

Changes to the 2017–18 FAFSA

What You Need to Know

What's changing for 2017–18?

Starting with the 2017–18 *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA), these changes will be in effect:

- **You'll be able to submit your FAFSA earlier.** You can file your 2017–18 FAFSA as early as Oct. 1, 2016, rather than beginning on Jan. 1, 2017. The earlier submission date will be a permanent change, enabling you to complete and submit a FAFSA as early as October 1 every year.
- **You'll use earlier income and tax information.** Beginning with the 2017–18 FAFSA, you will be required to report income and tax information from an earlier tax year. For example, on the 2017–18 FAFSA, you—and your parent(s), as appropriate—will report your 2015 income and tax information, rather than your 2016 income and tax information.

How will the changes benefit me?

We expect that you'll benefit in these ways:

- Because the FAFSA will ask for older income and tax information, you will already have done your taxes by the time you fill out your FAFSA, and you won't need to estimate your tax information and then go back into the FAFSA later to update it.
- Because you'll already have done your taxes by the time you fill out your FAFSA, you may be able to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool (IRS DRT) to automatically import your tax information into your FAFSA. (Learn about the IRS DRT at StudentAid.gov/irsdrt.)
- Because the FAFSA is available earlier, you may feel less pressure due to having more time to explore and understand your financial aid options and apply for aid before your school's deadlines.

Will FAFSA deadlines be earlier since the application is launching earlier?

Regis University will continue to have the same priority deadline for 2017–18. The priority deadline for financial aid applications is April 15, 2017.

Since the 2017–18 FAFSA asks for the same tax and income information as the 2016–17 FAFSA, will my 2016–17 FAFSA information automatically be carried over into my 2017–18 renewal FAFSA?

No, you will need to enter the information again or utilize the IRS Data Retrieval Tool to automatically import tax information into the FAFSA. The IRS import makes the process of reporting tax information quick and easy.

The FAFSA Code for Regis University is 001363.

Can I choose to report 2016 information if my family's financial situation has changed since our 2015 taxes were filed?

No, you must report the 2015 information the FAFSA asks for. If your family's income has changed substantially since the 2015 tax year, talk to the financial aid office at your school about the family's situation.

Note: The FAFSA asks for marital status as of the day you fill it out. So if you're married now but weren't in 2015 (and therefore didn't file taxes as married), you'll need to add your spouse's income to your FAFSA. Similarly, if you filed your 2015 taxes as married but you're no longer married when you fill out the FAFSA, you'll need to subtract your spouse's income.

Will I receive aid offers earlier if I apply earlier?

Regis University plans to award new freshmen students sometime during the fall semester. Other students will be awarded during spring semester, as usual. Note: You should be aware that the maximum Federal Pell Grant for 2017–18 won't be known until early 2017, so keep in mind that even if you do receive an aid offer early, it could change due to various factors.

Where can I get more information about—and help with—the FAFSA?

Contact Regis University Student Services with questions about your FAFSA. Call 303-458-4126 or 800-568-8932. You may email studentservices@regis.edu.

The federally-funded Educational Opportunity Center (EOC) provides student financial aid advising and assistance with FAFSA completion. Call 303-556-2600 to set up an appointment with EOC staff located in downtown Denver.