAFSA and you do not have
	Death: Your custodial parent is no longer living, and you do not have contact If your custodial parent has passed away, submit a copy of their death certifi	
	Location Unknown: Your parents do not reside in the United States and car	not be contacted.
Comp	plete the information below based on your relationship with both of your bic	logical/legal parents.
ı. Pro	wide the month and year that you became estranged from your parent(s):	
2. Ma	ark the statement below that best describes your situation:	
	was living with my parent(s) at the time and was kicked out or told I could	
	was living with my parent(s) at the time and left the home due to abuse, co- lived with my parents until I turned 18 or graduated from high school and v	
	never lived with either parent and lived with others but was never legally as	
ш	Other (please explain):	
_		
	your knowledge, did either of your parents claim you as a dependent when t	hey filed their 2022 income tax return?

### Selected for Verification



# Activity: Real or Made-Up?

 Determine if the following FAFSA Submission Summary notifications are real or made-up!



# Real or Made-Up?

You reported that you live in a foreign country but left the "Country" field blank.

Important personal information is missing from your form.



You indicated that you live in **Pennsylvania** but did not include an in-state college on your form.





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# Verification Overview



### What is Verification?

- A process conducted to check the accuracy of information submitted on the FAFSA
- Intended to combat fraud in the financial aid process



# **Explaining Verification**

What's a student-friendly explanation for verification that you might use with students?



# uAspire Explanations

Verification is a normal step in the financial aid process to double check the info on your FAFSA. The purpose of verification is to make sure you get the financial aid you deserve.

### Federal vs. Institutional



VS.



# Verification is Not Optional

#### If completed late...

- May delay financial aid
- May result in late charges

#### If incomplete...

- Ineligible for federal aid
- Likely ineligible for institutional aid
- May have to pay back aid already received

# Federal Verification



### Federal Verification Overview

- For each award year, the Department of Education announces the FAFSA information that students may be required to verify
- In this section, we'll look at the federal verification requirements for 2024-2025
- Note: Institutions have the discretion to verify additional information

### 2024-25 Federal Verification



### 2024-25 Verification Forms

- Every college will have their own verification form(s) and process for completion
- Help students stay organized and encourage them to complete required forms by priority deadlines



### 2024-25 Federal Verification



#### B. Dependent Student's Family Information

Family Size - Includes the following:

- The student.
- The student's parents, even if the student is not living with them. Exclude a parent who has died or is not living in the household because of separation or divorce. Include a parent who is on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces apart from the family.

The student's siblings if the following are true:

- They live with the student's parents (or live apart because of college enrollment),
- They receive more than half of their support from the student's parents, and
- They will continue to receive more than half their support from the student's parents during the award year.

Other persons if the following are true:

- They live with the student's parents.
- They receive more than half of their support from the student's parents, and
- They will continue to receive more than half their support from the student's parents during the award year.

The provided criteria for "dependent children" or "other persons" align with the requirement that parent could claim as a dependent on a U.S. tax return if the parent were to file a U.S. 2025 FAFSA. As a result, the parent should not include any unborn children in the f

If more space is needed, provide a separate page with the student's name and ID

Full Name	Age	Relationship
Marty Jones(example)	28	Wife
		Self

**Include** children and other dependents who live with the parent AND whom the

ign with whom the

parent(s) will support

### 2024-25 Federal Verification



### Verifying Income: Tax-Filers





\*Name: \_\_\_\_\_

D. Parent's Income Information to Be Verified

**Important Note:** The instructions below apply to each parent included in th filed separate IRS income tax returns for 2022 or had a change in marital state.

tax information successfully, in most cases no further documentation is needed

If the DDX transferred federal

#### 1. TAX RETURN FILERS

Instructions: Complete this section if the parents filed or will file a 2022 mount and tax information from the IRS to the FAFSA form, even if the attempt to obtain or use such data is ineffective. In other words, if the parents filed separate 2022 IRS income tax returns, both must provide consent and approval to share and import income and tax information from the IRS. In most cases, no further documentation is needed to verify 2022 income information that was transferred into the student's FAFSA using income and tax information directly from the IRS.

If 2022 income tax return information for the parents was not available or could not be used, the parents should provide the institution with a 2022 IRS Tax Return Transcript(s) or a signed copy of the 2022 income tax return and applicable schedule.

### Request a Tax Transcript by Mail

TAXES

How to Request a Tax Transcript

u-aspire



### Tool: Download a Tax Transcript

#### u-aspire

### Downloading a tax transcript

If you are selected for verification, colleges can request that you submit a tax transcript. A tax transcript must be ordered directly from the IRS. Below are instructions for electronically downloading a tax transcript. Click here if you prefer to watch video instructions on downloading a tax transcript.

In order to download a tax transcript, you (the tax filer) will need to already have or be able to create an IRS account. To create an IRS account the tax filer needs to provide the following information:

- social security number, date of birth, filing status and mailing address from latest tax return
- · access to email account
- personal account number from a credit card, mortgage, home equity line of credit or car loan
- . a mobile phone with the tax filer's name on the account

<u>Click here to watch video instructions</u> on creating an IRS account. The rest of this guide walks through the process to download a tax transcript **after** the account has already been created.

Step 1: Go to the website irs.gov and click "Get Your Tax Record".



© uAspire 2023



### Tax Return Transcript



This Product Contains Sensitive Taxpayer Data

#### **Tax Return Transcript**

Request Date: 08-09-2018
Response Date: 08-09-2018
Tracking Number: 100200235179
Customer File Number: 0987654321

SSN Provided: XXX-XX-5084

Tax Period Ending: Dec. 31, 2017

The following items reflect the amount as shown on the return (PR), and the amount as adjusted (PC), if applicable. They do not show subsequent activity on the account.

SSN: XXX-XX-5084 SPOUSE SSN: NAME(S) SHOWN ON RETURN: DRAK 123 DA ADDRESS: FILING STATUS: Single 1040 FORM NUMBER: 20181005 CYCLE POSTED: RECEIVED DATE: Jan.15, 2018 REMITTANCE: EXEMPTION NUMBER: DEPENDENT 1 NAME CTRL: DEPENDENT 1 SSN: DEPENDENT 2 NAME CTRL: DEPENDENT 2 SSN: DEPENDENT 3 NAME CTRL:

DEPENDENT 3 SSN:
DEPENDENT 4 NAME CTRL:

Arrives by mail in 5-10 days

# Verifying Income: Non-Filers





2. TAX RETURN NONFILERS— The instructions and certifications below apply to each parent included this section if the parents will not file and <u>are not required</u> to file a 2022 income tax return with the II

#### Check the box that applies (Select ONLY one):

\*Nama:

Weither parent was employed, and neither had income earned from work in 2022.

One or both parents were employed in 2022 and have listed below the names of all employ each employer in 2022, and whether an IRS W-2 form or an equivalent document is provide IRS W-2 forms issued to the parents by their employers]. List every employer even if the enform.

List any sources of income and attach W-2(s) if available

If more space is needed, provide a separate page with the student's name and ID number at the top.

Employer's Name	IRS W-2 or an Equivalent	Annual Amount Earned
	Document Provided?	in 2022
(Example) ABC's Auto Body Shop	Yes	\$4,500.00
Total Amount o	\$	

Provide a signed and dated statement certifying that the individual has not filed and is not required to file a 2022 income tax return, as well as the sources of 2022 income earned from work and the amount of income from each source.

 Check here i	f non-filing	statement i	s signed	and dated.

\_\_\_\_ Check here if non-filing statement will be provided later.

### How to Request a VNF

Form 4506-T (March 2021)

Internal Revenue Service

#### Request for Transcript of Tax Return

- ▶ Do not sign this form unless all applicable lines have been completed.
  - ▶ Request may be rejected if the form is incomplete or illegible.
- ► For more information about Form 4506-T, visit www.irs.gov/form4506t.

OMB No. 1545-1872

Tip. Use Form 4506-T to order a transcript or other return information free of charge. See the product list below. You can quickly request transcripts by using our automated self-help service tools. Please visit us at IRS.gov and click on "Get a Tax Transcript..." under "Tools" or call 1-800-908-9946. If you need a copy of your return, use Form 4506. Request for Copy of Tax Return. There is a fee to get a copy of your return.

- 1a Name shown on tax return. If a joint return, enter the name shown first.

  1b First social security number on tax return, individual taxpayer identification number, or employer identification number (see instructions)

  2a If a joint return, enter spouse's name shown on tax return.

  2b Second social security number or individual taxpayer identification number if joint tax return
- 3 Current name, address (including apt., room, or suite no.), city, state, and ZIP code (see instructions)
- 4 Previous address shown on the last return filed if different from line 3 (see instructions)
- 5 Customer file number (if applicable) (see instructions)

Note: Effective July 2019, the IRS will mail tax transcript requests only to your address of record. See What's New under Future Developments on Page 2 for additional information.

- 6 Transcript requested. Enter the tax form number here (1040, 1065, 1120, etc.) and check the appropriate box below. Enter only one ta number per request. ►
- a Return Transcript, which includes most of the line items of a tax return as filed with the IRS. A tax return transcript does not reflect changes made to the account after the return is processed. Transcripts are only available for the following returns: Form 1040 series Form 1065, Form 1120, Form 1120-H, Form 1120-L, and Form 1120S. Return transcripts are available for the current year and returns processed during the prior 3 processing years. Most requests will be processed within 10 business days.
- b Account Transcript, which contains information on the financial status of the account, such as payments made on the account, penalt assessments, and adjustments made by you or the IRS after the return was filed. Return information is limited to items such as tax liability and estimated tax payments. Account transcripts are available for most returns. Most requests will be processed within 10 business days
- c Record of Account, which provides the most detailed information as it is a combination of the Return Transcript and the Account Transcript. Available for current year and 3 prior tax years. Most requests will be processed within 10 business days.
- Verification of Nonfiling, which is proof from the IRS that you did not file a return for the year. Current year requests are only available after June 15th. There are no availability restrictions on prior year requests. Most requests will be processed within 10 business days.

Make sure to check box 7

# Issues Requesting a VNF?

- Reach out to the college!
- FSA allows colleges to accept a signed statement from the individual certifying that they were unable to obtain a VNF and did not file a tax return
- Undocumented parents who are unable to order a VNF may also submit a signed statement

# Tool: Sample Letter of Non-Filing

#### u-aspire Sample letter for individuals unable to obtain **Verification of Non-filing** If either you and/or your parents didn't file taxes, colleges may request that you provide a Verification of Non-filing (VNF) Letter from the IRS. This document proves that the IRS has no record of a tax return filed for the year requested. You must have either a social security number (SSN), an individual taxpayer identification number (ITIN), or an employer identification number (EIN) in order to request a VNF letter. If you/your parent do not have an SSN, ITIN, or EIN but still need to verify your income, you can provide a signed and dated statement that explains the situation and lists the sources of income and/or resources that supported your family during that tax year. uAspire tips: Before writing a letter, make sure your income is below the tax-filing threshold for the 2022 tax year. If it is above this threshold, the college may not be able to accept your letter and may request that you file back taxes. . Include all sources of support your family used to sustain yourselves in that particular tax year. · Provide estimated annual amounts where possible. Sample letter This letter is an example and should be edited to fit your situation! To [Financial Aid Office]: My name is [student name] and my parent, [parent name], does not have a SSN, ITIN, or an EIN, Due to these circumstances, we are unable to request an IRS Verification of Non-filing Letter, My [parent] supports our family through the following sources: 1. Income from work: \$ 2. Child support: \$ 3 Government henefits: \$ 4. Support from family (housing/food/etc.); \$ Thank you for your consideration and please let me know if additional information is required. Sincerely, Student Signature Parent/Guardian Signature C uAspire 2023



### Scenario Practice



 Peter's Mom provides most of his financial support. In 2022, Mom worked but was not required to file taxes. They both consented to using the DDX. Which documents might Peter need to verify income information?

Mom's W-2s

**Verification of Non-filing Letter** 

u∙aspi̇̀re

### Scenario Practice



Bailey has been in foster care since the age of 14.
 She did not work in 2022. Which documents might she need to verify income information?

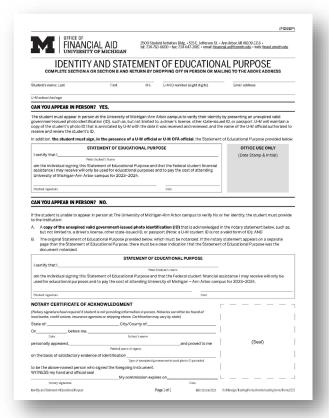
**Verification of Non-filing Letter** 

### 2024-25 Federal Verification



## Identity/Educational Purpose

- Students must sign the Statement of Educational Purpose in-person or in the presence of a notary
- They must also provide an unexpired government-issued photo ID (e.g., driver's license, passport)



# Check for Understanding



 True or False: If students are selected for federal verification, they send any required forms and documents to Federal Student Aid.

A. True

B. False

# Check for Understanding



 True or False: Using the Direct Data Exchange (DDX) ensures students will not be selected for verification.

A. True

B. False

# Supporting Students with Verification



# uAspire Best Practices



Inform students and families about the importance of providing consent

During FAFSA Submission Summary review, track which students are selected for verification





Help students develop the habit of checking their email, mail, and portal

# uAspire Best Practices



Encourage students to check in with the financial aid office

When possible, review verification materials with students before submitting

I want to make sure
I'm all set to receive
my financial aid offer.
Do you need any
documents from me?



Help students create systems to stay organized

### Tool: A Guide to Verification





### Tool: Financial Aid Checklist





# Post-Survey & Evaluation





### **Tools Review**



- Financial Aid Checklist
- Downloading a Tax Transcript
- A Guide to Verification
- PPT Slides & Webinar Recording

# uAspire.org



#### uAspire's Webinar Series

Free 1-hour webinars for college access professionals



#### **Virtual Financial Aid Events**

Presentations and 1:1 support for students and families



#### **Student Resources**

Videos, checklists and links to help students navigate the financial aid process



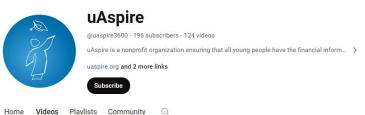
#### **College Cost Calculator**

Online tool that helps students compare financial aid offers

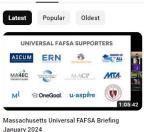


# Financial Aid Help Videos















How to submit the 24-25 FAFSA

7 views · 5 days ago



Parent Identity Info on the 24-25 FAFSA 19 views . 5 days ago

Can a parent start the 24-25 FAFSA? 9 views · 5 days ago

uAspire Help Desk

Students can text the uAspire help desk number anytime. A uAspire Advisor texts back within 24 hours business hours to help them complete the FAFSA and other financial aid steps over text, Zoom, or phone.

Text 313 -PA-FAFSA or 313-723-2372





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# FAFSA Support

PA Department Of Education and uAspire have partnered to provide students with Financial Aid Assistance

#### Need help with the FAFSA?

Text the help desk anytime. A uAspire Advisor will respond within 24 business hours to help you complete the FAFSA and answer your questions.

Text 313 -PA-FAFSA or 313-723-2372

### Ayuda Para la FAFSA

El Departamento de Educación y uAspire han colaborado para apoyar los estudiantes de Pennsylvania con las aplicaciones de ayuda financiera.

Necesitas ayuda con la aplicacion de FAFSA?

Envía un mensaje de texto al servicio de ayuda en cualquier momento. Un consejero de uAspire responderá dentro de las 24 horas para ayudar a completar la FAFSA y responder sus preguntas.

313 -PA-FAFSA o 313-723-2372

### How the uAspire Help Desk Works

- Student/parent/partner sends a text to the uAspire help desk. The first text can be anything such as a "hello", or a question.
- They will receive an auto-response to thank them and a request to agree to the uAspire Privacy Policy
- 3 more automated questions: First Name, Last Name, Most recent high school attended. Counselors and other partners should answer these questions too!
- Once they respond they will get a text that says a uAspire advisor will reach back within 24 hours (if a weekend or holiday, please give us a bit more time). Note: The uAspire Help Desk is closed the week of 7/2 due to the holiday week.
- The uAspire advisor will then take the conversation from there, answering questions via text, sharing resources, and offering up additional support such as a Zoom meeting as needed





Financial aid information is constantly changing. The content presented here reflects the best of uAspire's understanding at the time of publication.