



# MEETING STREET SCHOLARSHIP FUND

## FAFSA COMPLETION GUIDE

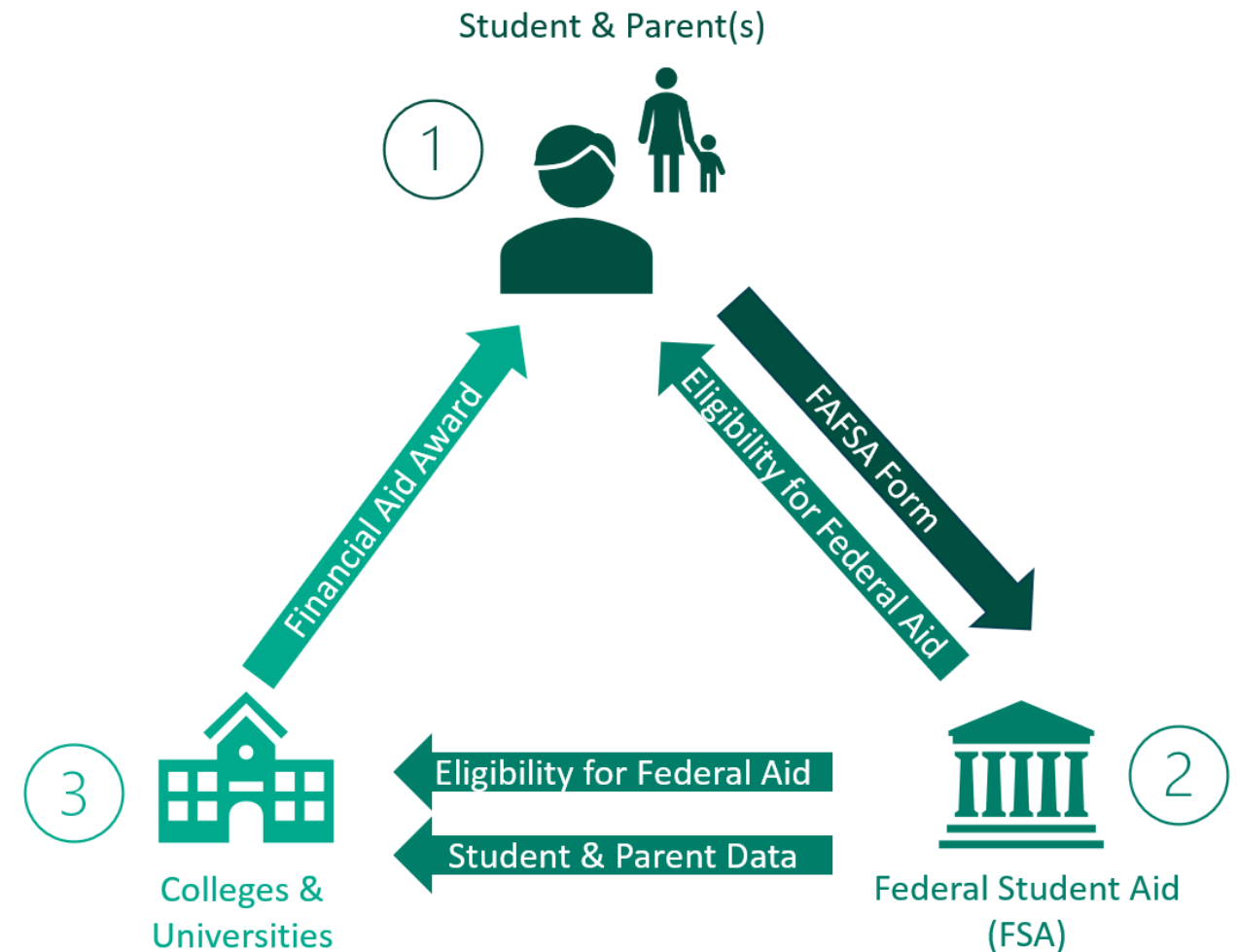
2026-2027

# FAFSA Overview

**Congratulations!** You've done the hard work in high school to make college a reality. At this point, you've successfully navigated the college admissions process and submitted applications to multiple colleges.

The next step in your process is navigating the complex college financial aid world. The central feature of this process for most college-bound students is the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**.

The FAFSA form enables students and their parent(s) to report their income from the previous year to the office of Federal Student Aid (FSA). FSA officers use this information to determine each student's eligibility for grants and loans administered by the federal government, including the Federal Pell Grant. Additionally, Federal Student Aid shares student and parent information with colleges and universities to help financial aid administrators distribute need-based financial aid.



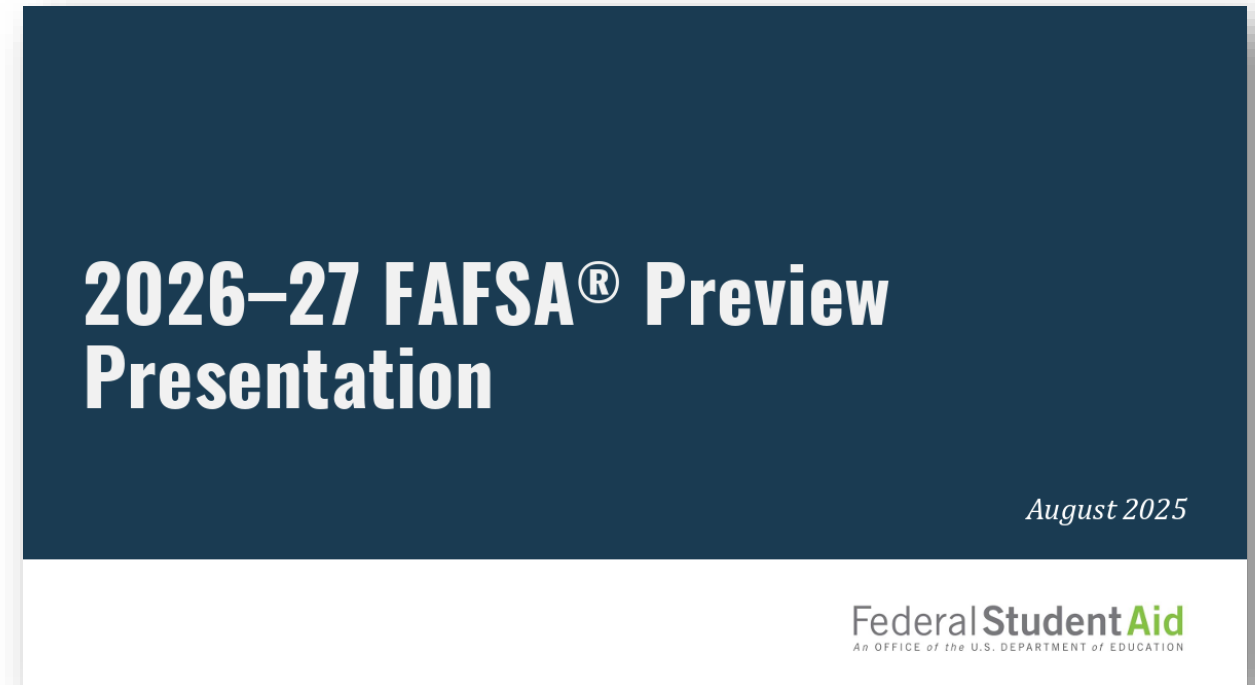
# How to Use This Guide

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This presentation is adapted from the [2026–27 FAFSA Form Preview Presentation](#), which Federal Student Aid published in August 2025.

We have modified the slide sequence for clarity and length and added helpful notes and reminders. Please note that Federal Student Aid may have made slight changes to the FAFSA form since the publication of this guide.

This presentation will guide students and parents through the step-by-step FAFSA completion process. We recommend that you approach the following slides sequentially.



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# Login, Consent, Dependency Status, & Parent Invitations

# Before You Start

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To complete the FAFSA form, you (student) will need:

- ☒ Your FSA ID
- ☒ Information for each parent required to contribute information
  - ☒ Social Security Number (if available)
  - ☒ Date of birth
  - ☒ A reliable email address
- ☒ Your 2024 Tax Return paperwork (1040 form), if you submitted one in Spring 2025
- ☒ The names of the colleges to which you applied (you can list up to 20 schools)



It takes most people less than one hour to fill out the FAFSA form, including gathering any personal documents and financial information needed to complete it.

# Step 1 – Visit StudentAid.gov

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<https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>

# Step 2 – FAFSA Form Landing Page

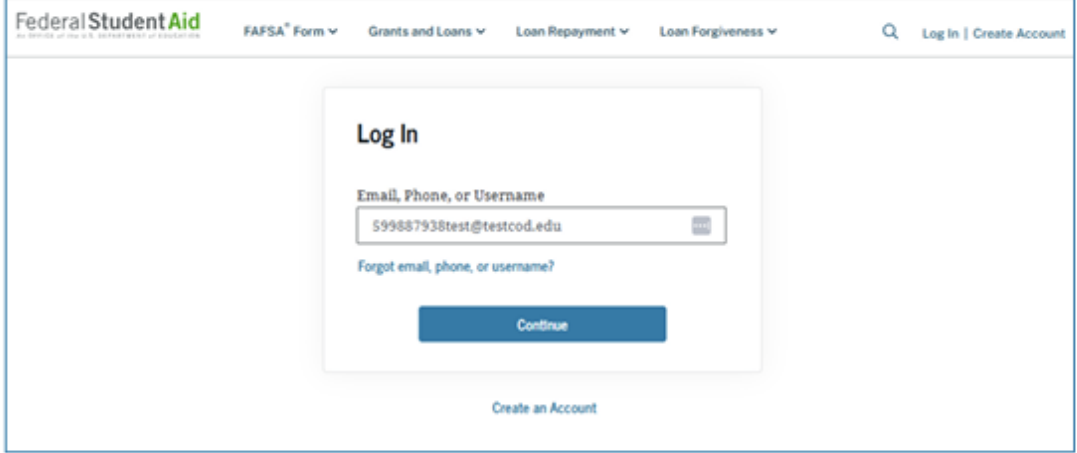
This is the main FAFSA® landing page. On this page, students are directed to "Start New Form," "Edit Existing Forms," or "Accept an Invitation." For this section of the presentation, the student is beginning a new application.

**Important Reminder!** Be sure to start a 2026-27 FAFSA Form.

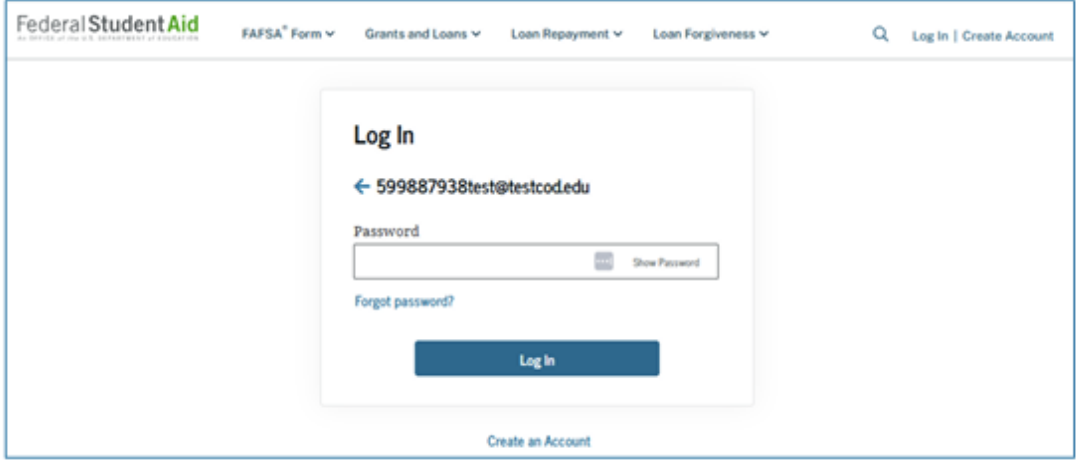
The screenshot shows the Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Form Landing Page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the "Federal Student Aid" logo and links for "FAFSA® Form", "Grants and Loans", "Loan Repayment", and "Loan Forgiveness". A search icon and a "BILL" link are also present. The main heading is "Get Money To Help Pay for School", followed by a subtext: "Use the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) form to apply for financial aid for college, career school, or graduate school." Below this, there are three main action buttons: "Start a 2026-27 FAFSA® Form" (with a "Start New Form" sub-button), "Edit a 2026-27 FAFSA® Form" (with an "Edit Existing Forms" sub-button), and "Accept an Invitation for a 2026-27 FAFSA® Form" (with an "Accept an Invitation" sub-button). To the right of these buttons is a large "FAFSA® form" logo featuring a stylized figure. Below the main action buttons, there is a section for "Need the 2025-26 FAFSA Form?" with links for "Start New Form" and "Edit Existing Forms or Accept an Invitation". Further down, there is a section titled "Check FAFSA® Deadlines for the State You Live in" with a "School Year" dropdown, a "State of Residence" dropdown, and a "Find Deadlines" button. Below this, there is a "View All FAFSA Deadlines" link. At the bottom, there are three informational cards: "Who should complete the FAFSA® form?" (with a person icon and text: "Any student, regardless of income, who"), "How long will it take?" (with a clock icon, "30 minutes" text, and text: "It takes most people 30 minutes to fill out the FAFSA form, including"), and "What do I need?" (with a checklist icon and text: "• Verified account username and password (FSA ID)").

# Step 3 – FAFSA Form Login

If the student selects "Start New Form" from the FAFSA® landing page and they are not logged in to StudentAid.gov, the student is taken to the "Log In" page to enter their credentials. To access the FAFSA form, all students are required to have a StudentAid.gov account username and password. If the student doesn't have a username and password, they can select "Create an Account."



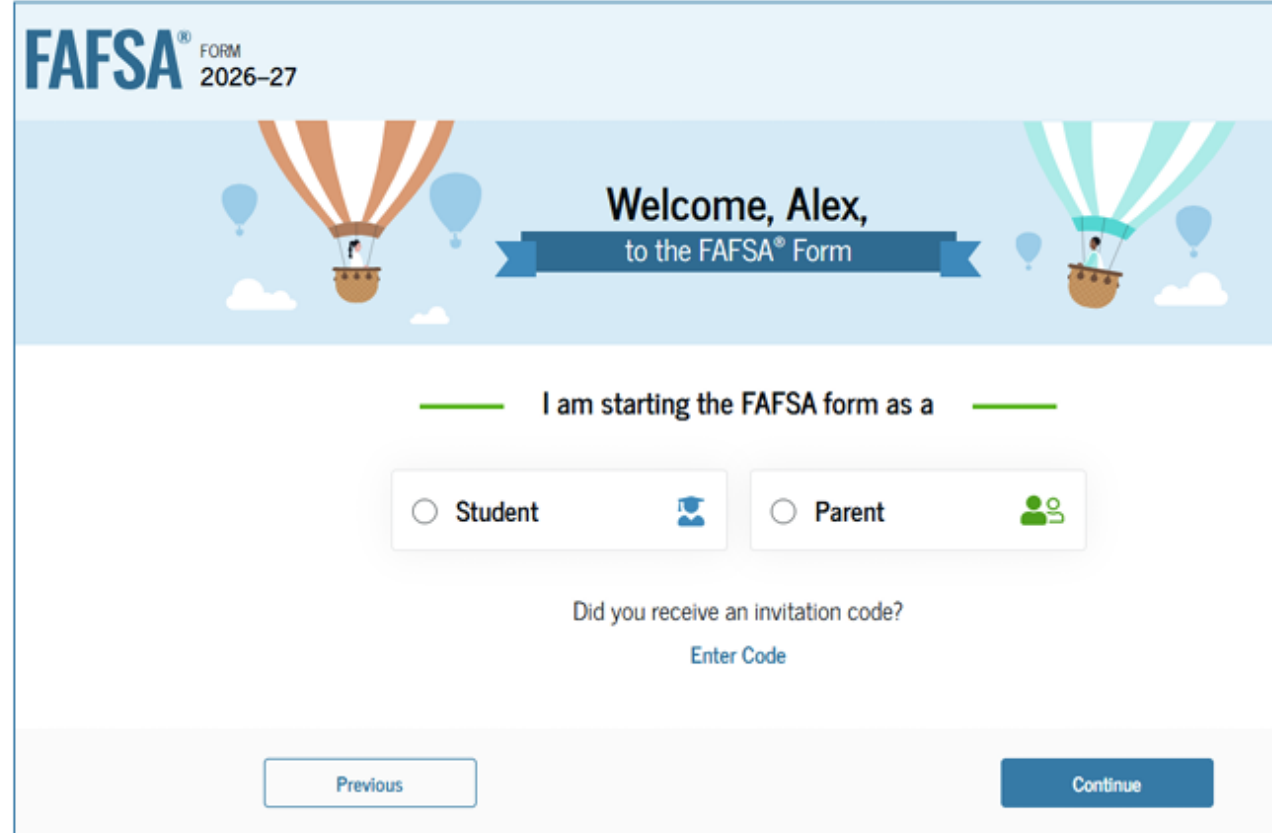
The screenshot shows the Federal Student Aid website's "Log In" page. The header includes the "Federal Student Aid" logo and navigation links for "FAFSA® Form", "Grants and Loans", "Loan Repayment", and "Loan Forgiveness". A search icon and "Log In | Create Account" link are in the top right. The main content area features a "Log In" heading, a text input field for "Email, Phone, or Username" containing the test email "599887938test@testcod.edu", a "Forgot email, phone, or username?" link, a blue "Continue" button, and a "Create an Account" link at the bottom.



This screenshot shows the same "Log In" page but with the password field visible. The email field now displays a back arrow and the email address "599887938test@testcod.edu". Below it is a "Password" text input field with a "Show Password" toggle. A "Forgot password?" link is positioned below the password field. The blue button is now labeled "Log In", and the "Create an Account" link remains at the bottom.

# Step 4 – Select Your Role

After logging in, the student can select the applicable role to fill out the FAFSA® form: "Student" or "Parent." The student also has the option to "Enter Code" if they received an invitation code. The student selects "Student."



The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2026-27 login interface. At the top left is the "FAFSA FORM 2026-27" logo. The header features a light blue background with illustrations of hot air balloons. A central banner reads "Welcome, Alex, to the FAFSA Form". Below this, a green line is followed by the text "I am starting the FAFSA form as a". There are two selection options: "Student" with a radio button and a person icon, and "Parent" with a radio button and a family icon. Below these options, the text "Did you receive an invitation code?" is followed by a blue "Enter Code" link. At the bottom, there are two buttons: "Previous" and "Continue".

# Step 5 – Student Onboarding (1 of 4)

When the student starts the 2026–27 FAFSA® form for the first time, they are taken through the FAFSA onboarding process. The first onboarding page provides an introduction of the FAFSA form and an accompanying video. Documents that may be needed to fill out the form are also included on this page.

**FAFSA®** FORM 2026–27 Student Alex Tran

### Understanding the FAFSA® Form

1 of 4

#### What is the FAFSA® form?

Use the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) form to apply for grants, scholarships, work-study funds, and loans for college, career school, or graduate school.

You might need the following information or documents as you fill out the FAFSA form:

- Tax returns
- Records of child support received
- Current balances of cash, savings, and checking accounts
- Net worth of investments, businesses, and farms

What is FAFSA®?  
What is FAFSA® and why is it important?

Previous Continue

# Step 5 – Student Onboarding (2 of 4)

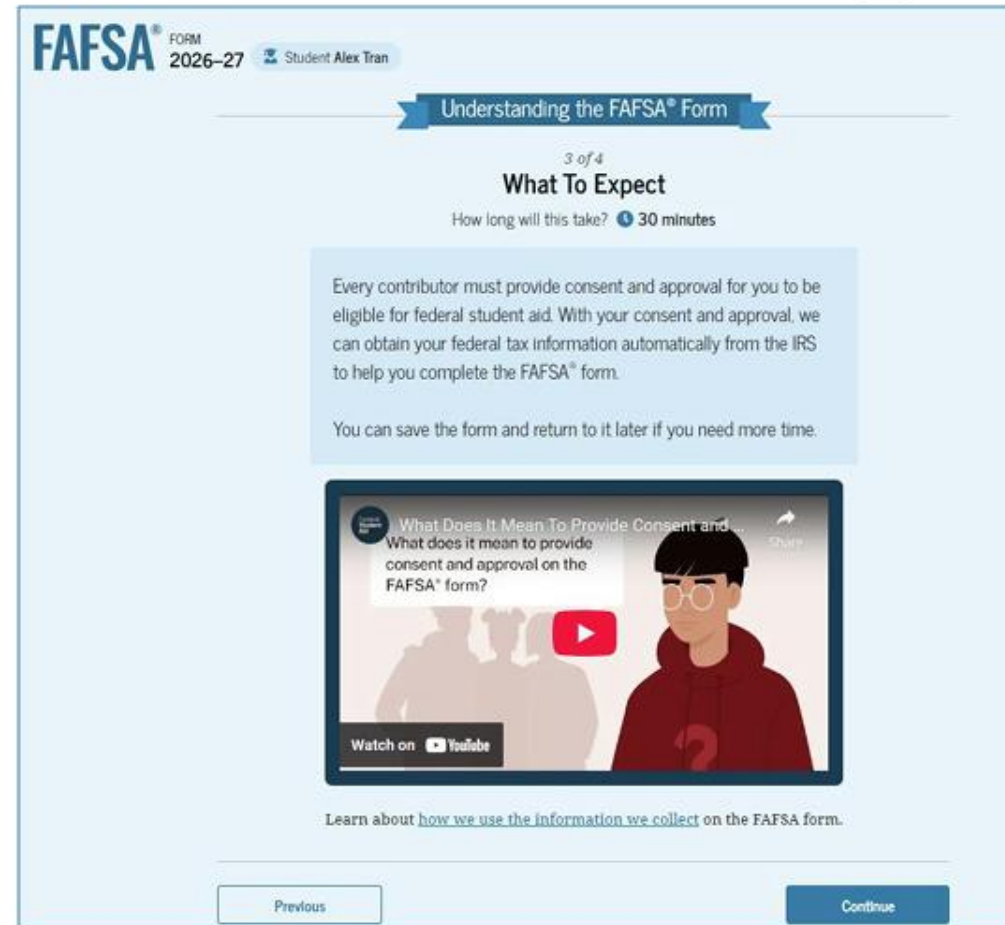
The second FAFSA® onboarding page provides information and a video about contributors who may be required to participate on the student's FAFSA form. This page also provides information on how the student will invite contributors to the FAFSA form.



The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2026-27 onboarding page for Student Alex Tran. The page is titled "Understanding the FAFSA Form" and is the second of four steps. The main heading is "Contributors to the FAFSA Form". Below this is a video player with the title "Who is a Contributor on the FAFSA Form?" and a play button. The video player also includes a "Share" button and a "Watch on YouTube" button. Below the video player, there are two sections: "Parents or Spouses" and "How To Invite". The "Parents or Spouses" section explains that the student's answers on the FAFSA form will determine if any contributors (spouse, biological or adoptive parent(s), or parent's spouse) need to be identified. The "How To Invite" section explains that contributors will need to log in with their own StudentAid.gov account username and password to provide their information. At the bottom of the page, there is a dropdown menu labeled "Which parent is considered a contributor?" and two buttons: "Previous" and "Continue".

# Step 5 – Student Onboarding (3 of 4)

The third FAFSA® onboarding page provides information about what the student can expect when completing the FAFSA form. This includes information about consent and approval, a time estimate for completing the form, and a note that the student can save the form and return later if needed, along with an accompanying video.



The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2026-27 onboarding interface for Student Alex Tran. The page is titled "Understanding the FAFSA® Form" and is the third of four steps. The current section is "What To Expect", which includes a time estimate of 30 minutes. The text explains that contributors must provide consent and approval for federal student aid and that the form can be saved and returned to later. A video player is embedded, showing a video titled "What Does It Mean To Provide Consent and Approval on the FAFSA® form?". The video player includes a "Watch on YouTube" button. At the bottom of the page, there are "Previous" and "Continue" buttons.

FAFSA® FORM 2026-27 Student Alex Tran

Understanding the FAFSA® Form

3 of 4

**What To Expect**

How long will this take? 30 minutes

Every contributor must provide consent and approval for you to be eligible for federal student aid. With your consent and approval, we can obtain your federal tax information automatically from the IRS to help you complete the FAFSA® form.

You can save the form and return to it later if you need more time.

What Does It Mean To Provide Consent and Approval on the FAFSA® form?

Watch on YouTube

Learn about [how we use the information we collect](#) on the FAFSA form.

Previous Continue

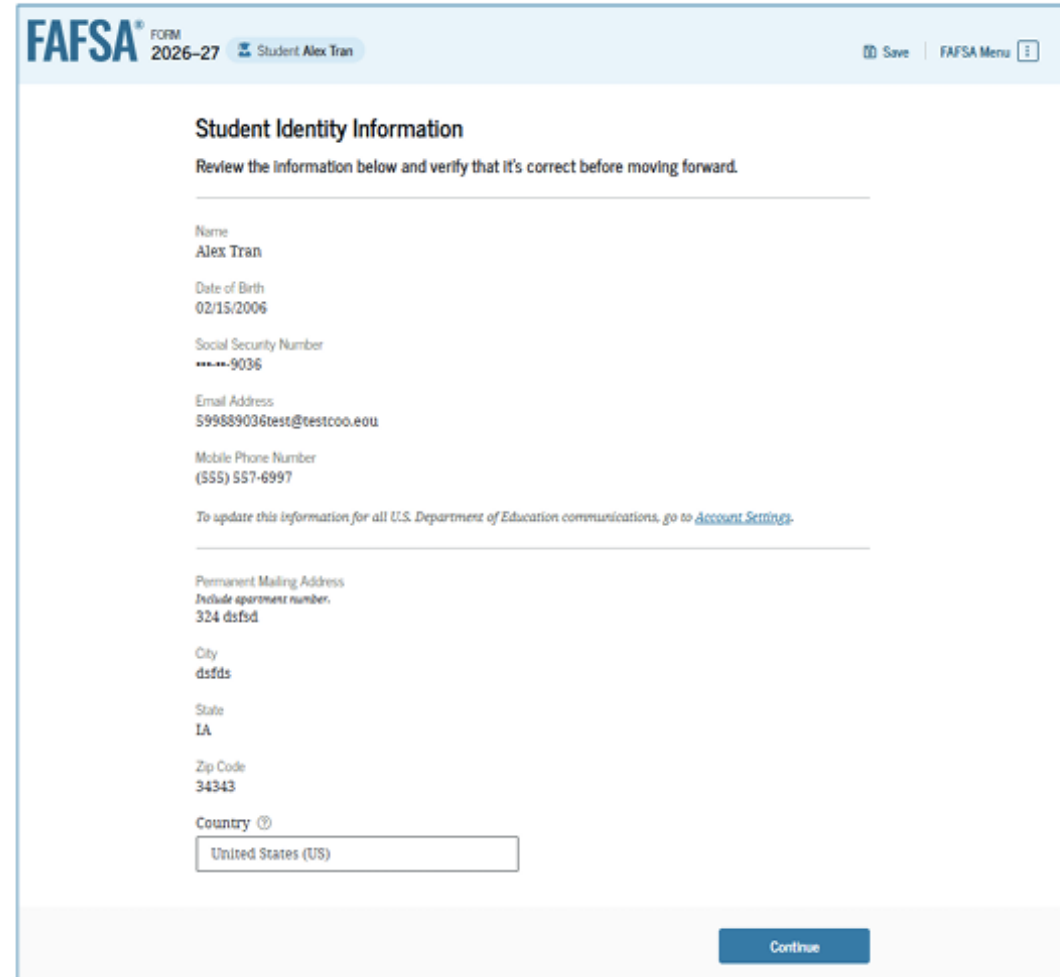
# Step 5 – Student Onboarding (4 of 4)

The last FAFSA® onboarding page provides information and a video about what to expect once the FAFSA form is completed, submitted, and processed. On this page, the student can select "Start FAFSA Form" to begin.

The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2026-27 onboarding page for Student Alex Tran. The page is titled "Understanding the FAFSA® Form" and is the 4th of 4 steps. The main heading is "After Submitting the FAFSA® form". Below this, a text box states: "After submission, you'll need to check on the status of your FAFSA form and make corrections, if required." A video player is embedded, titled "What Happens After Submitting Your FAFSA Form?", with a "Watch on YouTube" button. Below the video, three bullet points provide information: "Your form will be processed in one to three days.", "You'll be able to view your FAFSA Submission Summary. It will include the Student Aid Index (SAI), an index number used to determine federal student aid eligibility.", and "Schools will use your SAI to create your financial aid offer that explains the types and amounts of aid they are offering you. Most schools only send an aid offer when they accept you for admission." At the bottom, there are two buttons: "Previous" and "Start FAFSA Form".

# Step 6 – Verify FSA Account Information (1 of 2)

This is the first page within the student section. The student can verify that the personal information is correct. To update any of the personal information, the student must access their account settings on StudentAid.gov.



The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2026-27 Student Identity Information page for Student Alex Tran. The page includes a header with the FAFSA logo, the form year (2026-27), the student's name (Alex Tran), and links for Save and FAFSA Menu. The main section is titled "Student Identity Information" and contains a review of personal information. The information includes Name (Alex Tran), Date of Birth (02/15/2006), Social Security Number (\*\*\*-\*\*-9036), Email Address (599889036test@testcoo.edu), and Mobile Phone Number ((555) 557-6997). A note indicates that to update this information for all U.S. Department of Education communications, the student should go to Account Settings. Below this, the Permanent Mailing Address is listed as 324 dsfsd, City as dsfsd, State as IA, and Zip Code as 34343. The Country is set to United States (US). A Continue button is located at the bottom right of the form.

FAFSA<sup>®</sup> FORM 2026-27 Student Alex Tran Save FAFSA Menu

### Student Identity Information

Review the information below and verify that it's correct before moving forward.

Name  
Alex Tran

Date of Birth  
02/15/2006

Social Security Number  
\*\*\*-\*\*-9036

Email Address  
599889036test@testcoo.edu

Mobile Phone Number  
(555) 557-6997

To update this information for all U.S. Department of Education communications, go to [Account Settings](#).

Permanent Mailing Address  
Include apartment number.  
324 dsfsd

City  
dsfsd

State  
IA

Zip Code  
34343

Country ⓘ  
United States (US)

Continue

# Step 6 – Verify FSA Account Information (2 of 2)

The student is asked about their state of residence. The student selects the state from a drop-down box and provides the month and year when they became a resident.

FAFSA<sup>®</sup>

FORM 2026–27

Student Alex Tran

Save

FAFSA Menu

Student State of Residence

State

Usually, this is the state where the student lives while not attending school.

Iowa (IA)

Date the Student Became a Resident of Iowa (IA)

If the student was born in Iowa (IA) and has not moved out of state since, enter their date of birth. Otherwise, enter the date the student moved to Iowa (IA).

Month

Year

01

2006

Previous

Continue

# Step 7 – Provide Consent to Disclose Federal Tax Information

This page informs the student about consent, approval, and the use of federal tax information. Once the student provides consent and approval, their federal tax information is transferred directly from the IRS into the FAFSA® form to help complete the "Your Finances" section.

FAFSA® FORM 2026-27 Student Alex Tran Save FAFSA Menu

### Provide Consent and Approval or You Won't Be Eligible for Federal Student Aid

**Summary**

Your consent and approval are needed to retrieve and disclose federal tax information. With your consent and approval, we can obtain tax return information automatically from the IRS to help you complete the FAFSA® form. If you don't provide consent and approval, you will not be eligible for federal student aid, including grants and loans. You must provide consent and approval even if you didn't file a U.S. federal tax return or any tax return.

- Get your 2024 tax return information for the 2026-27 FAFSA form.
- Federal tax information is used to determine your eligibility for federal student aid.
- Tax return information is required to complete the FAFSA form.

By accepting below, I consent to the disclosure of information about me, and affirmatively approve of

- the receipt and use of my federal tax information, and
- the redisclosure of my federal tax information by the U.S. Department of Education (ED), as described herein.

By accepting below, I consent to and affirmatively approve of, as applicable, the following:

- ED may disclose my Social Security number/Individual Taxpayer Identification Number, last name, date of birth, unique identifier, the tax year for which federal tax information is required, and the date and timestamp of my approval for the use of my federal tax information in determining eligibility by ED for which approval is provided to the U.S. Department of the Treasury, Internal Revenue Service (IRS). I understand that in response to such a request from ED, the IRS shall then disclose my federal tax information to "authorized persons" (i.e., specifically designated officers and employees of ED and its contractors (as defined in 26 U.S.C. § 6103(b)(1)(E))) for the purpose of determining eligibility for and the amount of federal student aid under a program authorized under subpart 1 of part A, part C, or part D of Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, for myself or an applicant for federal student aid who has requested that I share my federal tax information on their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) form.

Previous Decline Approve

By accepting below, I consent electronically to the use of my StudentAid.gov account username and password (FSA ID) as my signature and certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America, that the foregoing is true and correct. I understand that any falsification of this statement is punishable under the provisions of 18 U.S.C. § 1001 by a fine, imprisonment of not more than five years, or both, and that the knowing and willful request for or acquisition of records pertaining to an individual under false pretenses is a criminal offense under the Privacy Act of 1974, subject to a fine of not more than \$5,000 fine (18 U.S.C. § 852(a)(3)(3)). By accepting and submitting my part of the FAFSA form, my execution (including date and time) of consent and approval will be logged in ED's Person Authentication Service System of Record (18-11-12).

### Frequently Asked Questions

Who should provide consent and approval?

If I'm married and didn't file a joint tax return with my current spouse, does my spouse have to provide consent and approval for you to access their tax information?

What happens after I provide consent and approval?

What happens if I decline consent and approval?

Select "Approve" to provide consent and approval for the use of your federal tax information to determine your eligibility for federal student aid. If you select "Decline," you will not be eligible for federal student aid.

Previous Decline Approve

**Important Reminder!** You must select Approve and provide consent to be eligible for any federal financial aid, including the Federal Pell Grant. There is no way around this requirement.

# Step 8 – Student Imports IRS Information

This page imports the student's federal tax information by directly transferring it from the IRS into the FAFSA® form to help complete the "Your Finances" section.



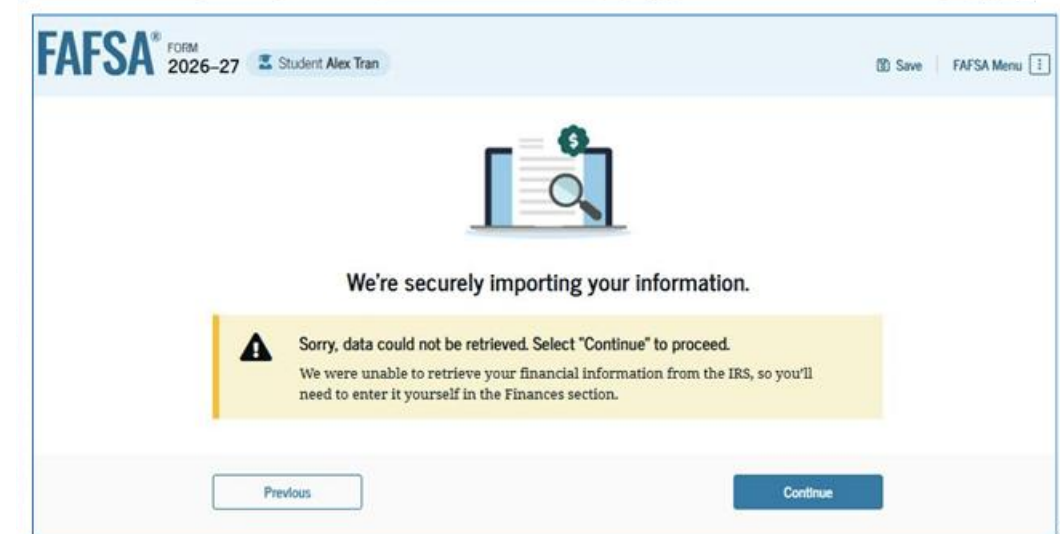
FAFSA® FORM 2026-27 Student Alex Tran Save FAFSA Menu

We're securely importing your information.

Do not leave this page while your information is being imported into your application.

Loading...

**Please Note** – If you did not file taxes for 2024, you may receive an error message in a light yellow box. You can still proceed with your FAFSA form and enter financial information manually.



FAFSA® FORM 2026-27 Student Alex Tran Save FAFSA Menu

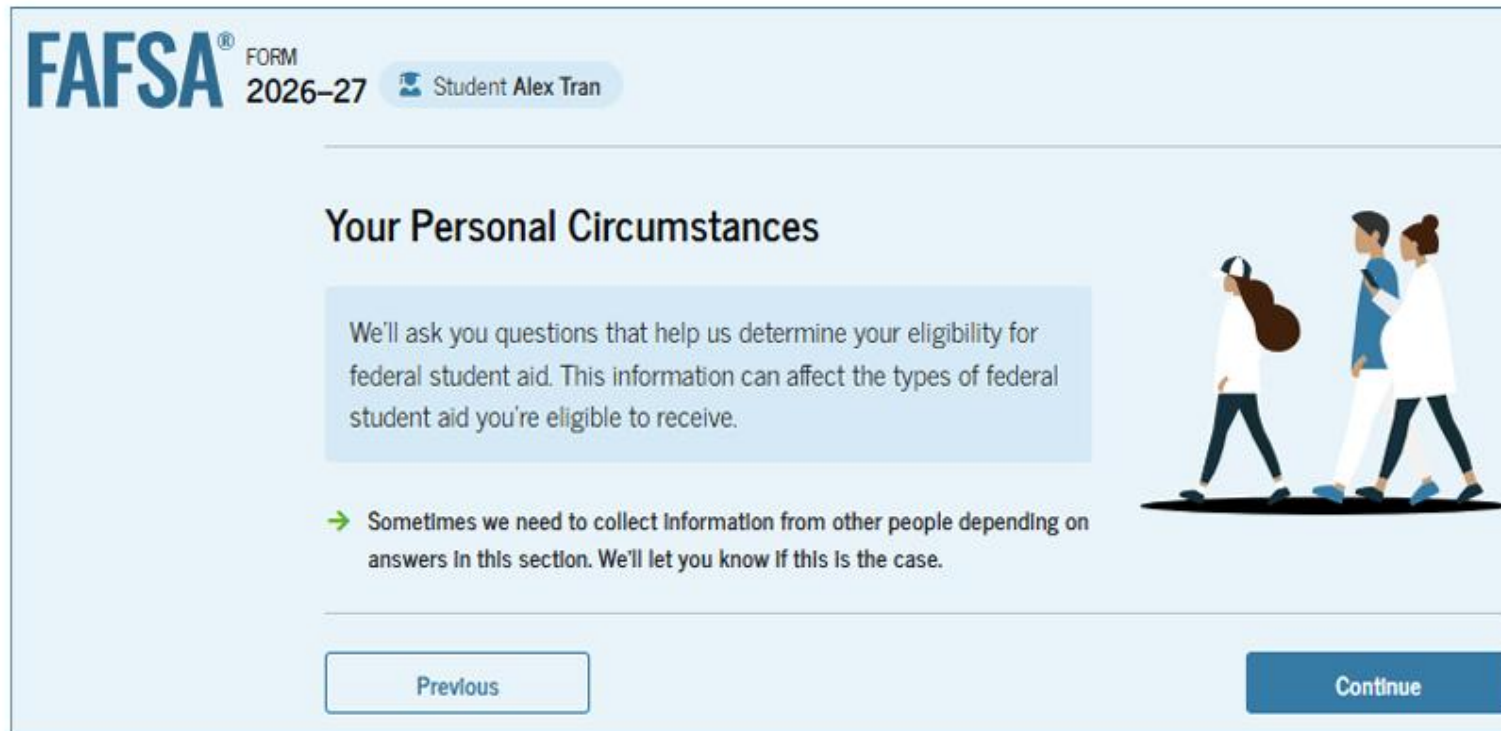
We're securely importing your information.

**!** Sorry, data could not be retrieved. Select "Continue" to proceed.  
We were unable to retrieve your financial information from the IRS, so you'll need to enter it yourself in the Finances section.

Previous Continue

# Step 9 – Personal Circumstances | Introduction

This is the first page within the "Your Personal Circumstances" section. It provides an overview of the section.



The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2026-27 interface for Student Alex Tran. The page title is "Your Personal Circumstances". A light blue box contains the text: "We'll ask you questions that help us determine your eligibility for federal student aid. This information can affect the types of federal student aid you're eligible to receive." Below this, a green arrow points to the text: "Sometimes we need to collect information from other people depending on answers in this section. We'll let you know if this is the case." To the right of the text is an illustration of three people walking. At the bottom, there are two buttons: "Previous" and "Continue".

FAFSA<sup>®</sup> FORM 2026-27 Student Alex Tran

## Your Personal Circumstances

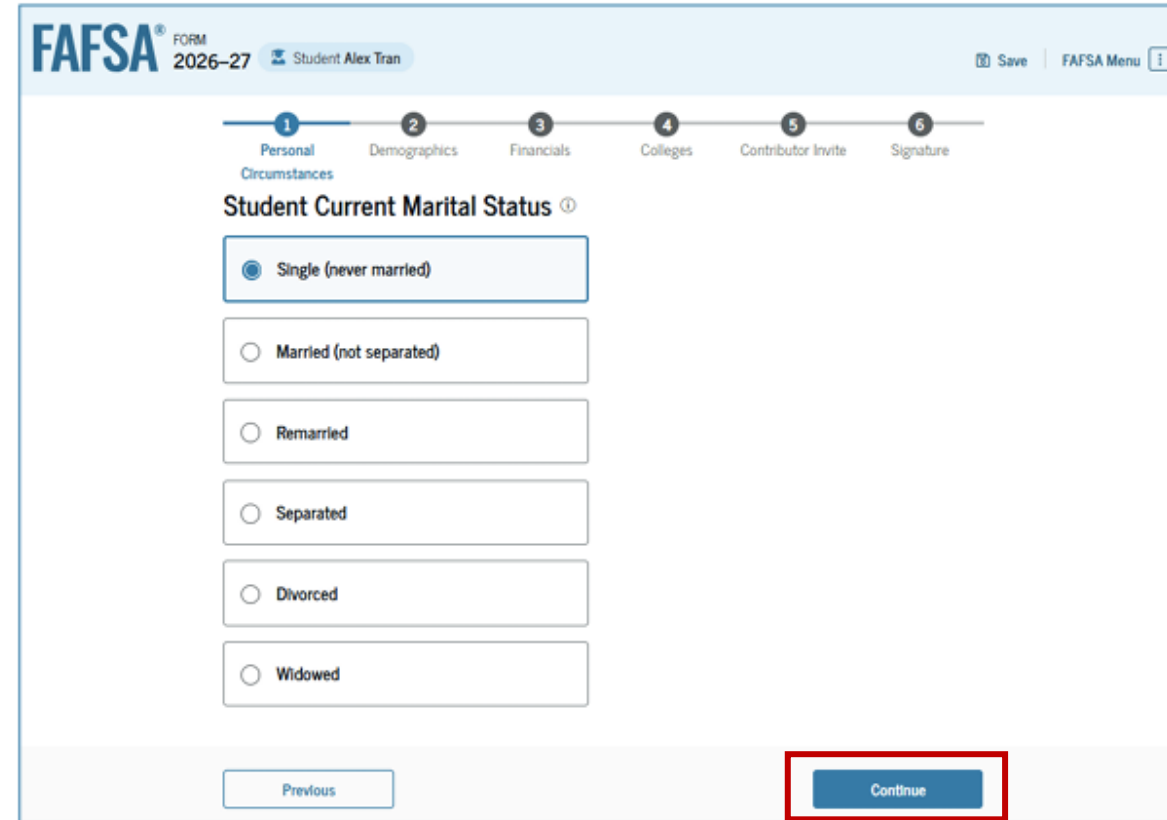
We'll ask you questions that help us determine your eligibility for federal student aid. This information can affect the types of federal student aid you're eligible to receive.

→ Sometimes we need to collect information from other people depending on answers in this section. We'll let you know if this is the case.

Previous Continue

# Step 9 – Personal Circumstances | Marital Status

The student is asked about their marital status. The student selects the "Single (never married)" option.



The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2026-27 form for Student Alex Tran. The progress bar at the top indicates the following steps: 1. Personal Circumstances (current), 2. Demographics, 3. Financials, 4. Colleges, 5. Contributor Invite, and 6. Signature. The main heading is "Student Current Marital Status" with a help icon. Below this, there are six radio button options: "Single (never married)" (selected), "Married (not separated)", "Remarried", "Separated", "Divorced", and "Widowed". At the bottom of the form, there are two buttons: "Previous" and "Continue". The "Continue" button is highlighted with a red rectangular border.

# Step 9 – Personal Circumstances | College Plans

The student is asked about their college grade level for the 2026–27 school year and if the student will have their first bachelor's degree. The student selects "First year (freshman)" and "No" to the question about the student's first bachelor's degree.

FAFSA<sup>®</sup> FORM 2026-27 Student Alex Tran Save FAFSA Menu

1 Personal Circumstances 2 Demographics 3 Financials 4 Colleges 5 Contributor Invite 6 Signature

### Student College or Career School Plans

When the student begins the 2026-27 school year, what will their college grade level be? ⓘ

☒ First year (freshman)

☐ Second year (sophomore)

☐ Other undergraduate (junior and beyond)

☐ Master's, doctorate, or graduate certificate program (such as M.A., MBA, M.D., J.D., Ph.D., Ed.D., etc.)

When the student begins the 2026-27 school year, will they already have their first bachelor's degree? ⓘ

☐ Yes ☒ No

Previous Continue

# Step 9 – Personal Circumstances | Personal Circumstances

The student is asked if any of the listed personal circumstances apply. The student selects "None of these apply."

**Please Note** – While these circumstances will **not** apply to **most** students, students should select any circumstances that do apply. The way in which a student responds to this page and the next two pages will determine their status as a “Dependent” or “Independent” student, which will have important implications later in the FAFSA form.

FAFSA<sup>®</sup> FORM 2026-27 Student Alex Tran Save FAFSA Menu

1 Personal Circumstances 2 Demographics 3 Financials 4 Colleges 5 Contributor Invite 6 Signature

**Student Personal Circumstances**  
Select all that apply or "None of these apply."

☐ The student is currently serving on active duty in the U.S. armed forces for purposes other than training. ①

☐ The student is a veteran of the U.S. armed forces. ①

☐ The student has children or other people (excluding their spouse) who live with them and receive more than half of their support from the student now and between July 1, 2026, and June 30, 2027. ①

☐ At any time since the student turned 13, they were an orphan (no living biological or adoptive parent). ⑦

☐ At any time since the student turned 13, they were a ward of the court. ①

☐ At any time since the student turned 13, they were in foster care. ①

☐ The student is or was a legally emancipated minor, as determined by a court in their state of residence. ①

☐ The student is or was in a legal guardianship with someone other than their parent or stepparent, as determined by a court in their state of residence. ①

☒ None of these apply.

Previous Continue

# Step 9 – Personal Circumstances | Student Homelessness

The student is asked if they were homeless or at risk of being homeless. The student selects "No."

**Please Note** – While this circumstance will **not** apply to **most** students, students should respond “Yes” if applicable. The way in which a student responds to this page will determine their status as a “Dependent” or “Provisionally Independent” student, which will have important implications later in the FAFSA form.

The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2026-27 interface for Student Alex Tran. The progress bar at the top indicates the following steps: 1. Personal Circumstances (highlighted), 2. Demographics, 3. Financials, 4. Colleges, 5. Contributor Invite, and 6. Signature. The main heading is "Student Homelessness". Below it, the question reads: "At any time on or after July 1, 2025, was the student unaccompanied and either (1) homeless or (2) self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?" There are two radio button options: "Yes" and "No". The "No" option is selected. At the bottom, there are "Previous" and "Continue" buttons. The "Continue" button is highlighted with a red border.

# Step 9 – Personal Circumstances | Unusual Circumstances

The student is asked if unusual circumstances prevent them from contacting the student's parent(s).  
The student selects "No."

**Important Reminder!** Students can **only** select “No” if they are physically unable to contact their biological or adoptive parent(s) or if doing so would pose a threat to their physical safety.

Students **must** select “Yes” in **all** other cases, even if their parent(s) have indicated they are unwilling to contribute information. An unwilling parent is **not** considered an unusual circumstance by FSA.

The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2026-27 interface for Student Alex Tran. The progress bar at the top indicates the following steps: 1. Personal Circumstances (current), 2. Demographics, 3. Financials, 4. Colleges, 5. Contributor Invite, and 6. Signature. The title of the section is "Student Unusual Circumstances". A green box contains the text: "This information will help us evaluate the student's ability to pay for school." The main question is: "Do unusual circumstances prevent the student from contacting their parents or would contacting their parents pose a risk to the student?" with a help icon. Below the question, a list of circumstances is provided: "A student may be experiencing unusual circumstances if they" followed by a bulleted list: "left home due to an abusive or threatening environment;", "are abandoned by or estranged from their parents;", "have refugee or asylee status and are separated from their parents, or their parents are displaced in a foreign country;", "are a victim of human trafficking;", "are incarcerated, or their parents are incarcerated, and contact with the parents would pose a risk to the student; or", and "are otherwise unable to contact or locate their parents." A note states: "If the student's circumstances resulted in not having a safe and stable place to live, they may be considered a homeless youth and should review the answer to the previous question about being unaccompanied and homeless." At the bottom, there are two radio button options: "Yes" (unselected) and "No" (selected). Navigation buttons "Previous" and "Continue" are at the very bottom.

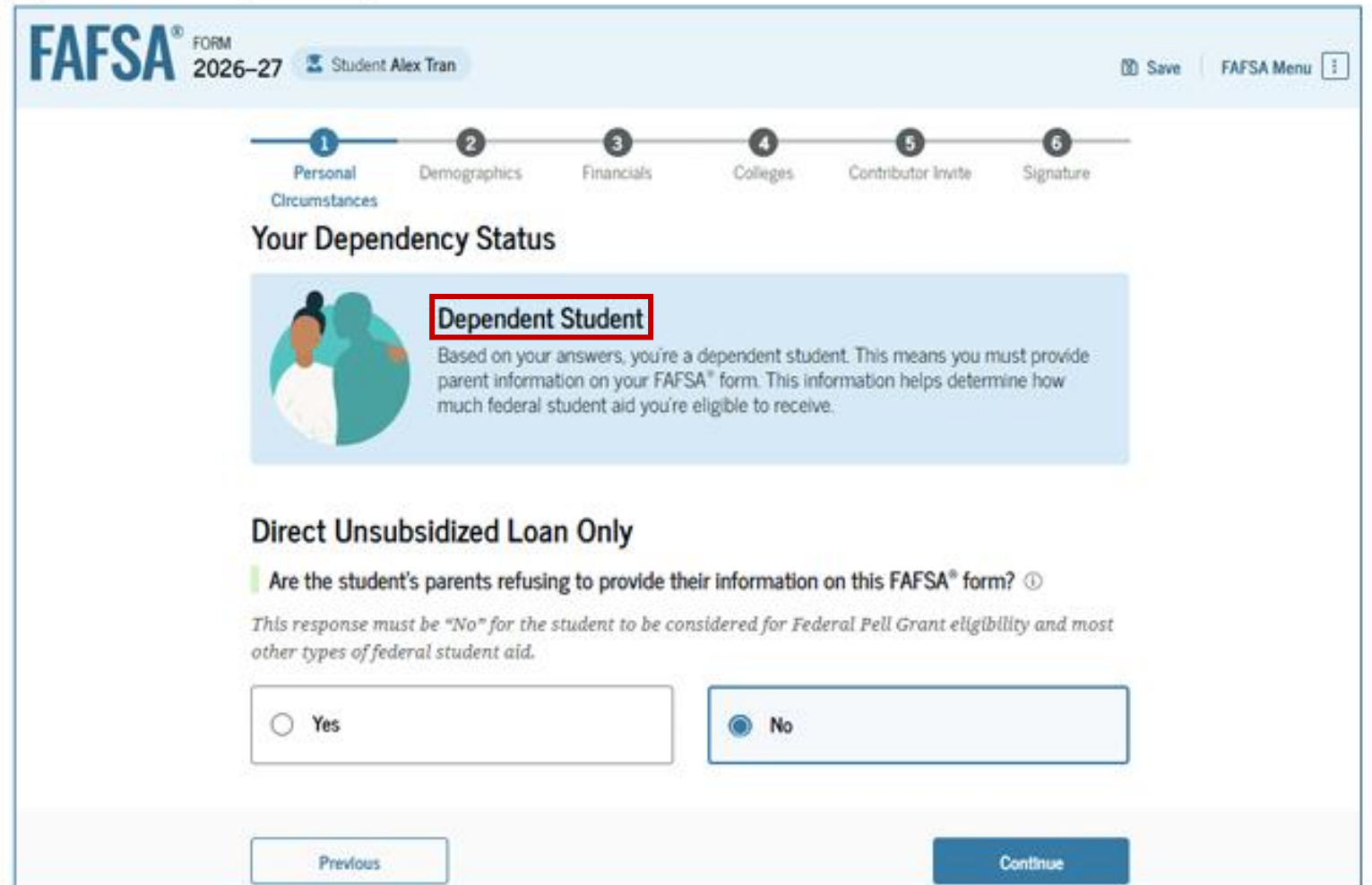
# Step 10 – Personal Circumstances | Student Dependency Status

The student will be told their Dependency Status, which will dictate the questions they required to answer in the subsequent pages.

**Most** students who complete the form will be designated as a **Dependent Student**, which means that at least one parent will need to contribute information to their FAFSA form.

If you are designated as a **Dependent Student**, please [click here](#).

If you are designated as a **Provisionally Independent Student**, please [click here](#).



FAFSA® FORM 2026-27 Student Alex Tran Save FAFSA Menu

1 Personal Circumstances 2 Demographics 3 Financials 4 Colleges 5 Contributor Invite 6 Signature

### Your Dependency Status

 **Dependent Student**

Based on your answers, you're a dependent student. This means you must provide parent information on your FAFSA® form. This information helps determine how much federal student aid you're eligible to receive.

### Direct Unsubsidized Loan Only

Are the student's parents refusing to provide their information on this FAFSA® form? ⓘ

*This response must be "No" for the student to be considered for Federal Pell Grant eligibility and most other types of federal student aid.*

☐ Yes ☒ No

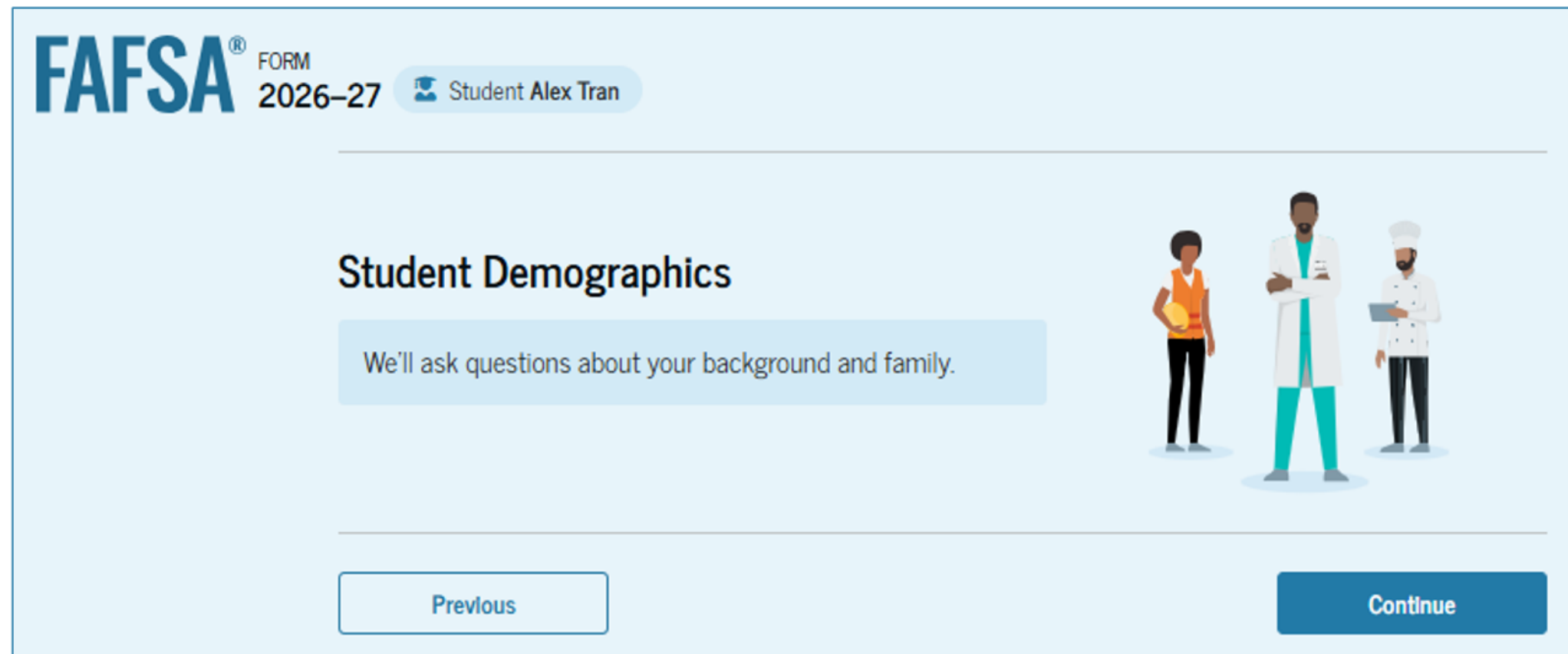
Previous Continue

The background image shows two young women sitting at a desk. The woman on the left is smiling and looking down at her hands. The woman on the right is also smiling and looking at a laptop screen. The image is overlaid with a dark green semi-transparent rectangle with rounded corners, and the title text is centered within this rectangle.

# Dependent Student Questions

# Step 12 – Student Demographics | Introduction

This is the first page within the "Student Demographics" section. It provides an overview of the section.



The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2026-27 interface. At the top left is the FAFSA logo with "FORM 2026-27" and a user profile for "Student Alex Tran". The main heading is "Student Demographics". Below it, a light blue box contains the text: "We'll ask questions about your background and family." To the right of this text is an illustration of three diverse people: a woman in an orange vest, a man in a white lab coat, and a man in a chef's uniform. At the bottom, there are two buttons: "Previous" on the left and "Continue" on the right.

# Step 12 – Student Demographics | Gender

The student is asked to identify their sex. The student selects "Male."

**Please Note** - The answers to these questions are **not** considered when determining eligibility for federal student aid. Moreover, student responses to these questions are **not** visible to the parent(s) who are invited to contribute or the schools to which the student applied.

The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2026-27 interface for Student Alex Tran. The progress bar at the top indicates the following steps: 1. Personal Circumstances (completed), 2. Demographics (current step), 3. Financials, 4. Colleges, 5. Contributor Invite, and 6. Signature. The main heading is "Student Demographic Information". Below this, a green box contains the text: "Questions Used for Research Purposes Only and Do Not Affect Federal Student Aid Eligibility. Your answers will not: • affect the student's eligibility for federal student aid, • be used in any aid calculations, or • be shared with the schools to which the student applies." The question "What is the student's sex?" is displayed with two radio button options: "Male" (selected) and "Female". At the bottom, there are "Previous" and "Continue" buttons.

# Step 12 – Student Demographics | Race & Ethnicity

The student is asked to identify their race.

The student selects the checkboxes that apply. After making a selection, a second drop-down box appears, and the student selects the checkboxes that apply to them.

**Please Note** - The answers to these questions are **not** considered when determining eligibility for federal student aid. Moreover, student responses to these questions are **not** visible to the parent(s) who are invited to contribute or the schools to which the student applied.

The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2026-27 interface for a student named Alex Tan. The progress bar at the top indicates the current step is 'Demographics'. The section is titled 'Student Race and Ethnicity' and includes a disclaimer: 'Questions Used for Research Purposes Only and Do Not Affect Federal Student Aid Eligibility'. Below this, a question asks 'What is the student's race and/or ethnicity?' with instructions to 'Select all that apply and enter additional details in the spaces below.' The form contains several checkboxes: 'American Indian or Alaska Native', 'Asian' (which is checked), 'Black or African American', and 'Hispanic or Latino'. Under the 'Asian' checkbox, there is a list of sub-categories: 'Chinese', 'Asian Indian', 'Filipino', 'Vietnamese', 'Korean', 'Japanese', and 'Other Asian (Enter, for example, Pakistani, Mongolian, Afghan, etc.)' with an associated text input field.

# Step 12 – Student Demographics | Citizenship Status

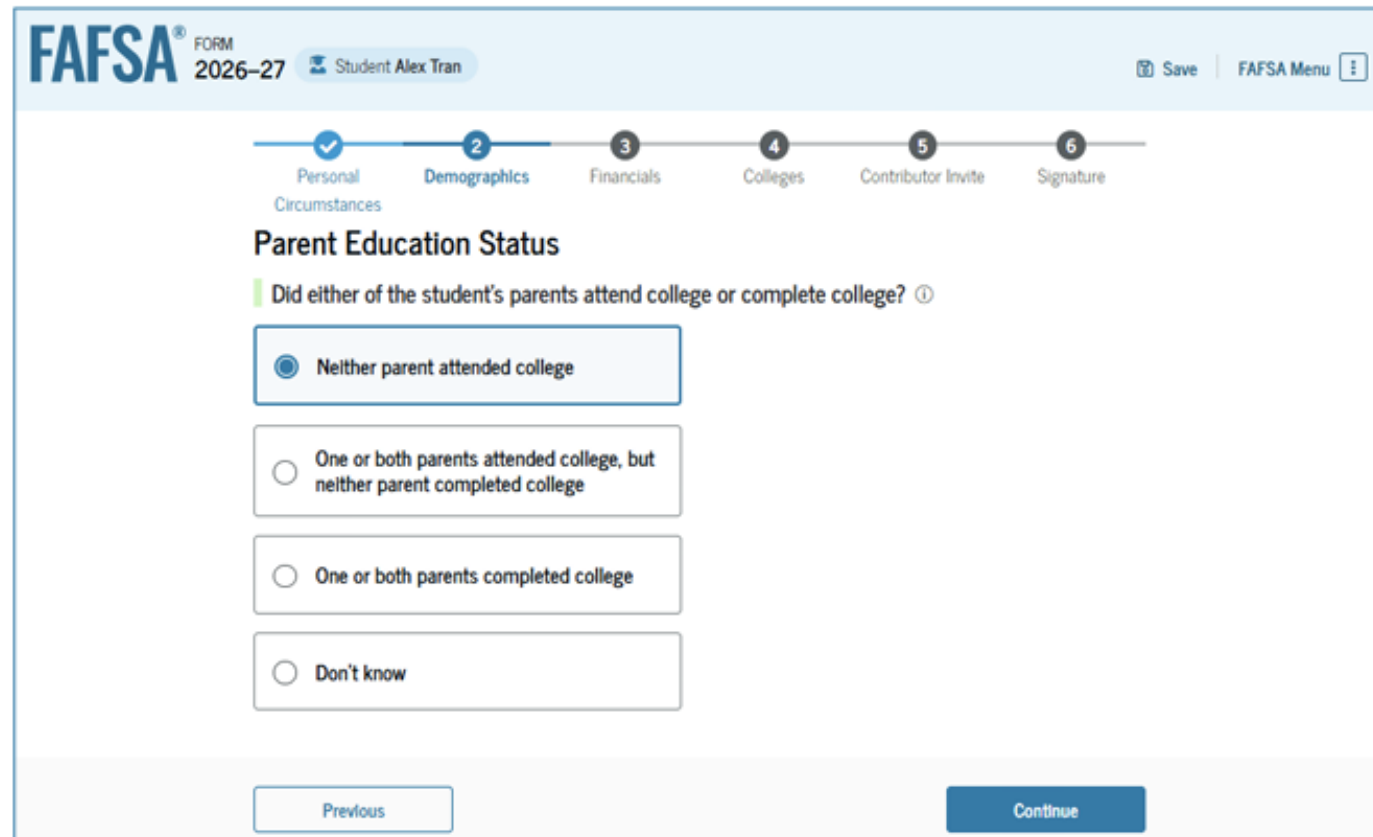
The student is asked about their citizenship status. The student selects the "U.S. citizen or national" option.

**Please Note** – “Eligible noncitizen” refers to students with an Alien Registration Card (I-551 or I-551C) or those with a special designation from the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). Any students who were not born in the United States and are not “eligible noncitizens” should select the third box. In that case, the student is not eligible for federal student aid.

The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2026-27 interface for Student Alex Tran. At the top, the FAFSA logo and form year are displayed, along with a 'Save' button and a 'FAFSA Menu' icon. A progress bar indicates the current step is 'Demographics' (step 2), with previous steps being 'Personal Circumstances' (step 1) and subsequent steps being 'Financials' (step 3), 'Colleges' (step 4), 'Contributor Invite' (step 5), and 'Signature' (step 6). The main heading is 'Student Citizenship Status'. Below this, there are three radio button options: 'U.S. citizen or national' (which is selected), 'Eligible noncitizen', and 'Neither U.S. citizen nor eligible noncitizen'. At the bottom of the form, there are 'Previous' and 'Continue' buttons.

# Step 12 – Student Demographics | Parent Education Status

The student is asked about their parents' education status. The student selects the "Neither parent attended college" option.



The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2026-27 interface for Student Alex Tran. The progress bar at the top indicates the following steps: 1. Personal Circumstances (completed), 2. Demographics (current step), 3. Financials, 4. Colleges, 5. Contributor Invite, and 6. Signature. The "Parent Education Status" section asks, "Did either of the student's parents attend college or complete college?" with four radio button options. The first option, "Neither parent attended college," is selected. The other options are "One or both parents attended college, but neither parent completed college," "One or both parents completed college," and "Don't know." At the bottom of the form are "Previous" and "Continue" buttons.

FAFSA<sup>®</sup> FORM 2026-27 Student Alex Tran Save FAFSA Menu

1 Personal Circumstances 2 Demographics 3 Financials 4 Colleges 5 Contributor Invite 6 Signature

**Parent Education Status**

Did either of the student's parents attend college or complete college? ⓘ

☒ Neither parent attended college

☐ One or both parents attended college, but neither parent completed college

☐ One or both parents completed college

☐ Don't know

Previous Continue

# Step 12 – Student Demographics | Parent Killed in the Line of Duty

The student is asked if their parent was killed in the line of duty. The student selects the "No" option.

FAFSA<sup>®</sup> FORM

2026–27

Student Alex Tran

Save

FAFSA Menu

1

2

3

4

5

6

Personal

Demographics

Financials

Colleges

Contributor Invite

Signature

Circumstances

Parent Killed in Line of Duty

Was the student's parent or guardian killed in the line of duty while either (1) serving on active duty as a member of the U.S. armed forces on or after the events of 9/11, or (2) performing official duties as a public safety officer? ⓘ

Public safety officers include law enforcement officers, firefighters, and emergency service workers.

☐ Yes

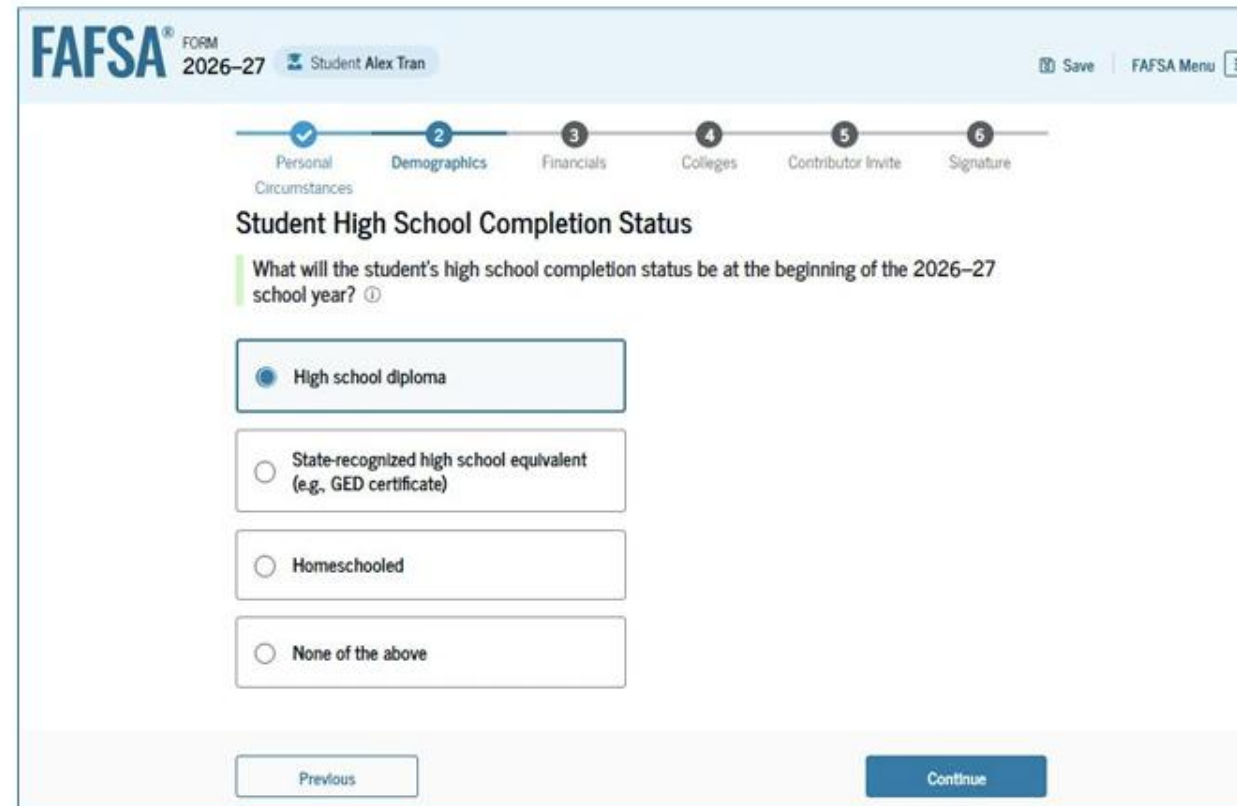
☒ No

Previous

Continue

# Step 12 – Student Demographics | HS Completion Status

The student is asked about what their high school completion status will be when the student starts the 2026–27 school year. The student selects the "High school diploma" option.



The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2026-27 form for Student Alex Tran. The progress bar at the top indicates the following steps: 1. Personal Circumstances (completed), 2. Demographics (current step), 3. Financials, 4. Colleges, 5. Contributor Invite, and 6. Signature. The title of the section is "Student High School Completion Status". The question asks: "What will the student's high school completion status be at the beginning of the 2026–27 school year?" There are four radio button options: "High school diploma" (selected), "State-recognized high school equivalent (e.g., GED certificate)", "Homeschooled", and "None of the above". At the bottom of the form are "Previous" and "Continue" buttons.

# Step 12 – Student Demographics | High School Information

Because the student selected high school diploma, the student is asked to select which high school they did or will graduate from. The student enters the high school's state and city. After selecting "Search," the student selects the correct high school from the search results.

FAFSA<sup>®</sup> FORM 2026-27 Student Alex Tran

Save FAFSA Menu

Personal Circumstances Demographics Financials Colleges Contributor Invite Signature

**Student High School Information**

From what high school did or will the student graduate?

State  
Alabama (AL)

City  
Brantley

High School Name  
b

Brantley High School

Previous Continue

FAFSA<sup>®</sup> FORM 2026-27 Student Alex Tran

Save FAFSA Menu

Personal Circumstances Demographics Financials Colleges Contributor Invite Signature

**Student High School Information**

From what high school did or will the student graduate?

State  
Alabama (AL)

City  
Brantley

High School Name  
Brantley High School

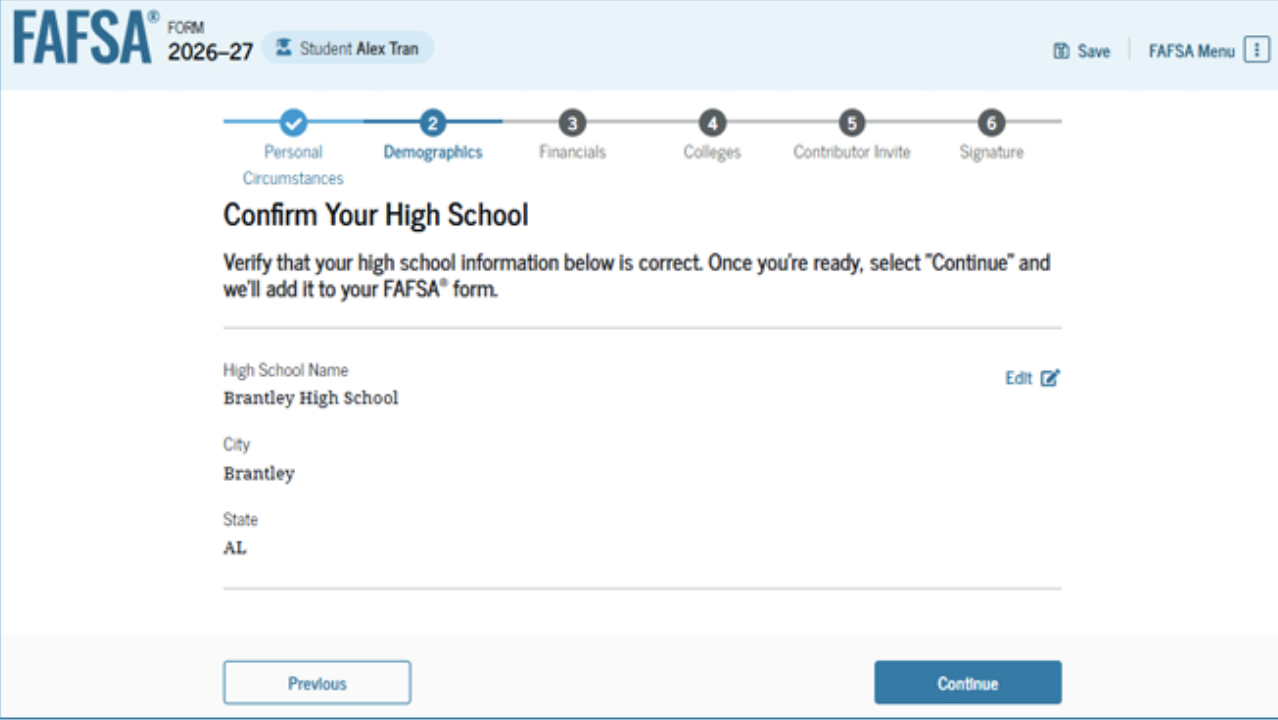
Brantley High School  
Brantley, Alabama (AL)

Search Again

Previous Continue

# Step 12 – Student Demographics | Confirm High School

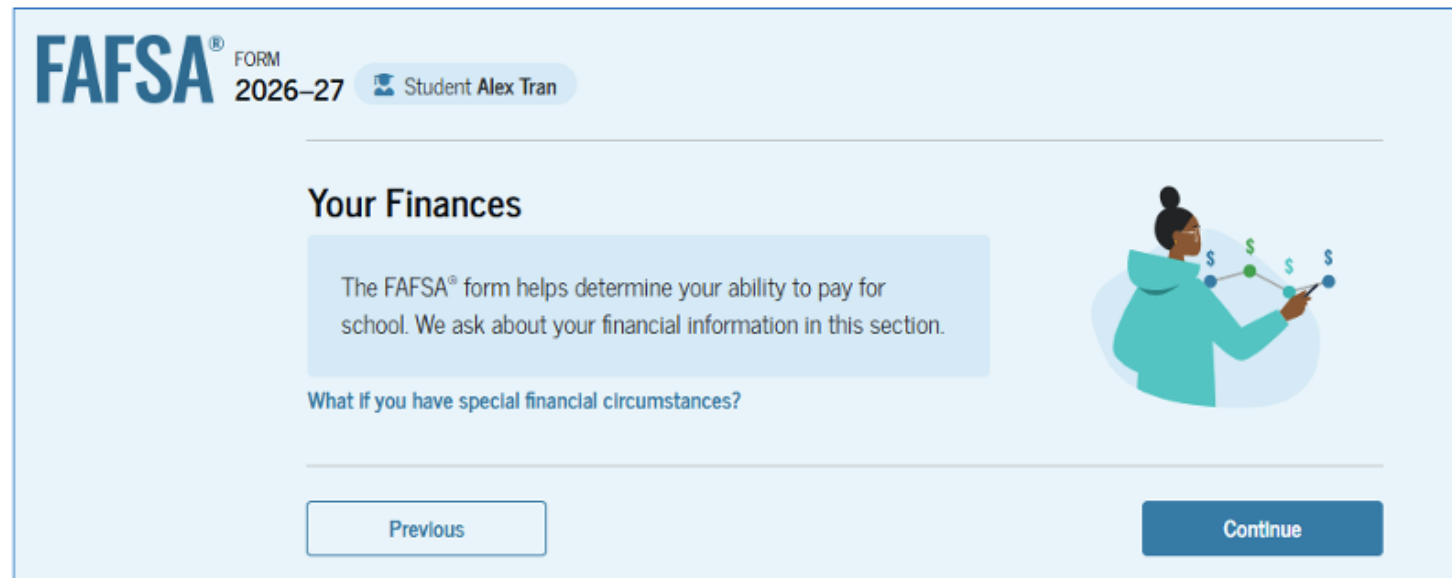
The student has the option to edit the high school information presented on this page by selecting "Edit," which will return the student to the high school information page. The student confirms the high school information and selects "Continue" to proceed to the next section.



The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2026-27 interface for Student Alex Tran. At the top, a progress bar indicates the current step is 'Demographics' (step 2), with previous steps 'Personal Circumstances' (step 1) and subsequent steps 'Financials' (step 3), 'Colleges' (step 4), 'Contributor Invite' (step 5), and 'Signature' (step 6). The main heading is 'Confirm Your High School'. Below this, a message states: 'Verify that your high school information below is correct. Once you're ready, select "Continue" and we'll add it to your FAFSA® form.' The form fields are: 'High School Name' with the value 'Brantley High School' and an 'Edit' link; 'City' with the value 'Brantley'; and 'State' with the value 'AL'. At the bottom, there are 'Previous' and 'Continue' buttons.

# Step 13 – Student Finances | Introduction

This is the first page within the "Your Finances" section. It provides an overview of the section. The student can select the hyperlink to learn about special financial circumstances.



The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2026-27 interface for Student Alex Tran. The page is titled "Your Finances" and includes a brief explanation of the section's purpose. A link for "What if you have special financial circumstances?" is visible. Navigation buttons for "Previous" and "Continue" are at the bottom.

**FAFSA<sup>®</sup> FORM 2026-27** Student Alex Tran

### Your Finances

The FAFSA<sup>®</sup> form helps determine your ability to pay for school. We ask about your financial information in this section.

[What if you have special financial circumstances?](#)

[Previous](#) [Continue](#)

# Step 13 – Student Finances | Tax Filing Status

The student is asked about their tax filing status. The student selects "Yes" to "Did or will the student file a 2024 IRS Form 1040 or 1040-NR?"

The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2026-27 interface for Student Alex Tran. At the top, the FAFSA logo and form year are displayed, along with a 'Save' button and a 'FAFSA Menu' icon. A progress bar indicates the current step is 'Financials' (step 3), with previous steps 'Personal Circumstances' and 'Demographics' completed, and subsequent steps 'Colleges', 'Contributor Invite', and 'Signature' remaining. The main heading is 'Student Tax Filing Status'. Below this, a question is posed: 'Did or will the student file a 2024 IRS Form 1040 or 1040-NR?'. Two radio button options are provided: 'Yes' (which is selected) and 'No'. At the bottom of the form, there are 'Previous' and 'Continue' buttons.

# Step 13 – Student Finances | Tax Return Information (1 of 2)

The student is asked about their 2024 tax return. The student selects "Single" as the filing status and enters dollar amounts in the other required responses.

**Please Note** - If you filed anything, you would have filed your 2024 tax return in Spring 2025. Many high school students do not earn enough income to qualify as tax filers. Most students should select "Single" as their filing status.

For most students, the answer to the questions listed on this page is likely \$0.

# Step 13 – Student Finances | Tax Return Information (2 of 2)

The student is asked about their taxes, income, and other financial information. The student enters dollar amounts in the responses. If the student has nothing to report, the student enters the numeral zero.

**Please Note** – For most students, the answer to the questions listed on this page is likely \$0.

Untaxed Portions of IRA Distributions  
IRS Form 1040: Line 4a Minus Line 4b

\$ 0 .00

Untaxed Portions of Pensions  
IRS Form 1040: Line 5a Minus Line 5b

\$ 0 .00

Adjusted Gross Income  
IRS Form 1040 (or 1040-NR): Line 11

\$ 700 .00

Income Tax Paid  
IRS Form 1040: Line 24. If negative, enter a zero.

\$ 234 .00

Did the student receive the Earned Income Credit (EIC)?  
IRS Form 1040: Line 27

☐ Yes

☒ No

☐ Don't know

IRA Deductions and Payments to Self-Employed SEP, SIMPLE, and Qualified Plans  
IRS Form 1040 Schedule 1: Total of Lines 16 + 20

\$ 4 .00

Education Credits (American Opportunity Tax Credit and Lifetime Learning Tax Credit)  
IRS Form 1040 Schedule 3: Line 3 + IRS Form 1040: Line 29

\$ 0 .00

Did the student file a Schedule A, B, D, E, F, or H with their 2024 IRS Form 1040?  
1

☐ Yes

☒ No

☐ Don't know

Net Profit or Loss From IRS Form 1040 Schedule C  
IRS Form 1040 Schedule C: Line 31

\$ 0 .00

Amount of College Grants, Scholarships, or AmeriCorps Benefits Reported as Income to the IRS  
Students typically answer this question with a zero because most scholarships and grants, including Federal Pell Grants, are not considered taxable income. If the student is married, include the amount their spouse reported. If the response is other than zero, the amount is typically not the same as the amount reported on IRS Form 1098-T (Box 5) or the adjusted gross income reported on the tax return.

\$ 0 .00 1

Foreign Earned Income Exclusion  
IRS Form 1040 Schedule 1: Line 8d

\$ 0 .00 1

Previous

Continue

# Step 13 – Student Finances | Student Assets

The student is asked about their assets. The student enters a response in each entry field. If the student has nothing to report, the student enters the numeral zero.

The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2026-27 application interface for Student Alex Tran. The progress bar at the top indicates the following steps: 1. Personal Circumstances (checked), 2. Demographics (checked), 3. Financials (active), 4. Colleges, 5. Contributor Invite, and 6. Signature. The 'Student Assets' section is titled and includes three main entry fields, each with a dollar sign icon and a help icon (i).

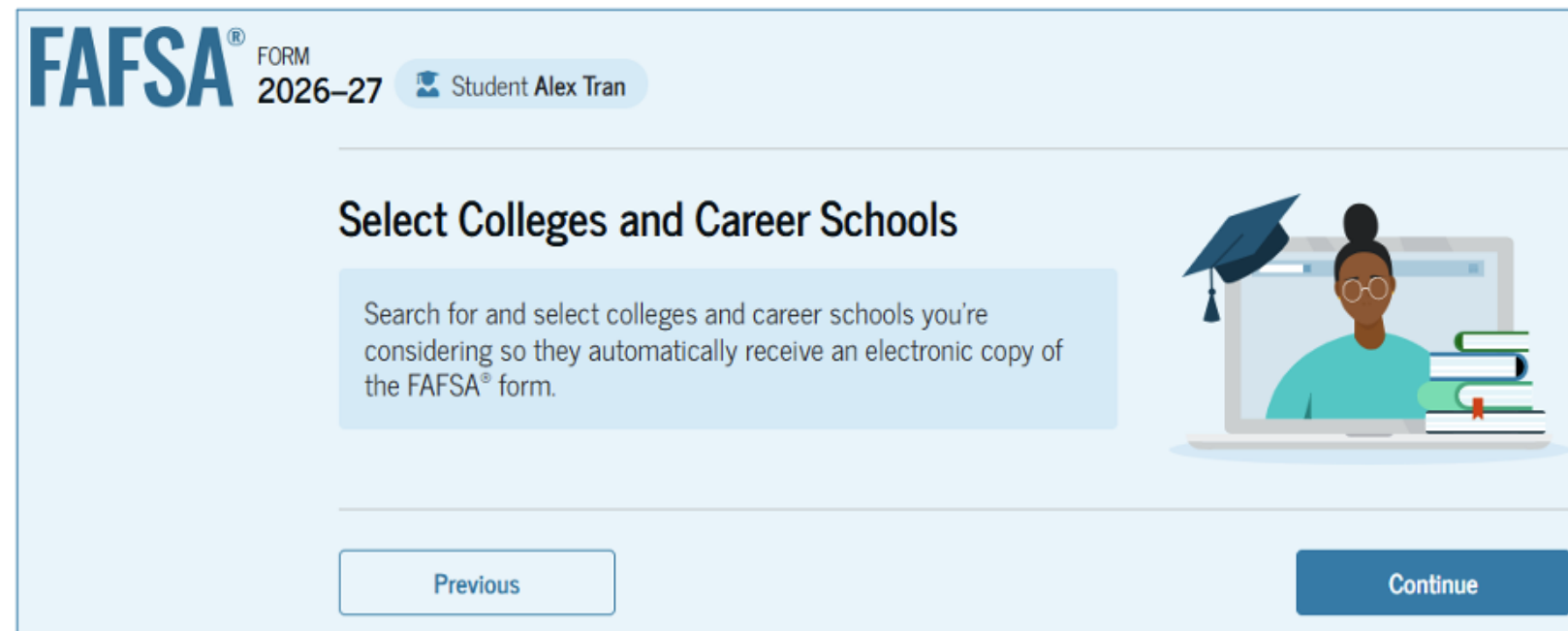
- Current Total of Cash, Savings, and Checking Accounts**  
*Don't include student aid, retirement accounts, or investments.*  
The entry field shows \$ 800 .00.
- Current Net Worth of Investments, Including Real Estate**  
*Don't include the home the student lives in. Net worth is the value of the investments minus any debts owed against them.*  
The entry field shows \$ 0 .00.
- Current Net Worth of Businesses and Farms**  
*Enter the net worth of the student's businesses and income-producing farms. Net worth is the value of the businesses and farms minus any debts owed against them. Don't include a family business with 100 or fewer full-time employees, farms where the family resides, or a commercial fishing business and related expenses.*  
The entry field shows \$ 0 .00.

At the bottom of the form, there are 'Previous' and 'Continue' buttons.

# Step 14 – Colleges | Introduction

---

This is the first page in the "Select Colleges and Career Schools" section. It provides an overview of the section.



The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2026-27 interface. At the top left, it says "FAFSA<sup>®</sup> FORM 2026-27" and "Student Alex Tran" with a user icon. The main heading is "Select Colleges and Career Schools". Below this, a light blue box contains the text: "Search for and select colleges and career schools you're considering so they automatically receive an electronic copy of the FAFSA<sup>®</sup> form." To the right of this box is an illustration of a person with glasses and a graduation cap, sitting at a desk with books. At the bottom, there are two buttons: "Previous" on the left and "Continue" on the right.

# Step 14 – Colleges | College Search (1 of 2)

The student is asked to search for the colleges, career schools, or trade schools that will receive their FAFSA® information. The student searches for a school by selecting the state from the drop-down menu and selecting "Search." If the student can't find a school searching by state, the student can search by school code.

The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2026-27 interface for Student Alex Tran. The progress bar at the top indicates the following steps: Personal Circumstances (1), Demographics (2), Financials (3), Colleges (4, currently active), Contributor Invite (5), and Signature (6). The main heading is "Where should we send the FAFSA® information?" with the instruction "Add at least one college or career school now." Below this, it states "You can add or remove schools before and after submitting your form." and provides a link for tips: "Find tips for searching for colleges or career schools." A status bar shows "0 out of 20 schools selected" and a "View Selected Schools" link. The search section has two tabs: "Search by State" (selected) and "Enter School Code". Under "Search by State", a dropdown menu shows "California (CA)". Below the dropdown is a "Search" button. At the bottom of the form are "Previous" and "Continue" buttons.

# Step 14 – Colleges | College Search (2 of 2)

After entering a school's state and selecting "Search," the student selects the correct school(s) from the search results. Students can send their FAFSA® information to a maximum of 20 schools. The student must add at least one school to continue.

American Career College

Los Angeles, California (CA)

Federal School Code

015829

+ Select

American Career College

Ontario, California (CA)

Federal School Code

039713

✓ Selected

American College of Healthcare and Techn

Riverside, California (CA)

Federal School Code

031444

✓ Selected

American Conservatory Theater Foundation

San Francisco, California (CA)

Federal School Code

014545

✓ Selected

American Film Institute

Los Angeles, California (CA)

Federal School Code

G22220

✓ Selected

Search and Select More Schools

< Previous

1

2

3

4

5

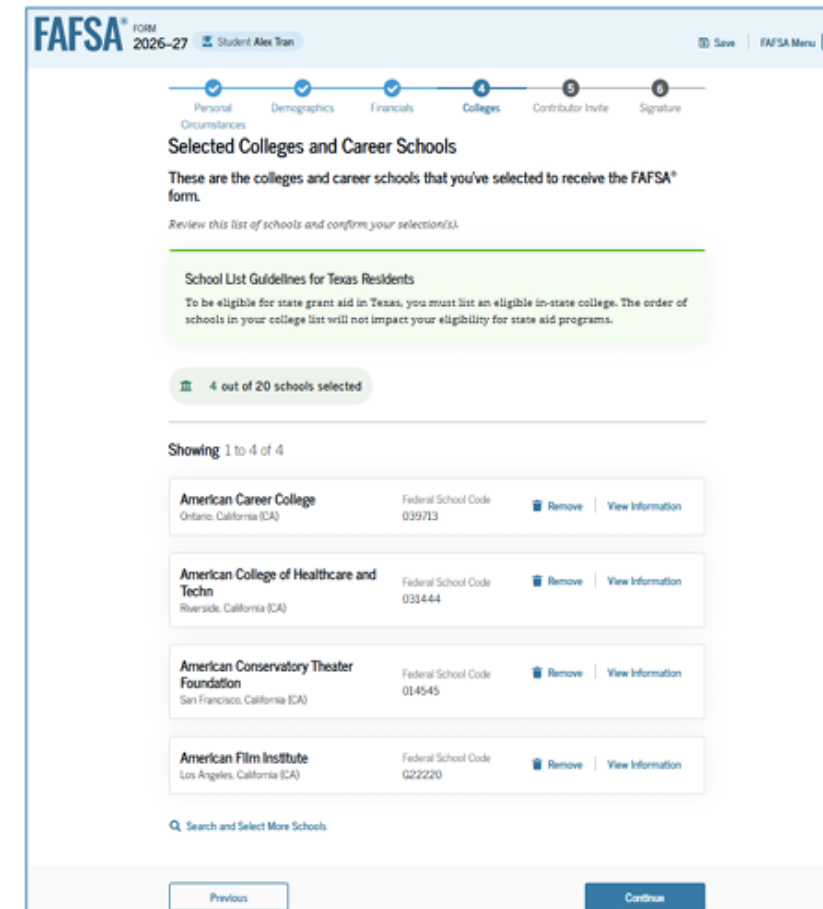
Next >

Previous

Continue

# Step 14 – Colleges | Confirm College List

After the student selects the correct school(s) from the search results, the student can review the school(s) chosen before continuing. If 20 schools have not been selected, the student has the option to search and select more schools, and, in some states, the student has the option to reorder the list of selected schools.



The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2026-27 interface for a student named Alex Tran. The progress bar indicates the 'Colleges' step is active. The section is titled 'Selected Colleges and Career Schools' and includes a note about reviewing the list. A green box provides 'School List Guidelines for Texas Residents'. Below this, a summary shows '4 out of 20 schools selected'. A list of four schools is displayed, each with its name, location, federal school code, and options to remove or view information.

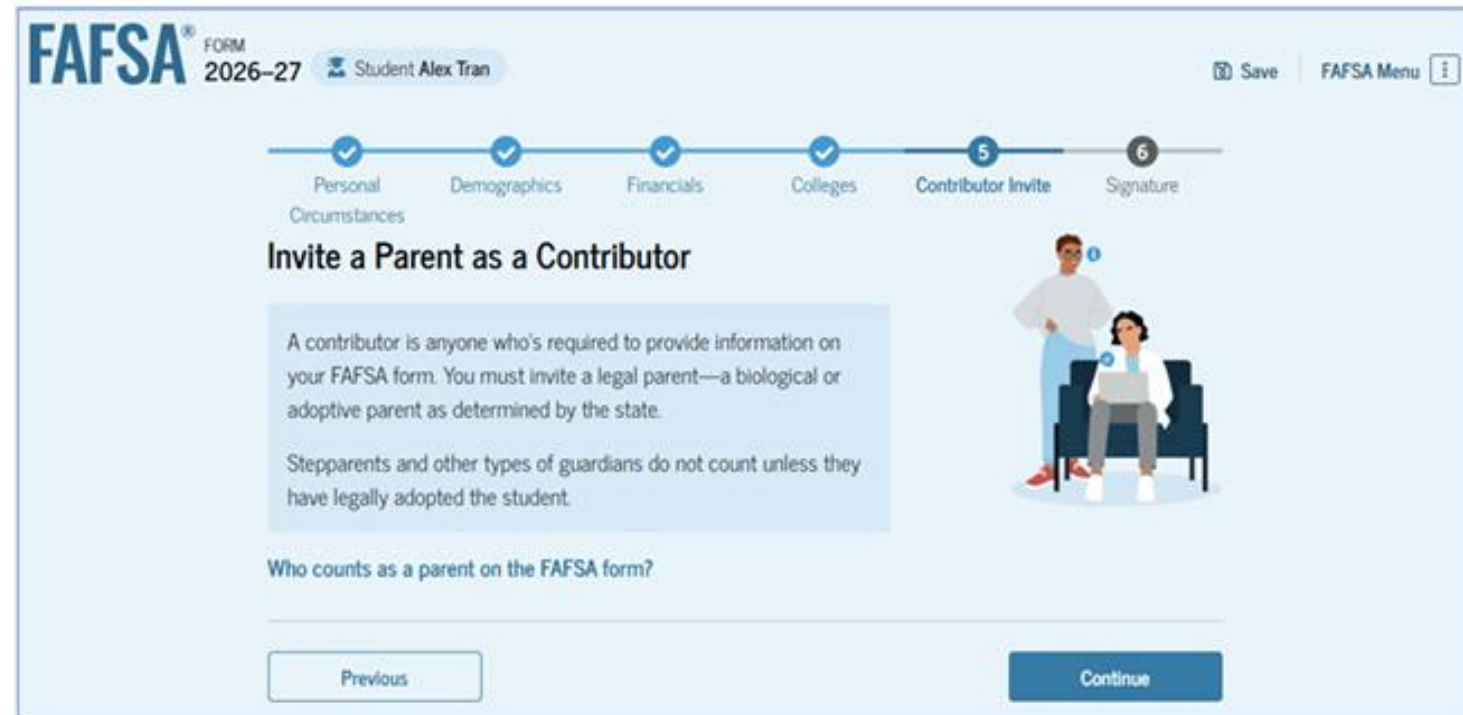
| School Name                              | Location                       | Federal School Code | Remove                 | View Information                 |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| American Career College                  | Ontario, California (CA)       | 039713              | <a href="#">Remove</a> | <a href="#">View Information</a> |
| American College of Healthcare and Techn | Riverside, California (CA)     | 031444              | <a href="#">Remove</a> | <a href="#">View Information</a> |
| American Conservatory Theater Foundation | San Francisco, California (CA) | 014545              | <a href="#">Remove</a> | <a href="#">View Information</a> |
| American Film Institute                  | Los Angeles, California (CA)   | 022220              | <a href="#">Remove</a> | <a href="#">View Information</a> |

Search and Select More Schools

Previous Continue

# Step 15 – Personal Circumstances | Invite Parents to Form (Intro)

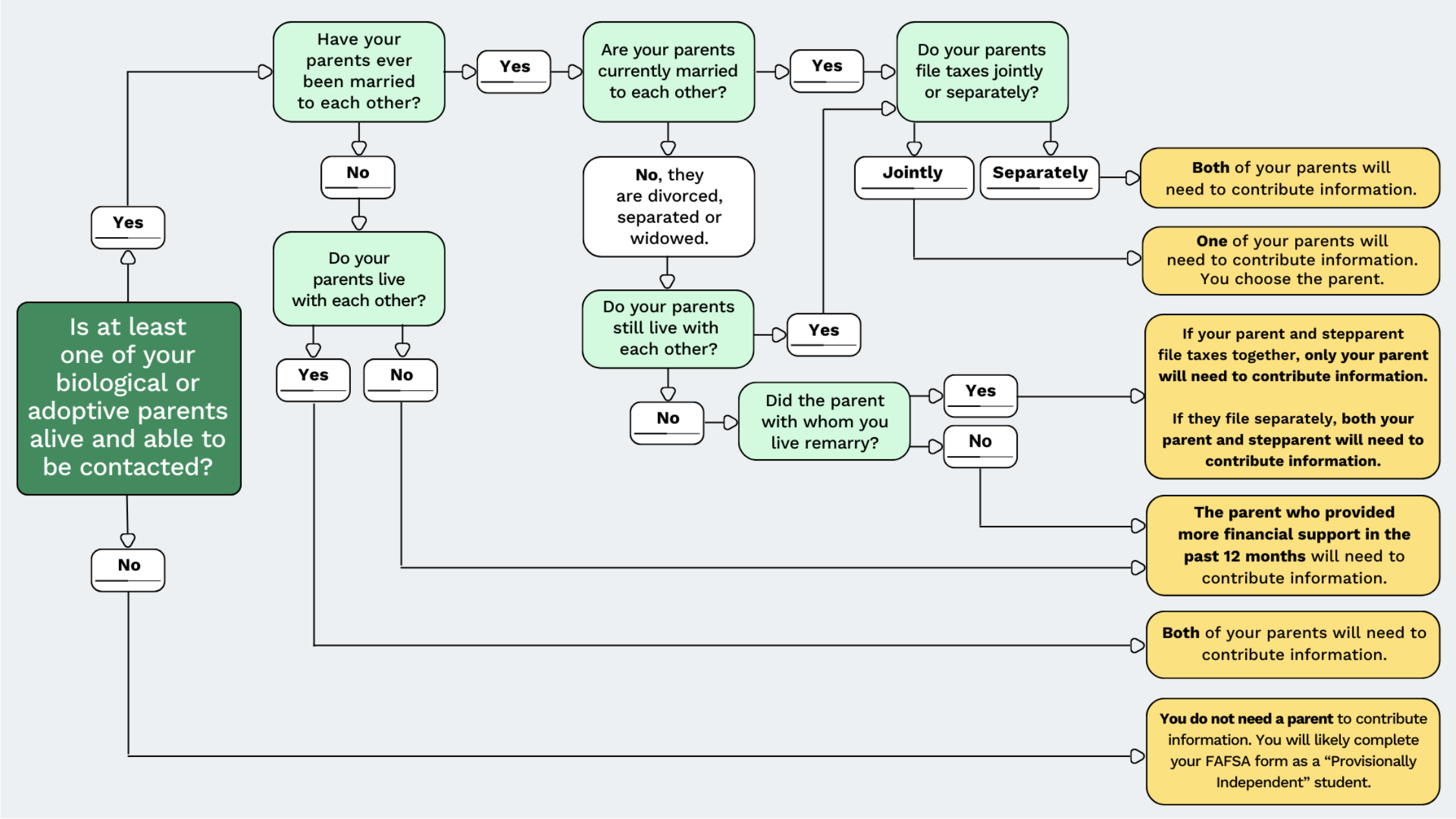
This is the first page in the "Invite a Parent as a Contributor" section, which is the last student section to require information. It provides an overview of the section.



The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2026-27 interface for Student Alex Tran. At the top, a progress bar indicates the following steps: Personal Circumstances (checked), Demographics (checked), Financials (checked), Colleges (checked), Contributor Invite (active, step 5), and Signature (step 6). The main heading is "Invite a Parent as a Contributor". Below this, a text box explains: "A contributor is anyone who's required to provide information on your FAFSA form. You must invite a legal parent—a biological or adoptive parent as determined by the state. Stepparents and other types of guardians do not count unless they have legally adopted the student." To the right of the text is an illustration of a man and a woman sitting on a couch, with the man holding a laptop. Below the text, a question asks "Who counts as a parent on the FAFSA form?". At the bottom, there are "Previous" and "Continue" buttons. The top right corner includes a "Save" button and a "FAFSA Menu" icon.

**Please Note** – Use the next slide to help you determine which parent(s) you need should invite to contribute to your FAFSA form.

# Who are your “Parents” and who needs to contribute information?



# Step 15 – Personal Circumstances | Invite Parents to Form (1 of 2)

The student is asked to enter their parent's email address to invite the parent to the FAFSA® form. After entering the email address, the student selects "Send Invite." A pop-up window appears, and the student confirms their parent's email address by selecting "Send Invite."

FAFSA® FORM 2026-27 Student Alex Tran Save FAFSA Menu

Personal Circumstances Demographics Financials Colleges Contributor Invite Signature

### Invite Your Parent to This FAFSA® Form

To determine your federal student aid eligibility, we need more information on your household financial situation. You'll need to invite a contributor to provide this information.

As a dependent student, you need to invite a legal parent as a contributor. You only need to invite one parent.

Who counts as a parent on the FAFSA form?

Parent

Invite a Parent Contributor

Email

599887939test@testcod.edu

Send Invite

FAFSA® FORM 2026-27 Student Alex Tran Save FAFSA Menu

Personal Circumstances Demographics Financials Colleges Contributor Invite Signature

### Send Invite to 599887939test@testcod.edu?

We'll send an invitation link and an access code to this email address.

Go Back Send Invite

# Step 15 – Personal Circumstances | Invite Parents to Form (2 of 2)

This page confirms the student's parent will receive an email inviting them to the student's FAFSA® form. The parent can access the form by accepting the invitation in the email. On this page, the student is also provided an invitation link and invitation code that can be shared directly with the parent.

FAFSA® FORM 2026-27 Student Alex Tran Save FAFSA Menu

Personal Circumstances Demographics Financials Colleges Contributor Invite Signature

### Parent Contributor

Once your parent accepts the invitation, they can complete the parent section of this FAFSA form.

*They may be asked to invite their spouse as a contributor too. You can check the status of contributor invitations from the "My Activity" page.*

Parent

599887939test@testcod.edu

Invite Sent

Other Ways to Send the Invite ^

Copy and Send the Invite Link ⓘ

[www.fafsa.gov/invite/7NDNUKA](http://www.fafsa.gov/invite/7NDNUKA) Copy Link

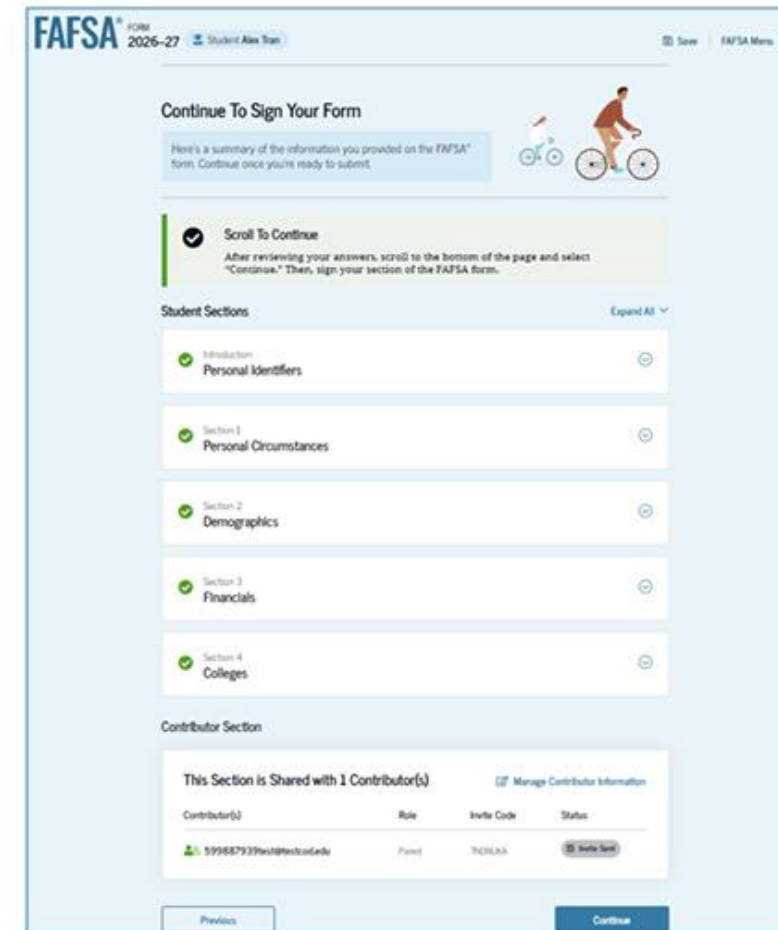
You can also have them go to [www.fafsa.gov/invite](http://www.fafsa.gov/invite) and enter code:

7NDNUKA

Cancel Invite

# Step 16 – Student Review Page

The review page displays the responses that the student has provided in the FAFSA® form. The student can view all responses by selecting "Expand All" or expand each section individually. To edit a response, the student can select the question's hyperlink to be taken to the corresponding page.



The screenshot shows the FAFSA Student Review Page for the 2026-27 form year. The page is titled "Continue To Sign Your Form" and includes a summary of the information provided. A "Scroll To Continue" instruction is present, advising the student to scroll to the bottom and select "Continue." The page lists the following sections:

- Introduction: Personal Identifiers
- Section 1: Personal Circumstances
- Section 2: Demographics
- Section 3: Financials
- Section 4: Colleges

Below these sections is the "Contributor Section," which indicates that the section is shared with 1 contributor(s). A table lists the contributor information:

| Contributor(s)       | Role   | Invite Code | Status      |
|----------------------|--------|-------------|-------------|
| 599887933@hawaii.edu | Parent | 742944A     | Invite Sent |

At the bottom of the page, there are "Previous" and "Continue" buttons.

# Step 16 – Student Signature (1 of 2)

On this page, the student reviews the terms and conditions of the FAFSA® form and what they'll agree to when the student signs the form.

The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2026-27 Student Signature page for Student Alex Tran. The page has a blue header with the FAFSA logo, the text 'FORM 2026-27', the student's name 'Student Alex Tran', and buttons for 'Save' and 'FAFSA Menu'. A progress bar at the top shows six steps: Personal Circumstances, Demographics, Financials, Colleges, Contributor Invite, and Signature (the current step, marked with a '6'). The main content area is titled 'Sign and Complete Your Section' with a help icon. It contains a green-bordered box with a 'Summary' section. The summary text states: 'This page confirms that you understand the terms and conditions of the FAFSA® form and filled out the form accurately to the best of your ability. The FAFSA form is a legal document you will electronically sign with your StudentAid.gov account username and password (FSA ID). Because your FSA ID is associated with your personal information, do not share it with anyone.' Below this, a paragraph states: 'By signing this application electronically using your FSA ID, YOU, THE STUDENT, certify that you'. This is followed by a bulleted list of five items: 'will use federal and/or state student aid only to pay the cost of attending an institution of higher education,', 'are not in default on a federal student loan or have made satisfactory arrangements to repay it,', 'do not owe money back on a federal student grant or have made satisfactory arrangements to repay it,', 'will notify your school if you default on a federal student loan, and', and 'will not receive a Federal Pell Grant from more than one school for the same period of time.' At the bottom, another paragraph states: 'By signing this application electronically using your StudentAid.gov account username and password, you certify that all of the information you provided is true and complete to the best of your knowledge and you agree, if asked, to provide'.

FAFSA® FORM 2026-27 Student Alex Tran Save FAFSA Menu

Personal Circumstances Demographics Financials Colleges Contributor Invite **6** Signature

**Sign and Complete Your Section** ⓘ

**Summary**

This page confirms that you understand the terms and conditions of the FAFSA® form and filled out the form accurately to the best of your ability.

The FAFSA form is a legal document you will electronically sign with your StudentAid.gov account username and password (FSA ID). Because your FSA ID is associated with your personal information, do not share it with anyone.

By signing this application electronically using your FSA ID, YOU, THE STUDENT, certify that you

- will use federal and/or state student aid only to pay the cost of attending an institution of higher education,
- are not in default on a federal student loan or have made satisfactory arrangements to repay it,
- do not owe money back on a federal student grant or have made satisfactory arrangements to repay it,
- will notify your school if you default on a federal student loan, and
- will not receive a Federal Pell Grant from more than one school for the same period of time.

By signing this application electronically using your StudentAid.gov account username and password, you certify that all of the information you provided is true and complete to the best of your knowledge and you agree, if asked, to provide

# Step 16 – Student Signature (2 of 2)

This is a continuation of the student signature page. After agreeing to the terms and conditions of the FAFSA® form and digitally signing, the student is able to submit their sections of the FAFSA form. Since parent information has not been provided, the FAFSA form is not considered complete and can't be processed yet.

By signing this application electronically using your StudentAid.gov account username and password, you certify that all of the information you provided is true and complete to the best of your knowledge and you agree, if asked, to provide

- information that will verify the accuracy of your completed form, and
- U.S. or foreign income tax forms that you filed or are required to file.

You also certify that you understand that the secretary of education has the authority to verify information reported on your application.

If you sign this application or any document related to the federal student aid programs electronically using a username and password, and/or any other credential, you certify that you are the person identified by the username and password, and/or any other credential and have not disclosed that username and password, and/or any other credential to anyone else. If you purposefully give false or misleading information, including applying as an independent student without meeting the unusual circumstances required to qualify for such a status, you may be subject to criminal penalties under 20 U.S.C. 1097, which may include a fine up to \$20,000, imprisonment, or both.

Additionally, by signing this application electronically using your FSA ID, you authorize the U.S. Department of Education to disclose all information provided on this application, as required under Section 483(a)(2)(D)(i) of the *Higher Education Act of 1965*, as amended, to the institutions you have identified herein, state higher education agencies (in your state of residence and the states in which the institutions identified herein are located), and designated scholarship organizations to assist with the application, award, and administration of federal, state, or institutional financial aid programs and designated scholarship programs. Notwithstanding this authorization, the name of an institution that you select to authorize such disclosure shall not be shared with any other institution.

Sign Your FAFSA® Form

☒ I, Alex Tran, agree to the terms outlined above.

Previous Sign

# Step 17 – Student Section Complete )1 of 2)

Upon digitally signing the student section, the student is presented with the "Pending Submission" page. The student is reminded that their FAFSA® form is not completed and can't be submitted until the parent completes the contributor section of the form and signs it. This page also displays next steps the student can take, including tracking and managing their form.

FAFSA® FORM 2026-27 Student Alex Tran Save FAFSA Menu

Student Section 1 Parent Section 2

### Pending Submission

Check With Your Contributor

Parent Contributors

**Requirements for Dependent Students**  
Your FAFSA® form can't be submitted until your contributor(s) fill out their section of the form and sign it. The last contributor to sign will be able to submit the form for processing.

| Contributor(s)           | Role   | Invite Code | Status      |
|--------------------------|--------|-------------|-------------|
| 599887939test@testcodedu | Parent | 7NDNUKA     | Invite Sent |

Manage Invitations

**Track and Manage Your FAFSA® Form and Contributors**  
Your application has been added to the "My Activity" page in your StudentAid.gov account. Visit this page to keep track of your FAFSA status; review, edit, or delete information on your form; and monitor the status of your contributor(s).

View Status

# Step 17 – Student Section Complete

This is a continuation of the student section complete page. This page displays information for the student about next steps, including checking their email and a reminder that their FAFSA® form is not completed and can't be submitted until the parent completes the contributor section of the form and signs it. Next, in this scenario, the invited parent will enter the FAFSA form and complete the parent section.

### Here's What You Can Do Next

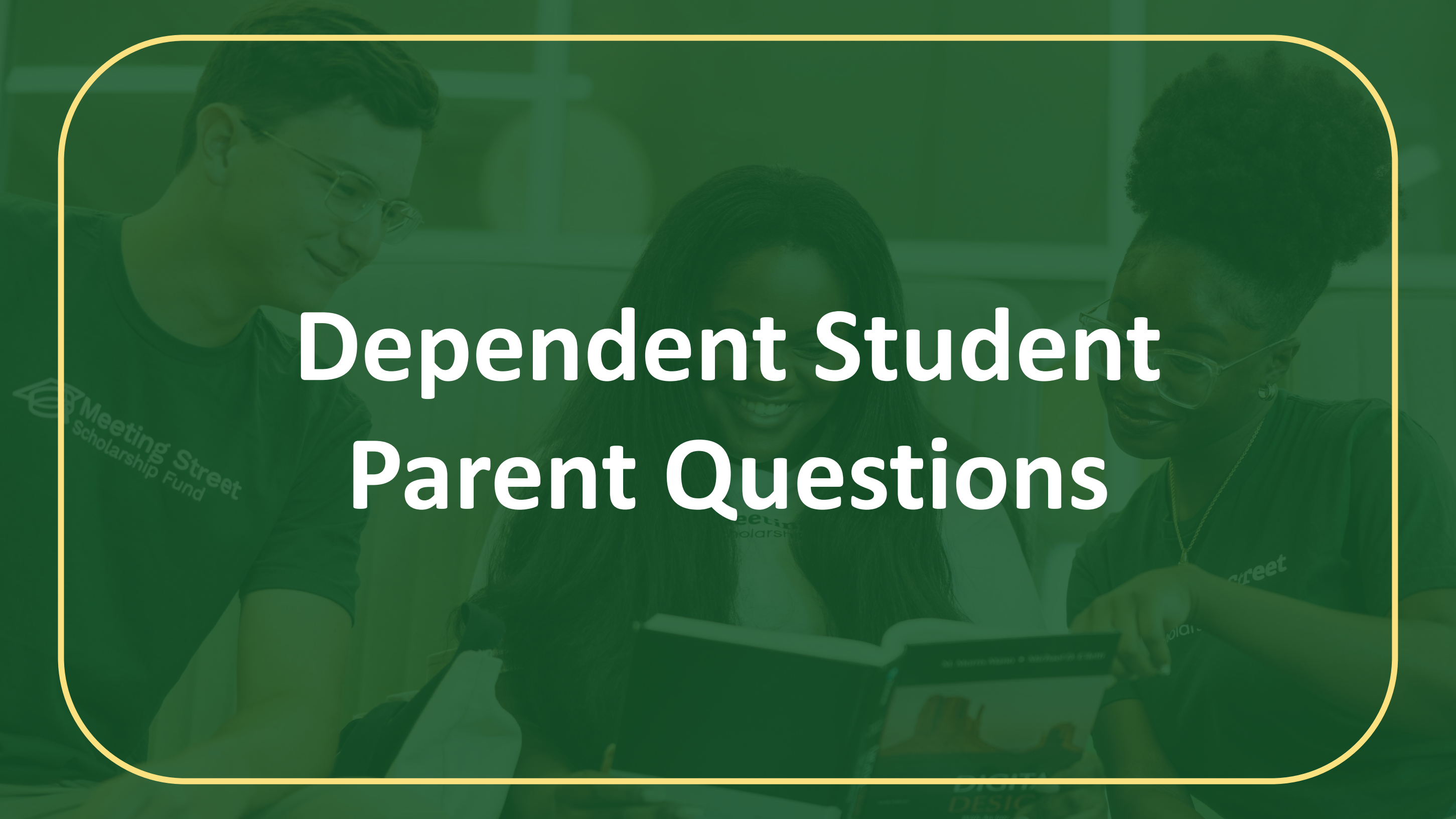
-  **Check Your Email**  
You'll receive an email version of this page at the following email address:  
599887938test@testcod.edu.
-  **Your FAFSA® Form Still Needs Contributor Information**  
The contributor(s) you selected will receive an email invitation to join your form.

#### Things You Should Know

 **View Your FAFSA® Submission Summary**  
Once your application is complete and submitted, you can view your FAFSA Submission Summary, a summary of the information you provided on your FAFSA form. You'll be able to access the FAFSA Submission Summary one to three days after you submit your application by logging back in with your account username and password (FSA ID).

 **Questions About The FAFSA® Process?**  
Visit the "FAFSA Help" page for more information.  
[Get Help](#)

**Please Note** – Students **do** have the option to provide Parent Information Manually. If they choose this path, students will need access to the same 2024 tax documentation (filed in Spring 2025) that would have been required of their parents. Moreover, their parent(s) still need an FSA ID to access the FAFSA form and provide consent and a signature, both of which are required for all contributors. For this reason, we recommend that parents complete their portion of the form with the assistance of their student and this guide.

A background image showing three students (two men and one woman) looking at a book together. They are all wearing dark t-shirts with 'Meeting Street Scholarship Fund' printed on them. The image is overlaid with a dark green semi-transparent filter and a yellow rounded rectangular border.

# Dependent Student Parent Questions

# Before You Start

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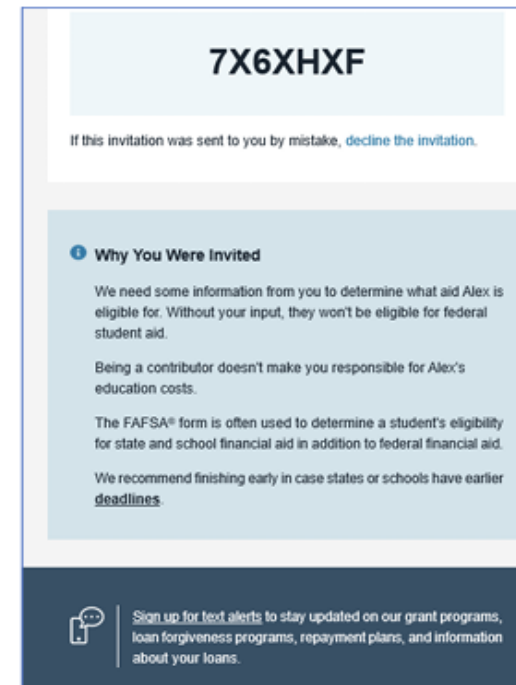
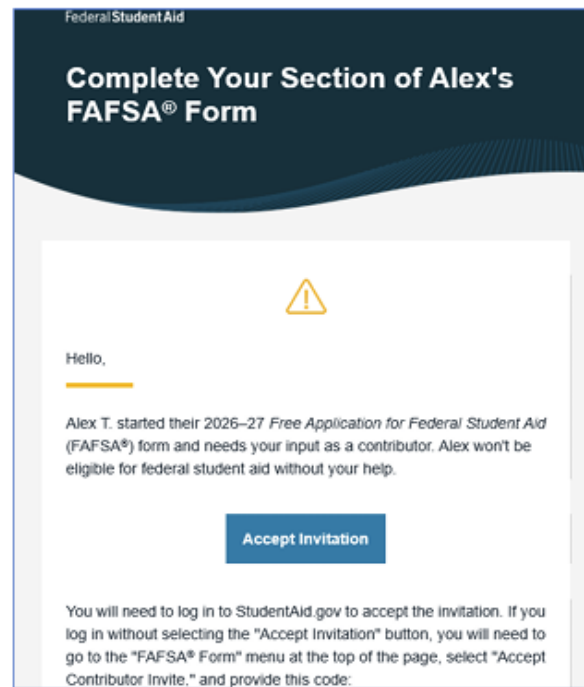
To complete the FAFSA form, you (parent) will need:

- ☒ Your FSA ID
- ☒ Your 2024 Tax Return paperwork, if you filed taxes in Spring 2025
- ☒ Any other financial documentation related to your income and assets in 2024

**Please Note** – The updated FAFSA form and process are even more dependent on up-to-date and accurate tax records of students and parents. If you are a parent who did not file taxes for 2024, we strongly recommend meeting with a tax professional as soon as possible to clarify your situation for that tax year and your next steps.

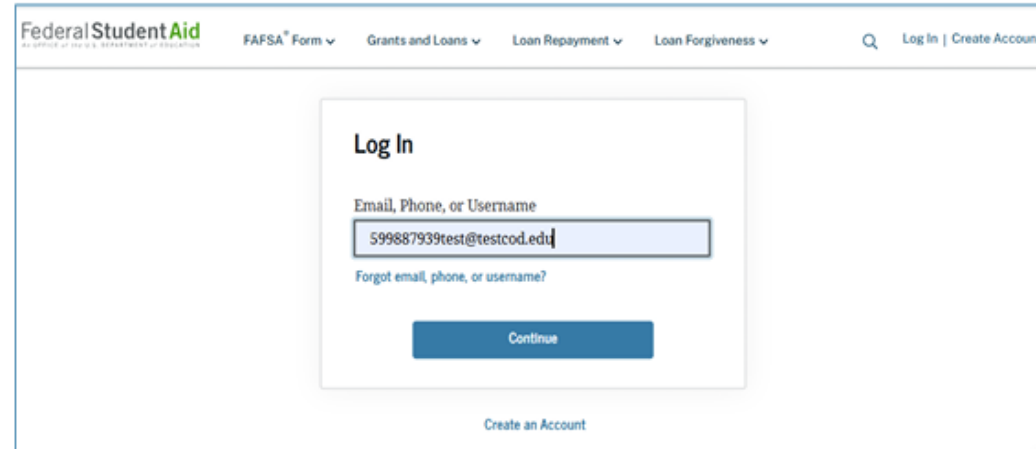
# Step 1 – Parent Receives Invitation Email

This is NOT a view within StudentAid.gov or the FAFSA® form. This view demonstrates a parent opening the FAFSA invitation from their email. The parent selects "Accept Invitation" and is taken to StudentAid.gov.

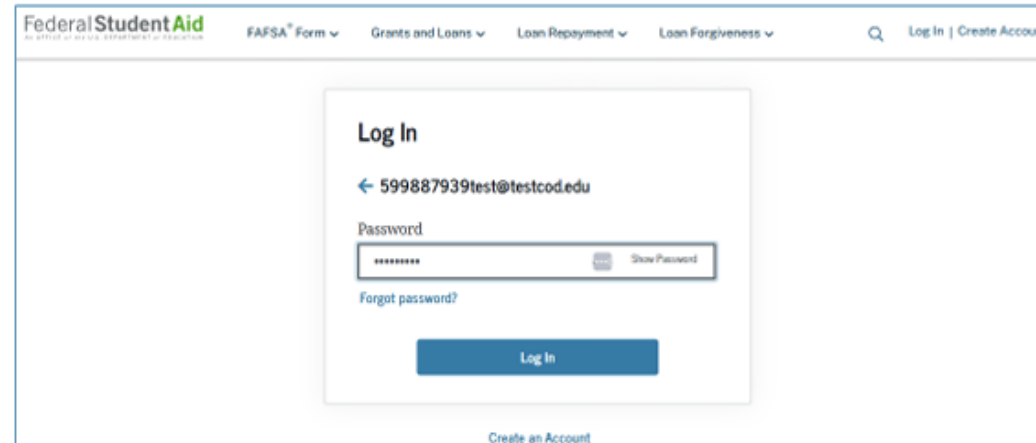


# Step 2 – Parent Login

The parent is taken from their email to the "Log In" page to enter their credentials. To access the FAFSA® form, all users are required to have a StudentAid.gov account username and password. If the parent doesn't have a username and password, they can select "Create an Account."



This screenshot shows the "Log In" section of the Federal Student Aid website. The header includes the "Federal Student Aid" logo and navigation links for "FAFSA® Form", "Grants and Loans", "Loan Repayment", and "Loan Forgiveness". A search icon and "Log In | Create Account" link are in the top right. The main content area features a "Log In" heading, a text input field labeled "Email, Phone, or Username" containing the text "599887939test@testcod.edu", a link for "Forgot email, phone, or username?", a blue "Continue" button, and a "Create an Account" link at the bottom.



This screenshot shows the "Log In" section of the Federal Student Aid website, continuing from the previous step. The header is identical. The main content area shows the "Log In" heading, a back arrow followed by the email "599887939test@testcod.edu", a text input field labeled "Password" with masked characters and a "Show Password" toggle, a link for "Forgot password?", a blue "Log In" button, and a "Create an Account" link at the bottom.

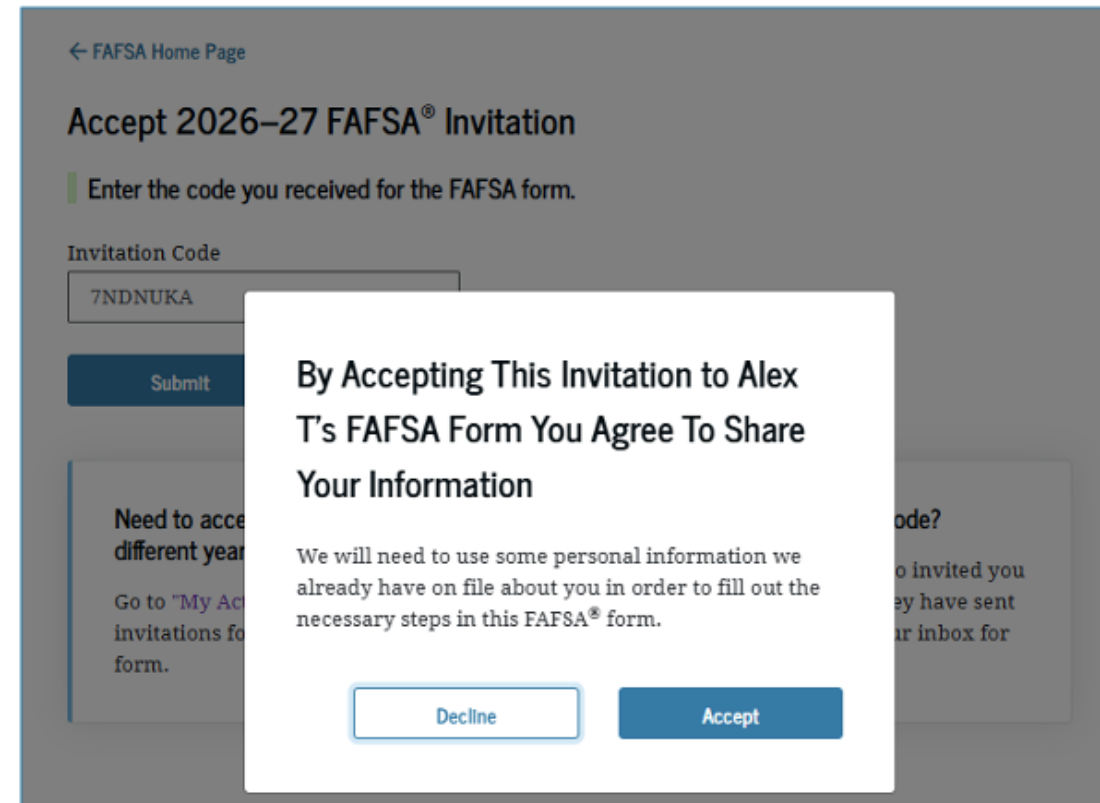
# Step 3 – Parent Accepts Invitation (1 of 2)

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After logging in, the parent is taken to the "Accept 2026–27 FAFSA® Invitation" page. The invitation code from the parent's email automatically fills in the text box if the parent used the link from the email.

# Step 3 – Parent Accepts Invitation (1 of 2)

When the parent selects "Submit," a pop-up window appears, confirming the student's name and reminding the parent that their personal information is needed to fill out the student's FAFSA® form. The parent selects "Accept" to agree to sharing their information and enters the FAFSA form.



← FAFSA Home Page

### Accept 2026-27 FAFSA® Invitation

Enter the code you received for the FAFSA form.

Invitation Code  
7NDNUKA

Submit

Need to accept for a different year?  
Go to "My Account" to manage your invitations for the FAFSA form.

By Accepting This Invitation to Alex T's FAFSA Form You Agree To Share Your Information

We will need to use some personal information we already have on file about you in order to fill out the necessary steps in this FAFSA® form.

Decline Accept

code?  
o invited you  
ey have sent  
ur inbox for

# Step 4 – Parent Onboarding (1 of 4)

When the parent enters a 2026–27 FAFSA® form for the first time, they are taken through the FAFSA onboarding process. The first onboarding page provides an introduction of the FAFSA form and an accompanying video.



The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2026-27 Parent Onboarding page. At the top, it says "FAFSA® FORM 2026-27" and "Parent of Alex Tran". Below this is a blue banner that reads "Understanding the FAFSA® Form". Underneath the banner, it says "1 of 4" and "What is the FAFSA® form?". The main content area explains that the FAFSA form is used to apply for grants, scholarships, work-study funds, and loans for college, career school, or graduate school. It also lists the information or documents needed to fill out the form: Tax returns, Records of child support received, Current balances of cash, savings, and checking accounts, and Net worth of investments, businesses, and farms. At the bottom, there is a video player showing a video titled "What is FAFSA® and why is it important?". The video player has a "Watch on YouTube" button. At the very bottom of the page, there are "Previous" and "Continue" buttons.

# Step 4 – Parent Onboarding (2 of 4)

The second FAFSA® onboarding page provides information and a video about contributors that may be required to participate on the student's FAFSA form. This page also provides information on how the parent will invite contributors to the FAFSA form.

FAFSA® FORM 2026-27 Parent of Alex Tran

Understanding the FAFSA® Form

2 of 4

Contributors to the FAFSA® Form

Who Is a Contributor on the FAFSA® Form?

Who is a contributor on the FAFSA® form?

Watch on YouTube

**Parents or Spouses**

Answers on the FAFSA form will determine if you and your spouse are identified as contributors. As a contributor, you'll complete your own sections of the form and need to provide your personal and financial information. Being a contributor doesn't make you financially responsible for the student's education.

**How To Invite**

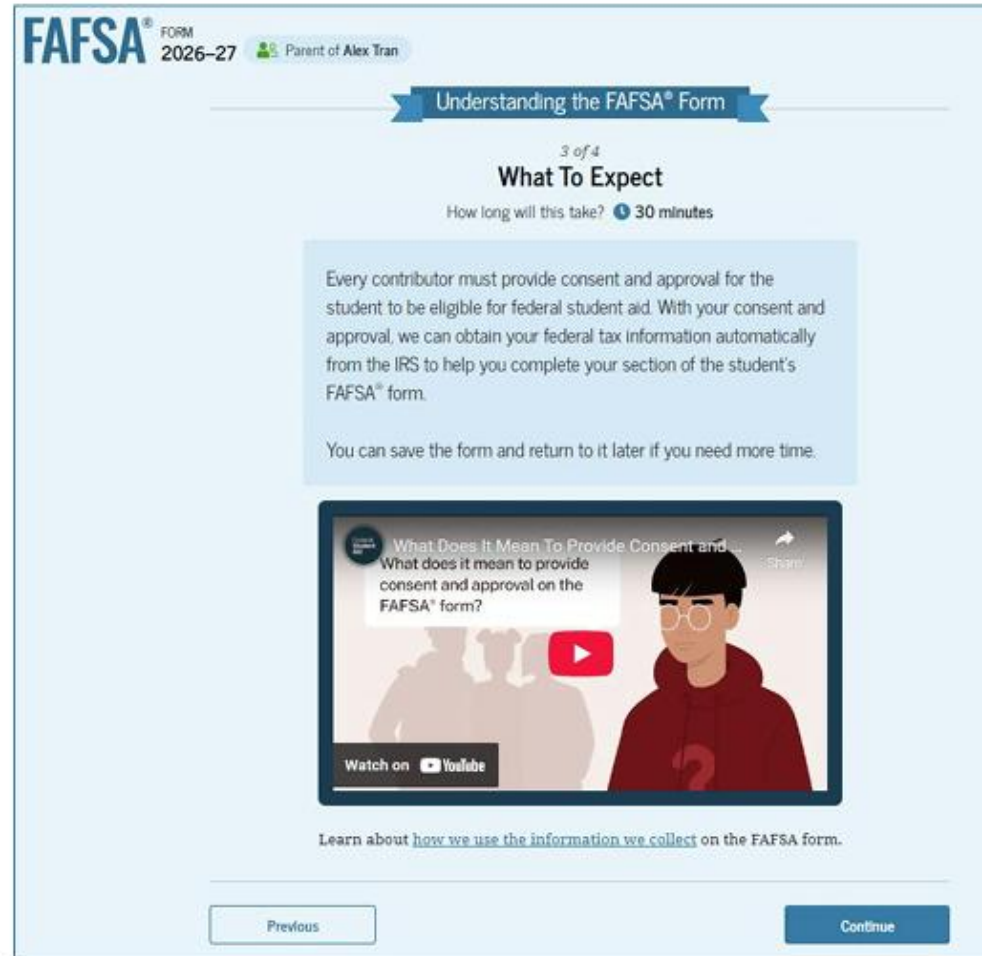
Contributors will need to log in with their own StudentAid.gov account username and password to provide their information. To invite the student to a FAFSA form, you'll need to provide their name, date of birth, Social Security number, and email address. To invite your spouse to a FAFSA form, you'll need to provide their email address.

Which parent is considered a contributor? ▼

Previous Continue

# Step 4 – Parent Onboarding (3 of 4)

The third FAFSA® onboarding page provides information about what the parent can expect when completing the student's FAFSA form. This includes information about consent and approval, a time estimate to complete the form, and a note that the parent can save the form and return later if needed, along with an accompanying video.



The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2026-27 Parent Onboarding page for a parent of Alex Tran. The page is titled "Understanding the FAFSA® Form" and is the 3rd of 4 steps. The section is "What To Expect" with a time estimate of 30 minutes. The text explains that every contributor must provide consent and approval for the student to be eligible for federal student aid, and that the parent's consent and approval will be used to obtain federal tax information from the IRS. It also notes that the form can be saved and returned to later. A video player is embedded, showing a person with a question mark, with a "Watch on YouTube" button. At the bottom, there are "Previous" and "Continue" buttons.

FAFSA® FORM 2026-27 Parent of Alex Tran

Understanding the FAFSA® Form

3 of 4

**What To Expect**

How long will this take? 30 minutes

Every contributor must provide consent and approval for the student to be eligible for federal student aid. With your consent and approval, we can obtain your federal tax information automatically from the IRS to help you complete your section of the student's FAFSA® form.

You can save the form and return to it later if you need more time.

What Does It Mean To Provide Consent and Approval on the FAFSA® form?

Watch on YouTube

Learn about [how we use the information we collect](#) on the FAFSA form.

Previous Continue

# Step 4 – Parent Onboarding (4 of 4)

The last onboarding page provides information and a video about what to expect once the FAFSA® form is completed, submitted, and processed. On this page, the parent selects "Start FAFSA Form" to begin the parent section.

The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2026-27 Parent Onboarding page, Step 4 of 4. The header includes the FAFSA logo, the text "FORM 2026-27", and the user's name "Parent of Alex Tran". The main heading is "Understanding the FAFSA® Form" with a sub-heading "4 of 4 After Submitting the FAFSA® form". A light blue box contains the text: "Once the student's FAFSA form is submitted, the student will need to check on its status and make corrections, if required." Below this is a video player titled "What Happens After Submitting Your FAFSA..." with a "Share" button and a "Watch on YouTube" button. To the right of the video is a graphic of a FAFSA form with a checkmark. Below the video and graphic are three bullet points: "→ The student's form will be processed in one to three days.", "→ The student will be able to view their FAFSA Submission Summary. It will include their Student Aid Index (SAI), an index number used to determine federal student aid eligibility.", and "→ Schools will use the student's SAI to create their financial aid offer that explains the types and amounts of aid they are offering to the student. Most schools only send an aid offer when they accept a student for admission." At the bottom are two buttons: "Previous" and "Start FAFSA Form".

# Step 5 – Verify FSA Account Information

This is the first page within the parent section. The parent can verify that the personal information is correct. To update any of the personal information, the parent must access their account settings on StudentAid.gov.

FAFSA<sup>®</sup> FORM 2026–27  Parent of Alex Tran Save FAFSA Menu

Parent Identity Information

Review the information below and verify that it's correct before moving forward.

Name

Alcina Tran

Date of Birth

03/14/2004

Social Security Number

\*\*\*-\*\*-7939

Email Address

599887939test@testcod.edu

Mobile Phone Number

To update this information for all U.S. Department of Education communications, go to [Account Settings](#).

Permanent Mailing Address

Include apartment number.

200 Ave

City

Austin

State

TX

Zip Code

22828

Country 

United States (US)

Continue

This is a continuation of the first page within the parent section. The parent can verify their mailing address on this part of the page. To update this information, the parent must access their account settings on StudentAid.gov.

# Step 6 – Provide Consent to Disclose Federal Tax Information

FAFSA® FORM 2026-27 Parent of Alex Tan Save FAFSA Menu

**Provide Consent and Approval or the Student Won't Be Eligible for Federal Student Aid**

**Summary**

Your consent and approval are needed to retrieve and disclose federal tax information. With your consent and approval, we can obtain tax return information automatically from the IRS to help you complete your section of the student's FAFSA® form. If you don't provide consent and approval, the student will not be eligible for federal student aid, including grants and loans. You must provide consent and approval even if you didn't file a U.S. federal tax return or any tax return.

- Get your 2024 tax return information for the 2026-27 FAFSA form.
- Federal tax information is used to determine the student's eligibility for federal student aid.
- Tax return information is required to complete the FAFSA form.

By accepting below, I consent to the disclosure of information about me, and affirmatively approve of

- the receipt and use of my federal tax information, and
- the redisclosure of my federal tax information by the U.S. Department of Education (ED), as described herein.

By accepting below, I consent to and affirmatively approve of, as applicable, the following:

- ED may disclose my Social Security number/Individual Taxpayer Identification Number, last name, date of birth, unique identifier, the tax year for which federal tax information is required, and the date and timestamp of my approval for the use of my federal tax information in determining eligibility by ED for which approval is provided to the U.S. Department of the Treasury, Internal Revenue Service (IRS). I understand that in response to such a request from ED, the IRS shall then disclose my federal tax information to "authorized persons" (i.e., specifically designated officers and employees of ED and its contractors (as defined in 26 U.S.C. § 6103)(13)(E)) for the purpose of determining eligibility for and the amount of federal student aid under a program authorized under subpart 1 of part A, part C, or part D of Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, for myself or an applicant for federal student aid.

This is a continuation of the consent and approval page. The parent can expand and collapse FAQs about consent and approval. The parent selects "Approve" to provide consent and approval and is taken to the next page.

By accepting below, I consent electronically to the use of my StudentAid.gov account username and password (FSA ID) as my signature and certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America, that the foregoing is true and correct. I understand that any falsification of this statement is punishable under the provisions of 18 U.S.C. § 1001 by a fine, imprisonment of not more than five years, or both, and that the knowing and willful request for or acquisition of records pertaining to an individual under false pretenses is a criminal offense under the Privacy Act of 1974, subject to a fine of not more than \$5,000 fine (5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(3)(C)). By accepting and submitting my part of the FAFSA, my execution (including date and time) of consent and approval will be logged in ED's Person Authentication Service System of Record (18-11-12).

**Frequently Asked Questions**

- Who should provide consent and approval?
- If I'm married and didn't file a joint tax return with my current spouse, does my spouse have to provide consent and approval for you to access their tax information?
- What happens after I provide consent and approval?
- What happens if I decline consent and approval?

Select "Approve" to consent and approve for the use of your federal tax information to determine the student's eligibility for federal student aid. If you select "Decline," the student will not be eligible for federal student aid.

Previous Decline **Approve**

This page informs the parent about consent, approval, and the use of their federal tax information. Once the parent provides consent and approval, their federal tax information is transferred directly from the IRS into the FAFSA® form to help complete the "Parent Finances" section.

**Important Reminder! You must select Approve and provide consent for your student to be eligible for any federal financial aid, including the Federal Pell Grant. There is no way around this requirement.**

# Step 7 – Parent Imports IRS Information

This page imports the parent's federal tax information by directly transferring it from the IRS into the FAFSA® form to help complete the "Parent Finances" section.

The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2026-27 interface for the 'Parent of Alex Tran'. At the top, there's a header with the FAFSA logo, 'FORM 2026-27', and the user's name. To the right are 'Save' and 'FAFSA Menu' buttons. The main content area features an icon of a laptop with a magnifying glass and a dollar sign. Below the icon, the text reads: 'We're securely importing your information. Do not leave this page while your information is being imported into your application.' A blue progress bar is shown with the text 'Loading...' underneath it.

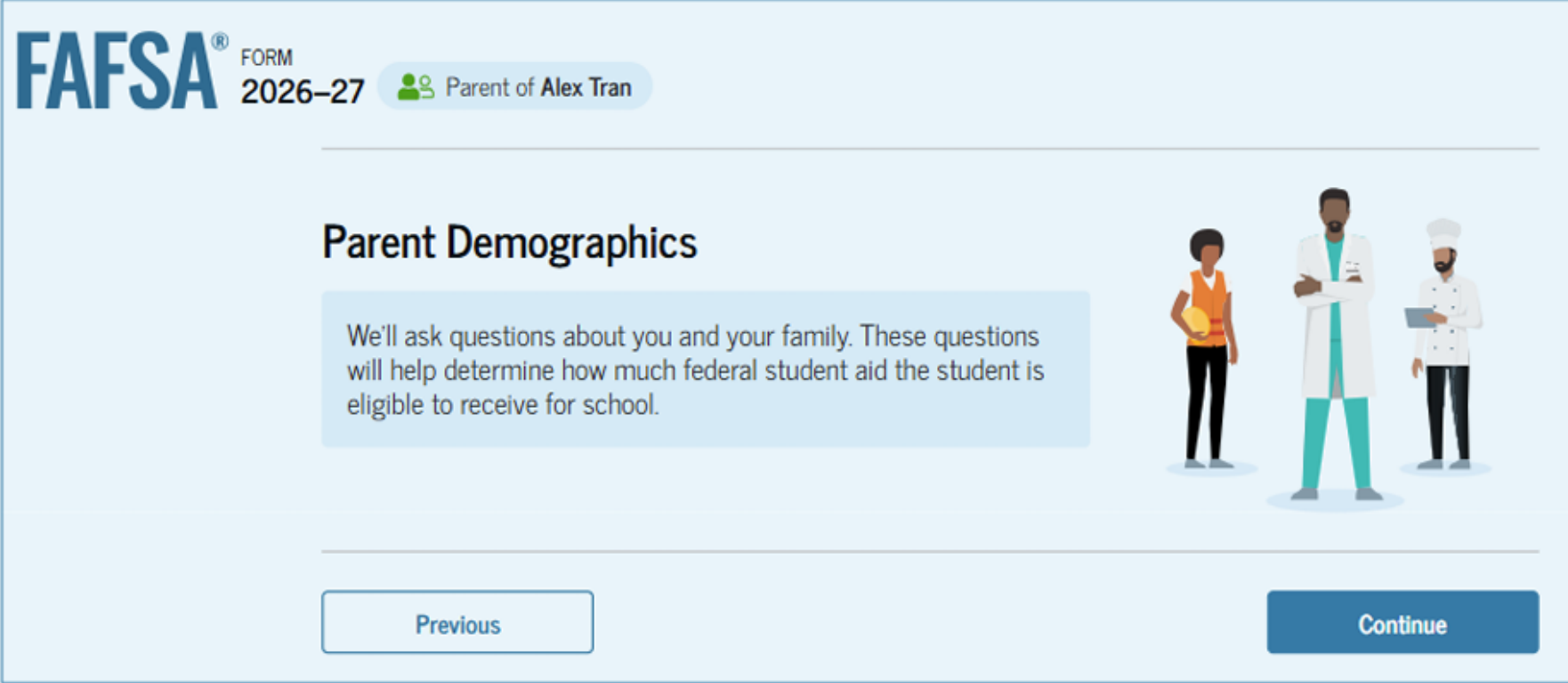
This page displays the results from the IRS import for the parent. For this scenario, the parent is contributing to a new FAFSA® form and there is no federal tax information available from the IRS.

The screenshot shows the same FAFSA 2026-27 interface. The progress bar is now complete. Below the 'We're securely importing your information.' message, there is a yellow error box with a warning icon. The text inside the box says: 'Sorry, data could not be retrieved. Select "Continue" to proceed. We were unable to retrieve your financial information from the IRS, so you'll need to enter it yourself in the Finances section.' At the bottom of the page, there are two buttons: 'Previous' and 'Continue'.

**Please Note** – If you did not file taxes for 2024, you may receive an error message in a light yellow box. You can still proceed with your FAFSA form and enter financial information manually.

# Step 8 – Parent Demographics | Introduction

This is the first page in the "Parent Demographics" section. It provides an overview of the section.



The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2026-27 interface. At the top left is the FAFSA logo with 'FORM 2026-27'. To its right is a user identifier 'Parent of Alex Tran' with a person icon. The main heading is 'Parent Demographics'. Below it, a light blue box contains the text: 'We'll ask questions about you and your family. These questions will help determine how much federal student aid the student is eligible to receive for school.' To the right of this text is an illustration of three people: a woman in an orange vest, a man in a white lab coat, and a chef. At the bottom are two buttons: 'Previous' and 'Continue'.

FAFSA<sup>®</sup> FORM 2026-27 Parent of Alex Tran

## Parent Demographics

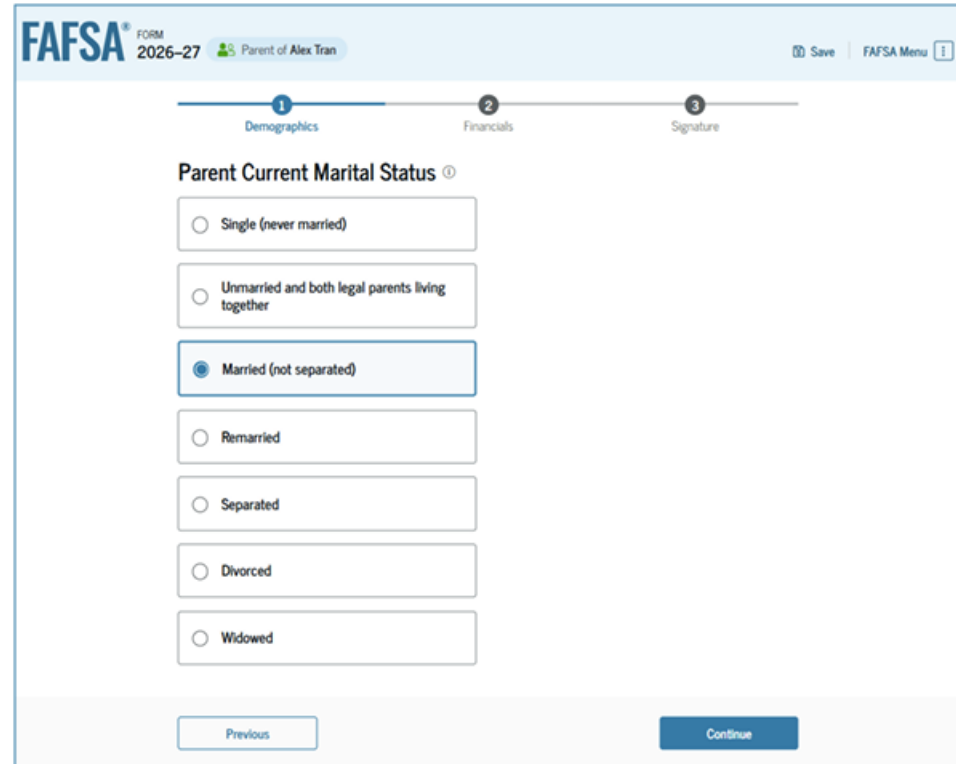
We'll ask questions about you and your family. These questions will help determine how much federal student aid the student is eligible to receive for school.

Previous Continue

# Step 8 – Parent Demographics | Marital Status

The parent is asked about their current marital status. The parent selects the "Married (not separated)" option.

**Please Note** – Your response to this question should match the response that your student gave to a similar question on their form.



The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2026-27 form for the parent of Alex Tran. The form is titled "FAFSA FORM 2026-27 Parent of Alex Tran" and includes a "Save" button and a "FAFSA Menu" link. The form is divided into three sections: 1. Demographics, 2. Financials, and 3. Signature. The "Parent Current Marital Status" question is highlighted, and the "Married (not separated)" option is selected. The other options are: Single (never married), Unmarried and both legal parents living together, Remarried, Separated, Divorced, and Widowed. The "Previous" and "Continue" buttons are at the bottom.

# Step 8 – Parent Demographics | State of Residence

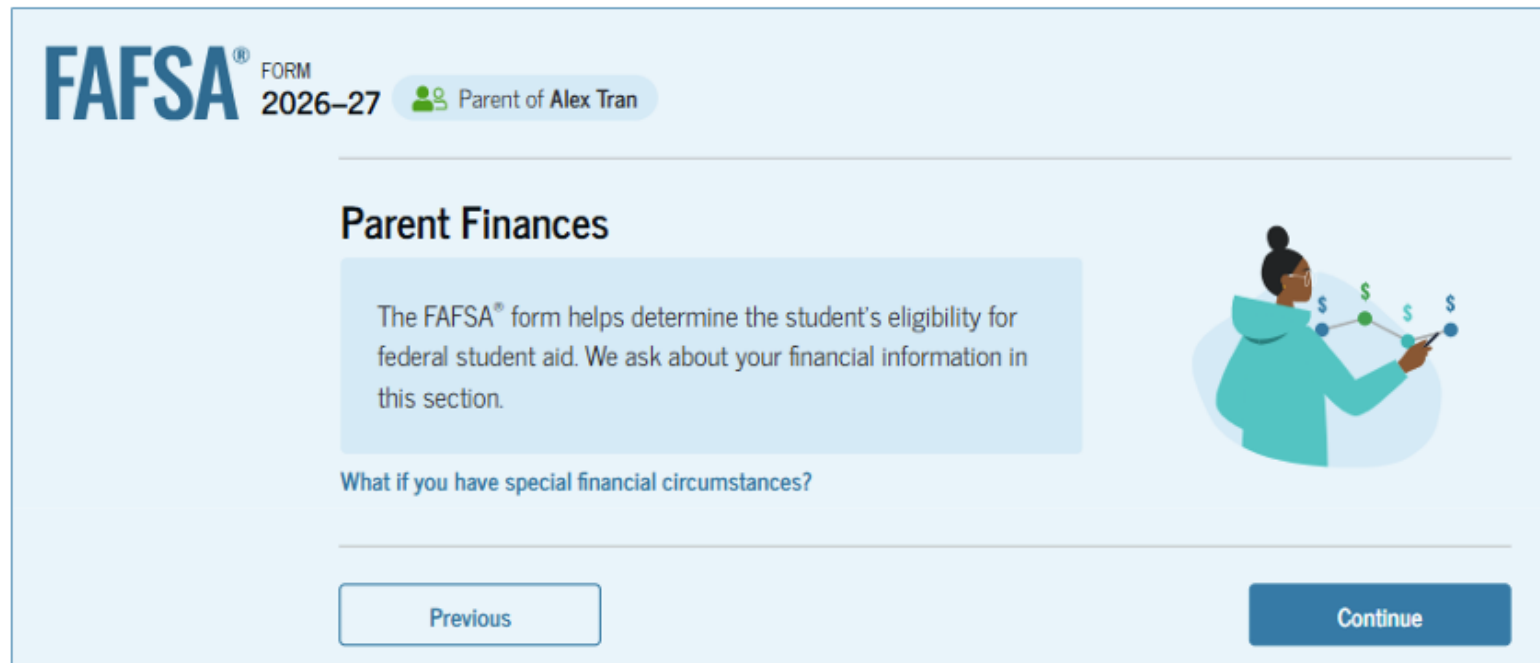
The parent is asked about their state of residence. The parent selects the state from a drop-down box and provides the month and year when the parent became a resident.

**Please Note** – Indicate the month and year in which you first purchased a home or paid rent in the state where you currently live.

The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2026-27 form for the parent of Alex Tran. The form is titled "Parent State of Residence" and includes a progress bar at the top with three steps: 1. Demographics, 2. Financials, and 3. Signature. The current step is 1. The form asks for the parent's state of residence, with a dropdown menu showing "Tennessee (TN)". Below this, it asks for the date the parent became a resident of Tennessee (TN), with fields for the month (01) and year (2006). The form also includes a "Previous" button and a "Continue" button.

# Step 9 – Parent Financials | Introduction

This is the first page within the "Parent Financials" section. It provides an overview of the section. The parent can select the hyperlink to learn about special financial circumstances.



The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2026-27 Parent Financials introduction page. At the top left is the FAFSA logo with "FORM 2026-27" and a user icon labeled "Parent of Alex Tran". The main heading is "Parent Financials". Below it, a light blue box contains the text: "The FAFSA® form helps determine the student's eligibility for federal student aid. We ask about your financial information in this section." To the right of this box is an illustration of a person in a teal hoodie looking at a smartphone with dollar signs floating around. Below the text box is a link: "What if you have special financial circumstances?". At the bottom are two buttons: "Previous" and "Continue".

# Step 9 – Parent Financials | Federal Benefits Received

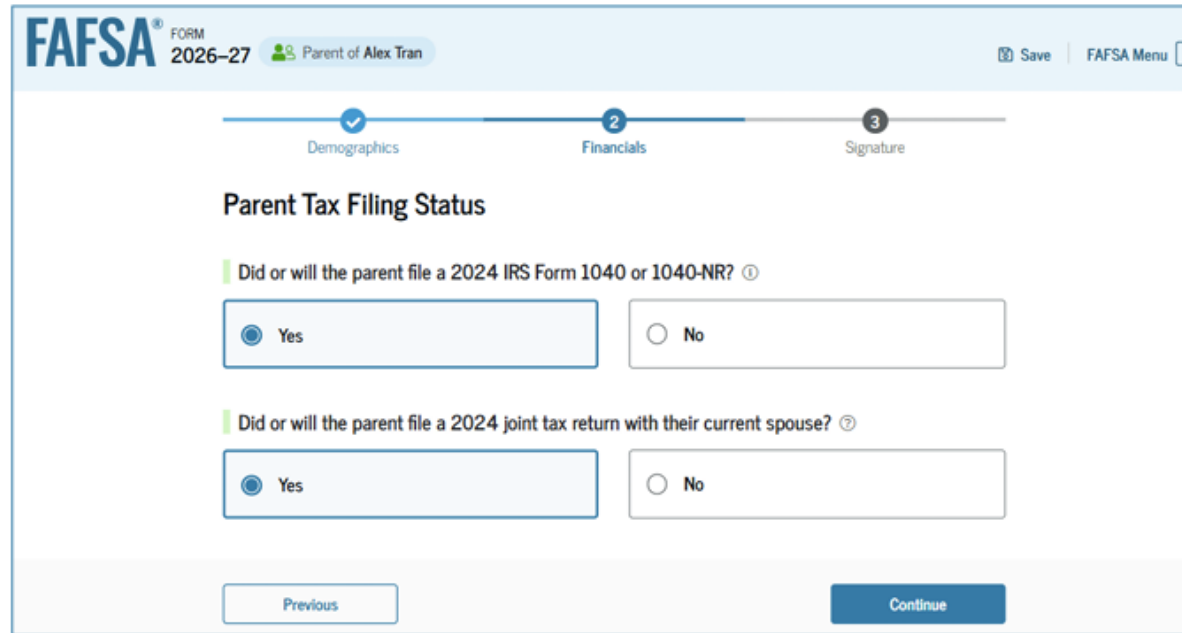
This page asks the parent if the parent or anyone in the parent's family has received federal benefits. The parent selects "None of these apply."

**Please Note** – The answer to this question are **not** considered in when determining eligibility for federal student aid.

The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2026-27 interface for the 'Federal Benefits Received' section. At the top, there's a progress bar with three steps: 'Demographics', 'Financials', and 'Signature'. The 'Financials' step is currently active. Below the progress bar, the title 'Federal Benefits Received' is displayed. A green box contains the text: 'Responses Won't Reduce Federal Student Aid Eligibility. Answering these questions won't reduce the student's eligibility for federal student aid or these programs.' Below this, a question asks: 'At any time during 2024 or 2025, did the parent or anyone in their family receive benefits from any of the following federal programs?'. A note specifies: 'Family includes the parent's spouse, children, and other dependents. Select all that apply or "None of these apply."'. A list of benefits follows, each with an unchecked checkbox: 'Earned Income Credit (EIC)', 'Federal Housing Assistance', 'Free or Reduced Price School Lunch', 'Medicaid', 'Refundable Credit for Coverage Under a Qualified Health Plan (QHP) or Health Insurance Subsidy', 'Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)', 'Supplemental Security Income (SSI)', 'Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)', and 'Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)'. The 'None of these apply.' option at the bottom is selected with a checked checkbox. At the very bottom, there are 'Previous' and 'Continue' buttons.

# Step 9 – Parent Financials | Parent Tax Filing Status

This page asks the parent about their tax filing status. The parent selects "Yes" to "Did or will the parent file a 2024 IRS Form 1040 or 1040-NR?" and "Yes" to "Did or will the parent file a 2024 joint tax return with their current spouse?"



The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2026-27 interface for a parent of Alex Tran. The progress bar indicates three steps: Demographics (completed), Financials (current), and Signature. The "Parent Tax Filing Status" section contains two questions, both with "Yes" selected:

- Did or will the parent file a 2024 IRS Form 1040 or 1040-NR? ☒ Yes ☐ No
- Did or will the parent file a 2024 joint tax return with their current spouse? ☒ Yes ☐ No

At the bottom, there are "Previous" and "Continue" buttons.

**Please Note** – The language of this question will depend on your marital status. Some parents may not see this question at all. You would have filed your 2024 tax return in Spring 2025. If you still need to file a tax return for 2024, please see a tax professional as soon as possible to clarify your individual situation and next steps. Generally, your student can't qualify for federal student aid if their parents' required tax return has not been filed.

# Step 9 – Parent Financials | Parent Family Size

If the family size has changed since filing their 2024 tax return, the parent is allowed to update it manually.

When the FAFSA contributor manually enters the family size, include:

- the parent
- spouse or partner if they live in the home
- the student
- the parent's dependent children (even if they live apart because of college enrollment)
- other people living with the parent now and for whom the parent will provide more than half of their support between July 1 and June 30 of the award year covered by the FAFSA.

The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2026-27 interface for a parent of Alex Tran. The progress bar indicates three steps: Demographics (completed), Financials (current), and Signature. The 'Family Size' section explains that the system has assumed a family size of 5 based on previous answers. A breakdown shows: Parent: 1, Parent Spouse or Partner: 1, Student: 1, and Parent's Children and Other Dependents: 2. It then asks the parent to enter the number of children or other dependents who live with the parent and will receive more than half of their support from the parent between July 1, 2026, and June 30, 2027. It includes instructions to include dependent children who meet these criteria, even if they live apart because of college enrollment, and to not include the student applicant. A text input field contains the number '2'. At the bottom are 'Previous' and 'Continue' buttons.

FAFSA<sup>®</sup> FORM 2026-27 Parent of Alex Tran Save FAFSA Menu

Demographics Financials Signature

### Family Size

Based on answers to previous questions, we've made some assumptions about the parent's family. The student and the student's parent (and parent's spouse, if married) are always included in the family size. The box below shows the parent's family size based on our assumptions and the number of children or other dependents you report.

The parent's family size is 5.

Parent: 1 Parent Spouse or Partner: 1 Student: 1 Parent's Children and Other Dependents: 2

Enter the number of children or other dependents who live with the parent and will receive more than half of their support from the parent between July 1, 2026, and June 30, 2027.

Include dependent children who meet these criteria, even if they live apart because of college enrollment.  
Do not include the student applicant.

2 ⓘ

Previous Continue

# Step 9 – Parent Financials | Number in Colleges

This page asks the parent how many people in the family will be in college between July 1, 2026, and June 30, 2027. The parent enters a response into the entry field.

FAFSA<sup>®</sup>

FORM

2026–27

Parent of Alex Tran

Save

FAFSA Menu

✓

2

3

Demographics

Financials

Signature

Number in College

Out of the 5 people in the parent's family, how many will be in college between July 1, 2026, and June 30, 2027?

*Never include the student's parent(s). Always include the student applicant. Also include the parent's other children or dependents if they will also be in college during this time.*

1

Previous

Continue

# Step 9 – Parent Financials | Tax Return Information

The parent is asked questions about their 2024 tax return. The parent enters a response in each entry field. If the parent has nothing to report, the parent enters the numeral zero.

FAFSA 2025-27 Parent of Alex Tran

Demographics Financials Signature

### Parent 2024 Tax Return Information

Refer to the parent's 2024 tax return to answer the following questions.  
If the answer is zero or the question does not apply, enter 0.

**Report Combined Taxes**  
Report the combined tax information for the parent and their spouse.

Where to find this information on the tax form

**Filing Status**

☐ Single

☐ Head of household

☒ Married filing jointly

☐ Married filing separately

☐ Qualifying surviving spouse

**Income Earned From Work**  
IRS Form 1040 (or 1040-NR) Line 12 + Schedule 1: Lines 3 + 6. If a tax form line's value is negative, treat it as zero in your calculation.

\$ 40,000 .00

**Tax Exempt Interest Income**  
IRS Form 1040: Line 2a

\$ 1,000 .00

**Education Credits (American Opportunity Tax Credit and Lifetime Learning Tax Credit)**  
IRS Form 1040 Schedule 3: Line 3 + IRS Form 1040: Line 29

\$ 0 .00

**Did the parent file a Schedule A, B, D, E, F, or H with their 2024 IRS Form 1040?**

☐ Yes

☒ No

☐ Don't know

**Net Profit or Loss From IRS Form 1040 Schedule C**  
IRS Form 1040 Schedule C: Line 31

\$ 0 .00

**Amount of College Grants, Scholarships, or AmeriCorp Benefits Reported as Income to the IRS**  
People typically answer this question with a zero because most scholarships and grants, including Federal Pell Grants, are not considered taxable income. If the parent is married, include the amount their spouse reported. If the response is other than zero, the amount is typically not the same as the amount reported on IRS Form 1098-T (Box 5) or the adjusted gross income reported on the tax return.

\$ 0 .00

**Foreign Earned Income Exclusion**  
IRS Form 1040 Schedule 1: Line 8d

\$ 0 .00

Previous Continue

# Step 9 – Parent Financials | Parent Assets

The parent is asked about their assets.  
The parent enters a response in each entry field. If the parent has nothing to report, the parent enters the numeral zero.

FAFSA<sup>®</sup> FORM 2026–27

Parent of Alex Tran

Save

FAFSA Menu

Demographics

Financials

Signature

Annual Child Support Received

Enter the total amount of child support the parent received for the last complete calendar year.

\$ 0 .00

Parent Assets

Current Total of Cash, Savings, and Checking Accounts

Don't include student aid, retirement accounts, or investments.

\$ 0 .00

Current Net Worth of Investments, Including Real Estate

Don't include the home the parent lives in. Net worth is the value of the investments minus any debts owed against them.

\$ 0 .00

Current Net Worth of Businesses and Farms

Enter the net worth of the parent's businesses and income-producing farms. Net worth is the value of the businesses and farms minus any debts owed against them. Don't include a family business with 100 or fewer full-time employees, farms where the family resides, or a commercial fishing business and related expenses.

\$ 0 .00

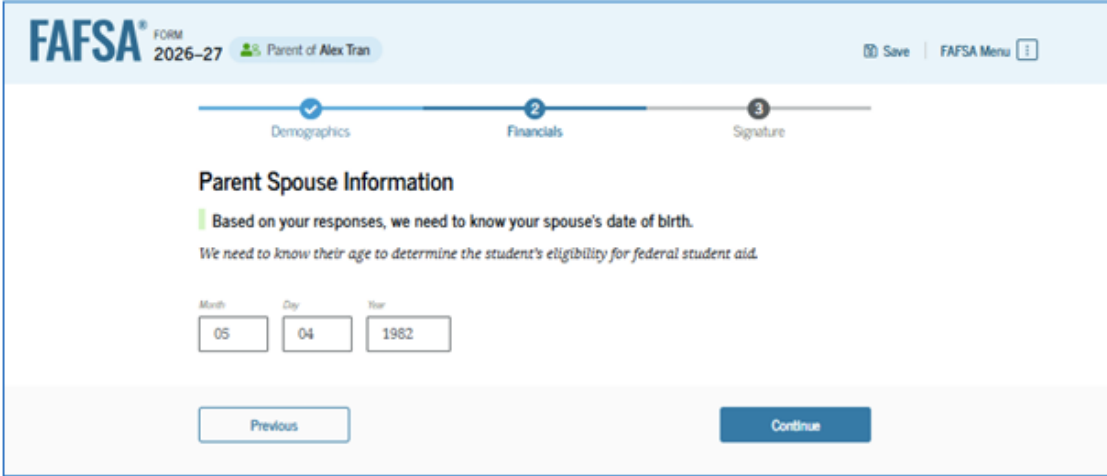
Previous

Continue

**Please Note** – You should enter the amount of child support received in 2024, which is the last complete calendar year. Also, depending on marital status, some parents may not see this question.

# Step 9 – Parent Financials | Other Parent Information

The parent is asked to provide information about their spouse or partner. In this example, the other parent does not need to contribute to the student's FAFSA® form because the parents filed taxes jointly. After providing the other parent's date of birth, all required parent information will be complete.

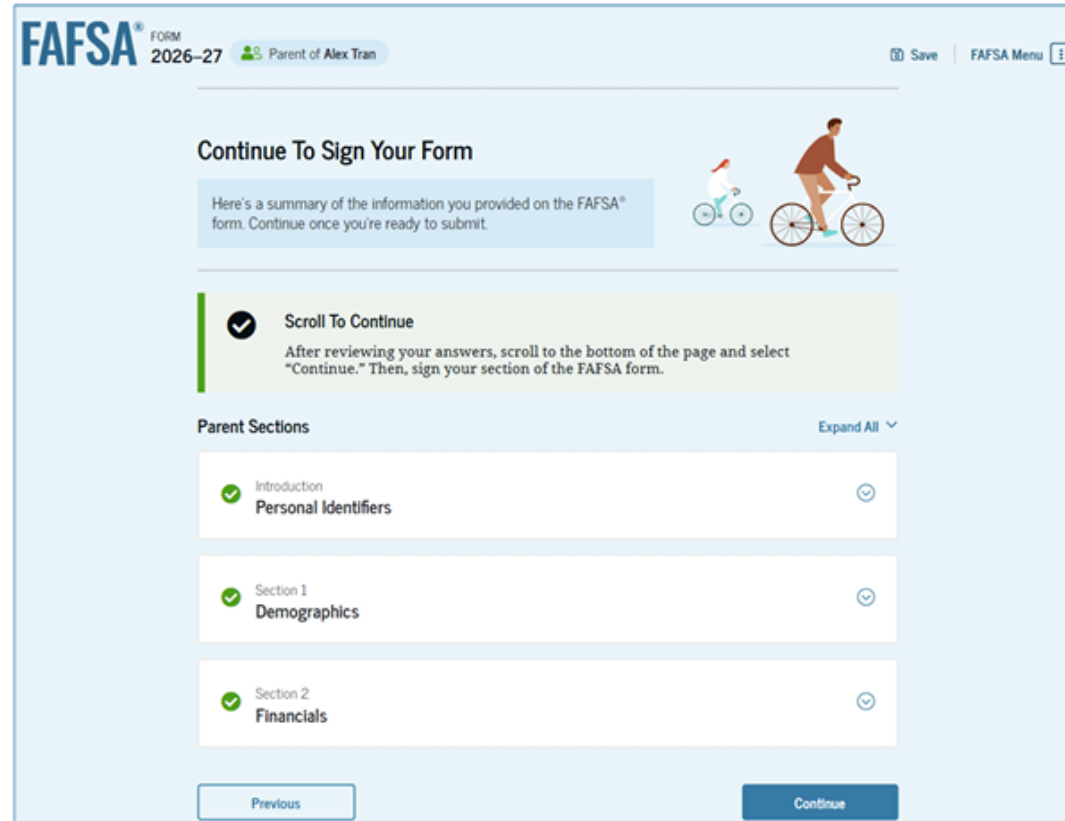


The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2026-27 interface for a parent of Alex Tran. The progress bar indicates three steps: Demographics (completed), Financials (current), and Signature. The 'Parent Spouse Information' section contains a message: 'Based on your responses, we need to know your spouse's date of birth. We need to know their age to determine the student's eligibility for federal student aid.' Below this, there are input fields for Month (05), Day (04), and Year (1982). At the bottom, there are 'Previous' and 'Continue' buttons.

**Please Note** – Some parents may not see this question appear depending on marital status.

# Step 10 – Parent Review Page

The review page displays the responses that the parent has provided in the FAFSA® form. The parent can view responses only within the parent section of the student's FAFSA form. The parent can view all the responses by selecting "Expand All" or expand each section individually. To edit a response, the parent can select the question's hyperlink to be taken to the corresponding page.



The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2026-27 Parent Review Page for Alex Tran. The page has a light blue header with the FAFSA logo, the year 2026-27, and the user's name. There are links for 'Save' and 'FAFSA Menu'. The main content area is titled 'Continue To Sign Your Form' and includes a summary of the information provided. Below this, there is a section titled 'Parent Sections' with a list of sections: 'Introduction Personal Identifiers', 'Section 1 Demographics', and 'Section 2 Financials'. Each section has a green checkmark and a circular arrow icon. At the bottom, there are 'Previous' and 'Continue' buttons.

# Step 11 – Parent Signature

On this page, the parent acknowledges the terms and conditions of the FAFSA® form and digitally signs the parent section. Since all required sections are complete, the parent can both sign and submit the student's FAFSA form.

The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2026-27 Parent Signature page for Alex Tran. The page has a blue header with the FAFSA logo, the year 2026-27, and the user's name. A progress bar at the top indicates that the Demographics and Financials sections are complete, and the Signature section is the current step. The main content area is titled "Sign and Submit the FAFSA® Form" and contains a "Summary" box with a green border. The summary text states that the parent confirms they understand the terms and conditions of the FAFSA form and have filled it out accurately. Below the summary, there is a section for the parent to certify that the information provided is true and complete, and to agree to provide information that will verify the accuracy of the completed form, and to provide U.S. or foreign income tax forms that they filed or are required to file. The page also includes a section for the parent to certify that they understand that the secretary of education has the authority to verify information reported on the application, and a section for the parent to certify that they understand that if they sign this application or any document related to the federal student aid programs electronically using a username and password and/or any other credential, they certify that they are the person identified by the username and password, and/or any other credential and have not disclosed that username and password, and/or any other credential to anyone else. If they purposefully give false or misleading information, including applying as an independent student without meeting the unusual circumstances required to qualify for such a status, they may be subject to criminal penalties under 20 U.S.C. 1097, which may include a fine up to \$20,000, imprisonment, or both. Additionally, by signing this application electronically using their FSA ID, they authorize the U.S. Department of Education to disclose all information they provided on this application, as required under Section 483(a)(2)(D)(i) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, to the institutions identified herein, state higher education agencies (in the student's state of residence and the states in which the institutions identified herein are located), and designated scholarship organizations to assist with the application, award, and administration of federal, state, or institutional financial aid programs and designated scholarship programs. Notwithstanding this authorization, the name of an institution the student selected to authorize such disclosure shall not be shared with any other institution. At the bottom of the page, there is a section for the parent to sign for themselves and submit the application for Alex Tran (Student), with a checkbox for "I, Alicia Tran, agree to the terms outlined above."

FAFSA® FORM 2026-27 Parent of Alex Tran ID: Save FAFSA Menu

Demographics Financials Signature

**Sign and Submit the FAFSA® Form**

**Summary**  
This page confirms that you understand the terms and conditions of the FAFSA® form and filled out the form accurately to the best of your ability.

The FAFSA form is a legal document you will electronically sign with your StudentAid.gov account username and password (FSA ID). Because your FSA ID is associated with your personal information, do not share it with anyone.

By signing the student's application electronically using your StudentAid.gov account username and password, YOU, THE PARENT, certify that all of the information you provided is true and complete to the best of your knowledge and you agree, if asked, to provide

- information that will verify the accuracy of your completed form, and
- U.S. or foreign income tax forms that you filed or are required to file.

You also certify that you understand that the secretary of education has the authority to verify information reported on your application.

If you sign this application or any document related to the federal student aid programs electronically using a username and password and/or any other credential, you certify that you are the person identified by the username and password, and/or any other credential and have not disclosed that username and password, and/or any other credential to anyone else. If you purposefully give false or misleading information, including applying as an independent student without meeting the unusual circumstances required to qualify for such a status, you may be subject to criminal penalties under 20 U.S.C. 1097, which may include a fine up to \$20,000, imprisonment, or both.

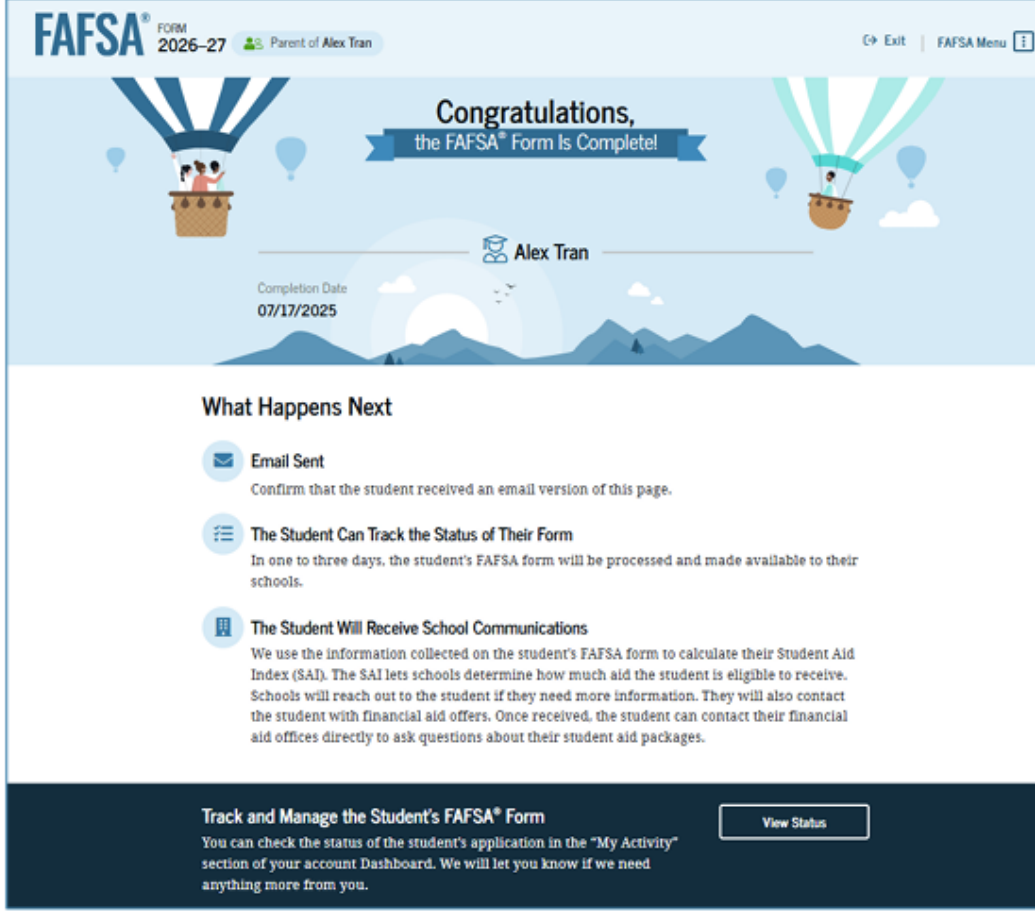
Additionally, by signing this application electronically using your FSA ID, you authorize the U.S. Department of Education to disclose all information you provided on this application, as required under Section 483(a)(2)(D)(i) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, to the institutions identified herein, state higher education agencies (in the student's state of residence and the states in which the institutions identified herein are located), and designated scholarship organizations to assist with the application, award, and administration of federal, state, or institutional financial aid programs and designated scholarship programs. Notwithstanding this authorization, the name of an institution the student selected to authorize such disclosure shall not be shared with any other institution.

**Sign for yourself and submit the application for Alex Tran (Student).**

☐ I, Alicia Tran, agree to the terms outlined above.

# Step 12 – Parent Confirmation Page

Upon submitting the student's FAFSA® form, the parent is presented an abbreviated confirmation page. This page displays information about tracking the student's FAFSA form and next steps. The student will receive an email with the full, detailed confirmation. With the student and parent sections completed and signed, the FAFSA form is now considered complete and submitted for processing.



The screenshot shows the FAFSA Parent Confirmation Page for Alex Tran. The page has a light blue header with the FAFSA logo, the text "FORM 2026-27", and a user icon labeled "Parent of Alex Tran". In the top right corner, there are links for "Exit" and "FAFSA Menu". The main content area features a celebratory banner that reads "Congratulations, the FAFSA® Form Is Complete!" with a graduation cap icon. Below the banner, the student's name "Alex Tran" is displayed next to a graduation cap icon, and the completion date "07/17/2025" is shown. The background of the banner includes illustrations of hot air balloons and mountains. Below the banner, the section "What Happens Next" is titled, followed by three bullet points: "Email Sent" (confirming an email version was sent), "The Student Can Track the Status of Their Form" (indicating the form will be processed in one to three days), and "The Student Will Receive School Communications" (explaining that schools will use the form to calculate the Student Aid Index and may reach out for more information). At the bottom, a dark blue footer contains the text "Track and Manage the Student's FAFSA® Form" and a brief explanation of how to check the application status, along with a "View Status" button.

FAFSA® FORM 2026-27 Parent of Alex Tran Exit FAFSA Menu

**Congratulations,**  
the FAFSA® Form Is Complete!

Alex Tran

Completion Date  
07/17/2025

**What Happens Next**

- Email Sent**  
Confirm that the student received an email version of this page.
- The Student Can Track the Status of Their Form**  
In one to three days, the student's FAFSA form will be processed and made available to their schools.
- The Student Will Receive School Communications**  
We use the information collected on the student's FAFSA form to calculate their Student Aid Index (SAI). The SAI lets schools determine how much aid the student is eligible to receive. Schools will reach out to the student if they need more information. They will also contact the student with financial aid offers. Once received, the student can contact their financial aid offices directly to ask questions about their student aid packages.

**Track and Manage the Student's FAFSA® Form**  
You can check the status of the student's application in the "My Activity" section of your account Dashboard. We will let you know if we need anything more from you.

[View Status](#)

A photograph of three students in a school hallway, overlaid with a dark green semi-transparent filter. On the left, a male student with glasses holds a circular sign that reads 'Meeting Street Scholarship Fund' with a graduation cap icon. In the center, a female student with glasses points towards the camera. On the right, a female student with long blonde hair stands with her hand on her hip. The background shows a typical school hallway with lockers and a door.

# Provisionally Independent Student Questions

# Dependency Status | Provisionally Independent Status

Because the student's date of birth is before Jan. 1, 2003, the student is considered an independent student. The student is not required to provide information about their parents due to this status.



The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2026-27 form for Student Alex Tran. At the top, there is a progress bar with five steps: 1. Personal Circumstances, 2. Demographics, 3. Financials, 4. Colleges, and 5. Signature. The first step, 'Personal Circumstances', is currently selected. Below the progress bar, the section is titled 'Your Dependency Status'. It features a blue box with a circular icon of a person and the text 'Independent Student'. The text explains that based on the student's answers, they are an independent student and do not need to answer financial questions about their parents. At the bottom of the form, there are two buttons: 'Previous' and 'Continue'.

You will complete most of the same steps as Dependent Students. [Click here to continue.](#)

# Contact Information

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For **general questions** about this presentation, FAFSA or the Meeting Street Scholarship, please contact John Huber-MacNealy, Senior Program Director at [john@meetingstreetscholarshipfund.org](mailto:john@meetingstreetscholarshipfund.org) or (843) 310-2992.

For **specific questions about your individual eligibility** for federal financial aid at specific colleges and universities, please contact your college's financial aid office.

For **questions about technical challenges** with your FSA ID or FAFSA form, please call the Federal Student Aid Information Center (FSAIC) at 1-800-433-3243.