



What is FAFSA Simplification?

The [FAFSA Simplification Act](#) was signed into law December 2020 with the aim of making the FAFSA form easier and fairer for students. As such, there have been some changes to the application process. That being said, there is no effective change to the overall need-based assessment, as we use the CSS profile for calculating institutional need-based aid.

FAFSA (2023-24)	FAFSA (2024-25)	What It Means For Me
FAFSA application was available to complete in October.	FAFSA application will be available to complete in December.	We will still need the FAFSA and CSS profile to assess eligibility for federal and institutional need-based scholarship.
99 questions, with IRS Data Retrieval tool (DRT) to help upload tax information.	Fewer questions, with Direct Data Exchange tool (DDX) to help upload tax information.	Faster and easier to complete the FAFSA. Parents and students will need to consent to automatically share information from the IRS.
Parents had to log in with student's FSA ID to access FAFSA, and signed with the FSA ID.	Parents can use their own FSA ID account to log-in and complete the FAFSA.	Easier to log-in to FAFSA application. Parents will be notified by email when they've been identified as a contributor by the student.
Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is used to calculate your need.	Student Aid Index (SAI) is used to calculate your need.	The new need analysis formula allows for a minimum SAI of -\$1,500. A negative SAI is equivalent to a \$0 EFC.
Definition of custodial parent is the parent that you live with the most.	Definition of custodial parent is the parent that provides the most financial support.	You might have different parents as custodial on the FAFSA vs. the CSS profile.
Having siblings in college at the same time will reduce the expected family contribution.	The number of children in college at the same time will no longer affect eligibility for need-based aid.	While this will impact your calculation for federal aid, Hopkins uses the CSS profile to determine institutional need-based aid. We will count siblings in college for this analysis, so you will not experience any changes. If you were previously eligible for Pell, that will be replaced with institutional scholarship.
Parents without SSN had to mail in application to apply for FSA ID.	Parents without SSN can apply for FSA ID online.	Easier to apply for FSA ID.