



Changes to the *FAFSA*® Process for 2017–18

On Sept. 14, 2015, President Obama announced significant changes to the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) process that will impact millions of students. Starting with the 2017–18 application cycle, the following changes will be put in place:

SUBMIT A FAFSA EARLIER- Students will be able to submit a 2017–18 FAFSA as early as Oct. 1, 2016, rather than beginning on Jan. 1, 2017. The earlier submission date will be a permanent change, enabling students to complete and submit their FAFSAs as early as October 1 every year. (There is NO CHANGE to the 2016–17 schedule. The 2016–17 FAFSA became available Jan. 1, 2016.)

USE EARLIER INCOME AND TAX INFORMATION- Beginning with the 2017–18 FAFSA, students will be required to report income and tax information from an earlier tax year. For example, on the 2017–18 FAFSA, students (and parents, as appropriate) will report their 2015 income and tax information, rather than their 2016 income and tax information.

Here’s a summary of key dates for submitting the FAFSA depending on when you plan to go to school:

IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND COLLEGE FROM	YOU WILL SUBMIT THIS FAFSA	YOU CAN SUBMIT THE FAFSA FROM	USING INCOME AND TAX INFORMATION FROM
JULY 1, 2015 - JUNE 30, 2016	2015-16	JANUARY 1, 2015 – JUNE 30, 2016	2014
JULY 1, 2016 - JUNE 30, 2017	2016-17	JANUARY 1, 2016 – JUNE 30, 2017	2015
JULY 1, 2017 - JUNE 30, 2018	2017-18	OCTOBER 1, 2016 – JUNE 30, 2018	2015
JULY 1, 2018 - JUNE 30, 2019	2018-19	OCTOBER 1, 2017 – JUNE 30, 2019	2016

Source: Federal Student Aid at studentaid.ed.gov

