

# WHAT THE FAFSA?

(Free Application for Federal Student Aid)



## FILLING OUT THE FAFSA – THINGS TO KNOW

### HOW TO START

#### CREATE AN ACCOUNT (FSA ID) at [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov).

Students and parents need to create separate accounts.

What You Will Need

- Social security number
- Mobile phone number
- Email address

Within 1–3 days, you will receive your FSA ID and confirmation that everything is verified.

**LOG IN USING YOUR STUDENT FSA ID** (for students) or parent FSA ID (for parents) at [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov). If student and parent are filling out the FAFSA together, the student FSA ID should be used.

### FAFSA references to “you and “yours” refer to the student unless otherwise noted.

Parents filling out the FAFSA should make sure they are answering for their student in the student sections and not themselves.

### The Student Education section asks, “What will your college grade level be when you begin the 2022-2023 school year?”

If you’ve never attended college before, use the drop down of never attended. If you are a transfer student, indicate what year in college you are in. A lot of students indicate senior, thinking that they are a senior in high school.

### When asked JWU’s state, indicate Rhode Island, even if you are applying to the Charlotte Campus.

All financial aid is processed in Rhode Island. The school code for Johnson & Wales University is 003404.

### Are you a Dependent or Independent Student?

The federal government determines if you are a dependent or independent student based on your answers to the following questions:

- Are you married?
- Do you now have or will you have children who will receive more than half of their support from you between July 1, 2022, and June 30, 2023?
- Do you have dependents (other than your children or spouse) who live with you and who receive more than half of their support from you, now and through June 30, 2023?
- Are you currently serving on active duty in the U.S. armed forces for purposes other than training?
- Are you a veteran of the U.S. armed forces?
- At any time since you turned age 13, were both your parents deceased, were you in foster care or were you a dependent or ward of the court?
- As determined by a court in your state of legal residence, are you or were you an emancipated minor?
- Does someone other than your parent/stepparent have legal guardianship of you as determined by a court in your state of legal residence?
- On or after July 1, 2021, were you homeless?

*You are considered a dependent student* if you answer **NO** to ALL questions listed above. Dependent students will need to provide their parental information on the FAFSA.

*You are considered an independent student* if you answer **YES to one or more** of the questions listed above. Independent students will need to provide only their own/ their spouse’s information.

### Whose parental information should I provide?

If your parents

- live together (married or unmarried) — report information about both parents
- are divorced/separated and student lives with one parent more than the other — report information about the parent you lived with more in the last 12 months
- are divorced/separated and student lives with both parents equally — report information about the parent who has provided more financial support over the last 12 months

If you were legally adopted — report information about the person that adopted you.

### Who does my parent include as a dependent?

Your parents’ dependents are those who live with your parents and rely on your parents for more than half of their financial support from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. This can include grandparents, grandchildren, etc.

## THINGS TO KNOW *(continued)*

### IRS Data Retrieval Tool

For anyone (students and/or parents) who has filed a federal tax return for the 2020 year

- Avoid the headache and hassle of trying to input numbers correctly!
- After answering the tax filing status questions, click on the button that says “Proceed to the IRS.” After answering a series of demographic questions, the FAFSA will import your IRS tax information from 2020 automatically.

### Signing the FAFSA

#### Students

To electronically sign, students must check the box that appears beside their name stating that they agree to the terms outlined and then click on the “Sign FAFSA Form” button.

#### Parents

A box will appear that asks which parent is signing: Parent 1 or Parent 2. If both parents filled out the FAFSA, then only one has to sign; it doesn't matter which one.

Select the appropriate parent and click on “Provide Parent Signature.”

To electronically sign, parents must

- check the box that appears beside their name stating that they agree to the terms outlined
- enter their FSA ID username, email address or mobile phone number that they registered with when they signed up to get an account
- enter their FSA ID password and click “Sign and Submit FAFSA form”

### Congratulations, You Have Completed the FAFSA!

The Department of Education takes 3-5 business days to process your FAFSA form and then JWU will receive it electronically.

- We will then notify you via your student portal if we need further documentation or if you are an accepted student, we will add your financial aid offer letter.

THREE MYTHS  
ABOUT

## THE FAFSA

***“I won't qualify for any financial aid.”***

The FAFSA considers many more factors than just your income.

***“It's takes too long and it's too much work.”***

FAFSA takes most people less than one hour to complete the first time. This includes gathering any documents or data needed, as well as completing and reviewing the application. Because the FAFSA allows you to apply for federal, state and institutional aid all in one place, this can result in thousands of dollars in savings for less than one hour of work. At the very least, completing the form will help you qualify for the best federal student loans, if those become necessary.

***“I have plenty of time to fill it out.”***

Filling out the FAFSA as soon as possible after October 1 allows you to be eligible for the most financial aid possible. Don't let someone else take the aid you deserve!

### Notes



JOHNSON & WALES  
UNIVERSITY