

Helpful Hints for the FAFSA

Completing the 2026-2027 FAFSA

Information you will need before you begin the FAFSA

- 2024 Federal Tax Returns for you and your parent(s)
- 2024 W-2s for you and your parent(s)
- Records of nontaxable income (child support received, veterans benefits)
- Current asset and value of investment information
- Current balance of savings, checking and cash on hand
- FSA ID and Passwords for you and your parent(s)
- Your Social Security Number
- Parent email address
- Current parent marital status

Tips while completing the FAFSA Sections

Student Demographics

- Use your permanent address, not temporary
- Make sure your Social Security Number and birthdate are entered correctly
- Use a personal email – do not use your high school or other school email, it may expire
- Report your marital status as of the date you sign your FAFSA
- Work-study is part-time, on-campus employment

School Selection

- List all schools you want to receive this information (up to 10)
- A school must be listed to receive your information
- Lewis-Clark State College's Federal School Code is 001621

Dependency Status*

You need parental information unless you meet one of the following:

- You were born before January 1, 2003
- You are married
- You have and support a child
- You are in legal guardianship (not your parents)

*If you have special circumstances please contact the LC State Financial Aid Office

Parent (Contributor) Invite

- A contributor refers to anyone who is required to provide information on the FAFSA (your biological or adoptive parent, or your parent's spouse)
- Make sure Social Security Number(s) and birthdate(s) are entered correctly
- Use contributor's email that was used to create their FSA ID
- Contributor will log into studentaid.gov with their FSA ID to complete their portion of the FAFSA

Consent

- Consent and approval are needed to retrieve and disclose federal tax information
- Each contributor to the FAFSA must provide consent
- If consent is not provided, the student will not be eligible for federal student aid, including grants and loans

Financial Information (Parents and Students)

- Taxable grants and scholarships, while non uncommon, are generally small amounts and are almost **NEVER** equal to your adjusted gross income.
- Include these Assets:
 - Balance of cash on hand, savings, and checking accounts
 - Business value
 - Investment farms
 - Other investments: real estate, stocks, bonds, and certificates of deposit
- Do not include these Assets:
 - Workers Compensation
 - Social Security Disability payments
 - Social Security Benefits
 - Supplemental Security Income
 - Retirement accounts
 - Value of primary residence
 - Small business assets
 - Farm assets, if your family lives on the farm
 - Commercial fisheries assets

Sign and Submit (Reminder: you are the applicant/student/parent, NOT a preparer)

- Review the information you entered on your section of the FAFSA (student or parent(s))
- Scroll to the bottom of the page to the SUBMIT button
- All contributors must sign their section of the form using their individual FSA IDs
- Press Submit

Confirmation After Signature(s)

- Be sure to get a confirmation acknowledgement
- Write down the confirmation number or print acknowledgement page
- Keep it in your FAFSA file

Next steps after your FAFSA is submitted

- Retrieve a copy of your 2024 IRS Tax Transcript from irs.gov (See “Requesting IRS Tax Transcript”).
- Watch your WarriorMail account. Important information regarding your financial aid will be sent to this email.
- If selected for verification, please look under “Complete required documents” on the Financial Aid page of WarriorWeb to see what information you need to submit.
- You will receive an email indicating you have an Aid Offer Letter available. Follow the steps provided in the email.
- Submit your final high school transcript to the Admissions Office after graduation.
- Submit final college transcripts if taking dual credit courses from a college other than LC State.
- If you haven’t heard from the Financial Aid Office via WarriorMail within two weeks of application submission, please contact us.