Before you fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), you should create your username and password. This makes the process go much more smoothly when you are actually completing and submitting the application. Follow these steps:

**Step 1**
Go to: StudentAid.gov/fsaid
Click on the "Create an FSA ID Now" button

You’ll need your Social Security number, full name, and date of birth.

**Step 2**
Create a memorable username and password
We strongly recommend that you provide a mobile phone number and e-mail address (easier to unlock your account and retrieve account information)

**Dependent Students:** Student AND one Parent need an FSA ID (under the age of 24, not married, not a veteran, etc.)

**Independent Students:** Only student needs an FSA ID (over the age of 24, married, support children more than 50%, etc.)

Students & Parents: you **must** use separate e-mail addresses and separate cell numbers

**Step 3**
Enter your name, date of birth, Social Security number, contact information, and challenge questions and answers.

Please triple-check that these are entered correctly :)
Challenge questions: you cannot provide the same answer for multiple questions, AND you cannot use an answer that includes your name or date of birth... they will make you start over....

**Step 4**
Review your information, and read and accept the terms and conditions.

**Step 5**
Confirm your account using the secure code. Once you verify your account, you can use your FSA ID to sign-in to the FAFSA.

When you first create your FSA ID, all you’ll be able to use your FSA ID for is to complete, sign, and submit an original (first-time) FAFSA form. You’ll have to wait one to three days for your information to be confirmed by the Social Security Administration (SSA) before you can use your FSA ID for other actions, such as submitting a Renewal FAFSA form or signing a Master Promissory Note. If you provided an email address, then you’ll receive an email letting you know that your information was successfully matched with the SSA and you can use your FSA ID for all of its purposes.

Now that you and a parent (if applicable) have signed-up for an FSA ID, you can begin filling out the FAFSA! (fafsa.gov)
2020-2021 FAFSA Outline

Create a Federal Student Aid ID (FSA ID). See other side for instructions.

To complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), you will need:

- Your Social Security Number (can be found on Social Security card)
- Your driver’s license (if any)
- W-2 Forms from two years prior (2018) and other records of any money earned
- Your (and/or your parents’) Federal Income Tax Return from two years prior — IRS Form 1040 and Schedules 1, 2 and/or 3 (if used), foreign tax return, or tax return from Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Marshall Islands, the Federated State of Micronesia
- Any untaxed income records for two years prior (2018) — e.g., payments to tax deferred pension and savings plans, tax exempt interest and child support received in 2018
- Records of taxable earnings from Federal Work-Study or other need-based work programs in 2018
- Records of any grants, scholarships, and fellowship aid that was included in your or your parents’ 2018 adjusted gross income (AGI)
- Any current bank statements
- Any current business and investment mortgage information, business and farm records, stock, bonds and other investment records
- Documentation that you are a U.S. permanent resident or other eligible non-citizen, if applicable

The 2020-2021 FAFSA opens on October 1st, 2019 at fafsa.gov

- Click “Start a New FAFSA”
- Sign-in with your Student FSA ID
- Select “2020-2021”

There are seven sections on the FAFSA:

- Student Demographics
  * SSN, Date of Birth, Address, E-mail, Marital Status, Citizenship Status, Selective Service Registration, High School Completion Status, etc.
- School Selection
  * You can search for schools by institution name, city, and state, OR you can enter a school code (EWC’s School Code = 003929)
- Dependency Status
  * List of questions that determine whether you are a dependent, or independent student
  * This status is based off of the questions that are asked in this section on the FAFSA
  * This status is not determined by whether or not a student files their own taxes, or lives on their own; to be independent, a student must qualify according to the questions asked
  * You may be required to verify your information/dependency status
- Parent Demographics
  * Marital Status, SSN, Date of Birth, Address, E-mail, Household Information, etc.
- Financial Information
  * You may be able to transfer your federal tax return information into your FAFSA using the IRS Data Retrieval Tool.
  * If you were not able to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool, follow the instructions—there are “Help and Hints” on the right-hand side, which tells you which line(s) to look at on your tax return for that question.
  * Investments: Please read the “Help and Hints” so you now what to and what not to include.
- Sign and Submit
  * If you are a Dependent Student, your parent will need to enter their FSA ID to sign the FAFSA
- Confirmation
  * You will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) in approximately one week via e-mail.
  * The SAR outlines estimates of financial aid—these estimates are not guaranteed amounts.
  * The amount you receive depends on your eligibility, cost of attendance, and enrollment.