

My FAFSA Was Selected for Verification — Now What?

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1. Gather your documentation

There are five areas the government typically flags for verification. To prove the information you provided on your FAFSA is accurate, you'll be asked to submit documentation or signed statements for each point.

- **Household size:** In most cases, you can submit a signed statement listing your family size and number of dependents.
- **Number of family members in college:** If you have family members who are also in college, contact the registrar for a signed statement affirming that each member is a current student.
- **Adjusted gross income (AGI):** Your tax return should show your AGI, or you can use a W-2 form from your parents' employers.
- **Taxes paid:** You can submit your parents' tax return from the previous tax year.
- **Untaxed income and benefits:** If you receive other forms of income, such as Social Security benefits, child support, or the [earned income tax credit](#), ask the agency that issues those benefits for official documentation or a signed statement.

2. Fill out the necessary forms

Your school will send you FAFSA verification worksheets to complete as part of the process. You need to complete each worksheet and submit it along with any necessary documentation. Double-check each worksheet to ensure you completed it accurately and completely.

3. Correct any mistakes **(Consider using the IRS Data Retrieval Tool!! -MK)**

Sometimes, innocent mistakes happen. You might find out during the verification process that you made an error, such as writing down the wrong number. If that's the case, you'll need to fix that mistake before you submit your worksheets and documentation.

The quickest and easiest way to fix your FAFSA is to do so online at [FAFSA.gov](https://fafsa.gov). However, it's a good idea to inform your financial aid office the error as well. The representative can advise you on what else you might have to do.

4. Submit your documents on time

When you receive the FAFSA verification notice, the letter will state when you need to submit your documentation and worksheets. It's essential that you meet the deadline. If you're late, you risk losing out on your federal financial aid eligibility.

5. Contact your financial aid office

In many cases, going through the verification process will not affect how much aid you receive. However, there's a chance [your financial aid package](#) could change. If there was a problem with your FAFSA, you could end up receiving less financial aid than you expected.

If that happens, contact your school's financial aid office to talk about your options and what alternatives are available to you.