



MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION



Extra Extra Read All About It!

Important Changes to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Two major changes to the FAFSA will take effect for the 2017–18 school year.

1. The FAFSA will be available earlier October 1, 2016 instead of January 1 of the upcoming school year.

2. The FAFSA will collect income information from an earlier tax year. Here's a table with a summary of the changes.

When a Student Is Attending College (School Year)	When a Student Can submit a FAFSA	Which Year's Income Information Is Required
July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016	January , 2015- June 30, 2016	2014
July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017	January 1, 2016- June 30, 2017	2015
July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018	October 1, 2016- June 30, 2018	2015
July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019	October 1, 2017 - June 30, 2019	2016

Therefore, when you complete the 2017-18 FAFSA you and your parents should use income information from the 2015 tax year. It is recommended that you and your parent use the IRS Data Retrieval Option, presented to you on the FAFSA application. The IRS Data Retrieval Option allows you to transfer tax information directly from the Internal Revenue Services (IRS) to the FAFSA application, thus eliminating errors and providing an accurate account of you and your parent's income.

Save this important date on your calendar so you can complete the FAFSA in a timely manner to be considered for both federal and State financial aid. To be considered for State Financial aid you must have the FAFSA completed by **March 1, 2017**.