**Common FAFSA Questions and Mistakes**

**Are you doing an application for the correct academic year?**

The year of the application corresponds to the academic year of the college you will be attending. When you enter the FAFSA website you will have the opportunity to enter information for the current academic year and the next academic year.

**Are you entering the correct basic, demographic information?**

Make sure things like your name and date of birth are spelled and entered correctly. Use your legal name that matches a valid form of identification (i.e., SSN, Driver’s License, state-issued ID, birth certificate) on all college forms and applications – do not use a nickname.

**Are you listing the correct financial information?**

It’s easy to make mistakes in this section.

* You’ll need to know the amount you and/or your parents made and how much you paid in taxes from the correct year.
* Use the information on your and your parent’s proper year tax forms.
* Read all questions carefully.
* Be sure to not get confused over request for income and assets from the student and from parents.
* Remember, if you are a foster youth you may qualify as an independent student and will not be required to provide your parent’s financial information**.**

**Did you remember to sign and submit the application before March 2nd?**

Remember that “saving” your application is not the same as “submitting” your application.

* If you’re filing as a dependent student, both you and a parent must sign.
* After you submit the FAFSA, you should receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) within 3-5 days via e-mail. If you don’t get this e-mail, log back into your FAFSA account to check for errors and make corrections if needed.
  + If you need additional help, call FAFSA at the [Federal Student Aid Information Center](https://studentaidhelp.ed.gov/app/home/site/studentaid) (1-800-433-3243) (1-800-4FED-AID)

**Reporting of Assets**

To be reported as of the day the FAFSA is filed

Report 529 plans (educational savings plans) as parent assets not student assets

Only provide FAFSA reportable assets (i.e. not primary residence, retirement plans, etc.)

**When I fill out my FAFSA, am I “dependent” or “independent”?**

See 2 pages of handouts from Federal Student Aid offering clarification.

**Who is my parent when I fill out my FAFSA?**

See 2 pages of handouts from Federal Student Aid offering clarification.