

# FAFSA TIPS BEFORE YOU BEGIN

## Determine if you are a **DEPENDENT** or **INDEPENDENT** student.

If you answer **NO** to **ALL** of the following, then you are most likely a **DEPENDENT** student.

- Are you married?
- Are you a veteran or are you currently serving on active duty in the US Armed Forces for purposes other than training?
- Are you in foster care, or were you a ward of the court -- or did you lose both of your parents after the age of 13?
- Are you legally emancipated from your parents or guardians?
- Are you homeless or deemed at risk for homelessness by an approved official?
- Are you responsible for a child or dependent who receives more than half of their support from you?
- Will you be working on a master's degree or a doctorate degree?
- Are you going to turn 24 before January 1st of the school year for which you are applying for aid?

This means you will need your parents' personal information, income and banking details to complete the FAFSA as a **DEPENDENT** student.

## GATHER the documents you'll need!

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Your Social Security Number                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Parents' Social Security Number (dependent students)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Your driver's license number                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Parents' 2021 federal tax returns (dependent students) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Your banking information                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Parents' banking information (dependent students)      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Your 2021 W-2s / other records of earned money                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Parents' W-2s / other records of earned money          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Your 2021 federal tax returns (for you and spouse, if married) |   |

## CREATE an FSA ID.

Visit [studentaid.gov/fsa-id](https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id), click **Create an Account** and follow the steps!

Creating an FSA ID is an important step that will save you a great deal of time in the future. In fact, your FSA ID will be used for the entirety of your college career. Therefore, don't skip this important step.

- It's the fastest way to sign your application and have it processed.
- It's the only way to access or correct your information online.
- It allows you to prefill an online FAFSA form with information from your previous year's FAFSA form.

Still have questions? Contact the Financial Aid Office of Virginia Highlands by calling 276-739-2411.



VHCC is an EO/AA Institution. Si necesita ayuda en español, marque el número 276-739-2559.