

What is Verification?

About 30% of all FAFSA filers are selected for verification, which requires schools to collect documentation to check the accuracy of the FAFSA information. If selected, the verification process must be completed before financial aid can be awarded.

The financial aid office may be required to verify the following data elements on your FAFSA:

- Adjusted Gross Income (parent and student, if the student is dependent)
- Taxes Paid (parent and student, if the student is dependent)
- Income earned from work (includes non-tax filers)
- Certain Untaxed Income Items (parent and student, if the student is dependent)
- Household Size
- Number in College (excluding parents for a dependent student)
- Receipt of Food Stamps/SNAP benefits
- Child Support Paid/Received
- Any other inconsistent or conflicting information

To verify these elements, we may ask for additional documents; however this is not a complete list. Specific documents requested will be based on a family's individual case.

- Copies of prior year IRS Tax Transcripts for both parent and student, if the student is dependent – see below regarding verifying tax information.
- A Independent or Dependent Verification Worksheet
- W-2s showing wages (both parent and student, if student is dependent)
- Statement of child support paid or received for prior year.
- Verification of Net Worth/Investments
- Documentation of Food Stamps/SNAP benefits

Important Note About Verifying Tax Information

Use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool when completing your FAFSA which allow you to link to the IRS from the FAFSA and retrieve your tax information directly into the FAFSA tax return questions. Using the IRS Data Retrieval Tool simplifies FAFSA filing and may result in quicker processing for verification. We may no longer accept copies of your Federal tax return for the verification process. You must either use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool or you will be required to obtain a tax transcript from the IRS.