





Financial Aid: SUNY is Here for You!

OpInform 2024



2024-2025 FAFSA Overview

- **December 30, 2023:** 2024-25 FAFSA cycle opened with significant outage periods with reports of students unable to complete the application for various reasons. Paper FAFSA processing began July 29 into August – many applicants also completed an online FAFSA.
- **January 7:** ED develops FAFSA Alerts Issue page to document, provide workaround options, and dates resolved (e.g. students whose contributors lack a social security number).
- **March 13:** ED makes ISIR records available; though, colleges had a lot of work to do before they could begin packaging aid and sending award letters.
- **April 15:** Students were able to make corrections; paper FAFSA corrections anticipated processing end of September.
- **April 30:** Changes made to online FAFSA to allow individuals without an SSN to complete and submit FAFSA before validation process is completed. FA-DDX still not functional for this population.
- **June 17:** FSA announces paper and batch FAFSA corrections would be available in the first half of August
- **June 28:** FSA announces it will be “at least a week” before they begin processing paper FAFSAs; FPP corrections would open “in the next few days.”
- **July 30:** FSA announces they would begin processing paper FAFSAs the week of July 29, 2024. They expect that the processing of paper FAFSAs will be complete within two to three weeks.
- **July 30:** FSA announces that availability of corrections for paper FAFSAs will be further delayed until late October.



Last Year's Ups & Downs



- Reflecting on the past year
- Challenging and unique situations



2024 FAFSA Completion Rates

suny.edu/studentevents

suny.edu/counselorevents

As of September 27, 2024,
NYS had a 57.5% FAFSA
completion rate for the
high school class of 2024.



↑ from 32.2% in mid-April

↓ -10.3% from last year at this time

- National rate is 52.4% (↓ -8.8%)
- 29% of students found this application easier



2024 FAFSA Completion Rate Efforts

- U.S. Department of Education outreach
 - ✓ Students who started but have not completed the FAFSA
 - ✓ Students who completed a FAFSA last year but have not started a FAFSA this year
- SUNY, HESC, NYS associations, colleges and community-based organizations
- Ongoing FAFSA completion events
 - ✓ SUNY: suny.edu/studentevents
 - ✓ HESC and NYS Associations: hesc.ny.gov/get-help/find-event/event-calendar/?idfive_calendar_taxonomy_1=3



2025-2026 FAFSA Cycle

Updates

- FAFSA launched through a new process
- FAFSA released for testing on October 1 with a limited set of students and institutions
- FAFSA available to all students on or before December 1
- Process informed by conversations and feedback from thousands of students, institutions, and other stakeholders



Universal FAFSA Completion at NY High Schools

Updates

- Beginning July 1, 2025: Each school district is required to report the following information to the State Department Education (SED) annually:
 - Total number of students who've completed either the FAFSA (or the New York State DREAM Act application);
 - Number of students who completed a waiver; and
 - Total number of seniors enrolled in the school district.
- October 1: SED sent a letter to District Superintendents, Superintendents of Public Schools, Public School and Charter School Leaders regarding the "Verification of Postsecondary Financial Aid Form completion."



Universal FAFSA Completion at NY High Schools

Updates

HESC FAFSA Completion Initiative for high schools and NYS school districts

- Enables HESC to share specific, limited information regarding FAFSA and TAP completions with high schools and school districts across NYS.
- Provides customized reports critical for measuring students' progress.
- Assists high schools in effectively targeting support and resources for students requiring additional help.

High school participation is encouraged:

hesc.ny.gov/school-counselors/fafsa-completion-initiative/



Thoughts About Last Year's FAFSA Cycle

We're Asking . . .

- 1 What went well?
- 2 What were the challenges?
- 3 What would have helped?
- 4 What was the impact on your students?



2025-2026 FAFSA Cycle

How may we assist?



SUNY is Here for You!



Attend a Financial Aid Session

suny.edu/studentevents
suny.edu/counselorevents

Financial Aid Sessions

Prospective students and families are invited to join SUNY for an online workshop which will provide detailed information about the financial aid application and award process. We will review the cost of attendance and explore the types of financial aid available, including the Excelsior Scholarship. During the session, you will be able to send us your questions via live chat.

Online

- Financial Aid Session - The New Financial Aid Process
Tuesday, September 26 at 6:00 PM
- Financial Aid Session - Friday Financial Aid Bites for Parents
Friday, September 29 at 12:00 PM
- Financial Aid Session - The New Financial Aid Process
Tuesday, October 3 at 6:00 PM
- Financial Aid Session - The Financial Aid Process - in Spanish
Tuesday, October 17 at 6:00 PM
- Friday Financial Aid Bites for Parents (In Spanish)
Friday, October 20 at 12:00 PM
- Financial Aid Session - Friday Financial Aid Bites for Parents
Friday, November 3 at 12:00 PM
- Friday Financial Aid Bites for Parents (In Spanish)
Friday, November 17 at 12:00 PM
- Financial Aid Session - The New Financial Aid Process
Tuesday, November 28 at 6:00 PM
- Financial Aid Session - Friday Financial Aid Bites for Parents
Friday, December 1 at 12:00 PM

FAFSA Training for School Counselors

These interactive sessions for counselors will provide training and resources for the 2025-2026 FAFSA. Counselors will be encouraged to ask questions. To register, please select a session below.

■ [FAFSA 2025-2026 Training and Resources](#)
10/25/2024 12:00 PM
Online Event

■ [Counselor Office Hour Q & A](#)
11/07/2024 11:00 AM
Online Event

■ [FAFSA 2025-2026 Training and Resources](#)
11/22/2024 12:00 PM
Online Event

■ [Counselor Office Hour Q & A](#)
12/06/2024 12:00 PM
Online Event

