

Verification: FAQ



To ensure that the information provided by students and parents on the FAFSA is accurate, the U.S. Department of Education requires colleges and universities to verify financial and other demographic information for certain applicants. FAFSA verification helps colleges and universities accurately and fairly determine the types and amounts of federal, state, and institutional aid students receive. Verification is just another step on the path to financial aid.

What is verification?

Verification is the process your school uses to confirm the accuracy of the data you reported on your FAFSA. Your school has the authority to contact you for documentation that supports income and other information you reported.

Why was I selected?

Many students selected for verification are chosen randomly, but if the data you provided on the FAFSA was inconsistent, incomplete or estimated, you are more likely to be selected for verification.

What are they verifying? Information that might be subject to verification include:

- adjusted gross income
- taxes paid
- untaxed portions of IRA distributions and pensions
- IRA deductions and payments
- number of household members
- participation in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Not all students are asked to provide the same documents.

What do I need to do?

During verification, the college financial aid administrator may ask for copies of documentation to verify FAFSA data, such as income tax returns, W-2 statements and 1099 forms. Submit copies of the documents the financial aid office requests.

Now what?

If your FAFSA was selected for verification, provide the requested information as soon as possible so you don't delay financial aid decisions. Check your Student Aid Report (SAR) to make sure all requirements have been fulfilled. You should also receive a revised award notification from your school's Financial Aid Office.

Visit www.FAFSAfirst.org for more information

