

2023-24 Verification*

TODAY'S PRESENTERS



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TODAY'S AGENDA



1. Understand what is verification
2. Learn who selects students for verification
3. Know why students get selected for verification
4. Recognize when you have been selected for verification
5. Learn what information gets verified and what documents you will need to collect
6. Plan your strategy
7. Reduce anxiety over the process

1. What is verification?



- It is a process used by schools to:
- Confirm information reported on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or the free Washington Application for State Aid (WASFA) is **accurate**
- **Verify information** with documentation and signed forms provided by student and parents, if applicable
- Determine student **eligibility** for financial aid

2. WHO SELECTS STUDENTS FOR VERIFICATION?



The Central Processing System (CPS) during FAFSA processing



By the college or university

3. WHY DO STUDENTS GET SELECTED FOR VERIFICATION?



- The Department of Education **randomly** selects applications to go through this process to test which FAFSAs may contain errors.
 - → to ensure that their limited dollars go to students with the highest financial need
- Resolve **conflicting** information that will change the student's expected family contribution (EFC) or information that is used to determine the student's eligibility for financial aid.

4. How can you tell if you were selected for verification?

There are several indications on your Student Aid Report:

There is an asterisk (*) following your EFC number:

The SAR summarizes the information you submitted on your 2020-2021 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Application Receipt Date:	11/27/2019	XXX-XX-8542 HA 01
Processed Date:	12/02/2019	EFC: 0 *
		DRN: 1078

There is an asterisk (*) and C code following your EFC number:

Application Receipt Date:	10/23/2019	XXX-XX-8711 BU 05
Processed Date:	12/19/2019	EFC: 1685 * C
		DRN: 6332

4. How can you tell if you were selected for verification?

There are several indications on your Student Aid Report:

There is a letter "h" following some fields:

14. Student's Citizenship Status:	YES, I AM A U.S. CITIZEN (OR U.S. NATIONAL) h
15. Student's Alien Registration Number:	
16. Student's Marital Status:	I AM SINGLE
17. Student's Marital Status Date:	

There is no EFC and an asterisk following your EFC:

Application Receipt Date:	10/10/2019	XXX-XX-6981 AB 05
Processed Date:	02/06/2020	EFC: *
		DRN: 1437

4. HOW CAN YOU TELL IF YOU WILL HAVE TO MAKE CORRECTIONS OR PROVIDE DOCUMENTS?

There's also information on your Student Aid Report cover letter and you will also receive information from your financial aid office:

The SAR summarizes the information you submitted on your 2020-2021 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Application Receipt Date:	11/27/2019	XXX-XX-8542 HA 01
Processed Date:	12/02/2019	EFC: 0 *
		DRN: 1078

Comments About Your Information

Learn about [federal tax benefits for education](#), including the *American Opportunity Tax Credit* (AOTC).

Based on the information we have on record for you, your EFC is 0. You may be eligible to receive a Federal Pell Grant and other federal student aid. Your school will use your EFC to determine your financial aid eligibility for federal grants, loans, and work-study, and possible funding from your state and school.

Your FAFSA has been selected for a review process called verification. Your school has the authority to request copies of certain financial documents from you and your parent(s).



WHAT YOU MUST DO NOW (Use the checklist below to make sure that all of your issues are resolved.)

The name you reported for your first parent on your FAFSA does not match the Social Security Administration's (SSA) records. If the last name and first initial you reported in Items 61 and 62 are correct, contact the SSA. If they are incorrect, click 'Make FAFSA Corrections' on the 'My FAFSA' page to make the corrections.

Your parent did not sign your FAFSA or the SAR corrections you submitted. Your parent may be able to sign electronically. If your parent is not able to sign, see your school's financial aid office or High School Counselor.

5. What information gets most verified?

V1	V4	V5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Household size • 2021 Income Information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identity • Educational Purpose Statement • High School Completion (optional by college) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Household size • 2021 Income Information • Identity • Educational Purpose Statement • High School Completion (optional by college)

Note: Students resolving conflicting information may have to provide other types of documentation as part of their verification, e.g., divorce decree.

5. What information gets most verified?

Who?	What information?	How do you document?
Any applicant	Household size (Name, age, relationship to student, if enrolled at least HT in college, name of institution)	Financial aid verification form from your college
	Number in college (All household members except parents)	Financial aid verification form from your college
	Benefits (i.e.; SNAP)	Financial aid verification form from your college
	Child Support	Financial aid verification form, bank records
Tax filers	Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)/Wages	2021 Tax Return, W2, 1099
	U.S. Income Tax Paid	2021 Tax Return
	Education Credits	Form 8863 from tax return
	Specific Untaxed Income Items (Untaxed IRA Distributions, Untaxed Pensions, IRA Deductions, Tax Exempt Interest, Other Untaxed Income and Benefits)	2021 Tax Return
Non-tax filers	Income earned from work	W2, Form 1099 or IRS Account transcript
Some applicants	High School completion status	Diploma, HS transcripts, GED completion, homeschool completion credential, ATB eligibility, DD 214, etc.
	Identity/Statement of Educational Purpose	Driver's license, state ID, birth certificate, Social Security card, Passport; Permanent Resident Card or Resident Alien Card (I-551); certificate of Naturalization (even without an expiration date), as long as the photo is recognizable as the student; Inmate ID from a government facility (even if it does not have an expiration date).

5. LEARN WHAT DOCUMENTS YOU MAY NEED TO COLLECT

TAX FILERS

- 2021 tax data has been transferred via IRS DRT; or,
- Tax return transcript has been submitted from the IRS; or,
- A signed copy of the 2021 income tax return (and applicable schedules) that were filed with the IRS has been submitted.
- A signed copy of foreign tax return

NON-TAX FILERS

- Income earned from work (W2, 1099) or request Wage & Income transcript from IRS
- IRS documents indicating that it does not have a tax return record on file for the tax year (**record of account transcript**—as opposed to tax account transcript; request using form 4506-T)
- A signed statement certifying the individual has not filed and is not required to file 2021 taxes and the sources of 2021 income earned from work and the amount from each source.

EXTENSION FILERS

- (BEYOND 6 MOS. ALLOWANCE)
- A copy of the IRS's approval of an extension beyond the automatic six-month extension for tax year 2021;
- Verification of non-filing from the IRS dated on or after October 1, 2022;
- A copy of IRS Form W-2 for each source of 2021 employment income received or an equivalent document; and,
- If self-employed, a signed statement certifying the amount of AGI and U.S. income tax paid for tax year 2021

5. LEARN WHAT DOCUMENTS YOU MAY NEED TO COLLECT

IRS Tax-Related Identity Theft

- Provide an alternate tax transcript known as the Tax Return Database View (TRDBV) transcript; and a statement signed and dated by the tax filer indicating that s/he is a victim of IRS tax-related identity theft and that the IRS has been made aware of the tax-related identity theft. Identity Protection Specialized Unit (IPSU) tollfree number at 1-800-908-4490.

5. LEARN WHAT DOCUMENTS YOU MAY NEED TO COLLECT

Individuals without Social Security Number

- Signed statement from taxpayer certifying they do not have a Social Security Number, an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number, or an Employer Identification Number; and
- List sources and amounts of earnings, other income, and resources that supported the individual(s) for the 2021 tax year

5. LEARN WHERE TO GET TAX RETURNS

Tax returns

- Signed Copies of Tax Returns and Applicable Schedules
 - from your records or your tax advisor
- Unsigned Tax return transcript – www.irs.gov
 - Use the “Get Transcript Online” option on the IRS website or IRS2Go app to view, print, or download a copy in real time as a Portable Document Format (PDF) file, which may be submitted to the school;
 - Use the “Get Transcript by Mail” option on the IRS website or IRS2Go app to submit a transcript request online and receive the transcript by mail to the tax filer’s IRS address of record within 5 to 10 calendar days;
 - Call 1.800.908.9946 to receive the transcript by mail to the tax filer’s IRS address of record within 5 to 10 calendar days;
 - Mail or fax a paper request IRS Form 4506-T (Request for Transcript of Tax Return) or 4506TEZ (Short Form Request for Individual Tax Return Transcript), both of which are available on the IRS website, to have the transcript mailed to the tax filer’s IRS address of record.
- Signed rollover proof/documentation
- Signed Nontax filer statements

5. IDENTITY/STATEMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PURPOSE

Proof of Identity

- Student must appear in person at the college's financial aid office or appear in person with a notary. Online notaries are not accepted by the Department of Education.
 - If a student cannot appear in-person at their college suggest using notary services through their bank to avoid additional expenses
- Present an unexpired government-issued picture ID (state ID, U.S. Passport, tribal ID from federal recognized tribe) which the financial aid office must retain a copy
 - Military IDs are not accepted since it is against the law to make a copy

Statement of Educational Purpose

- Sign a statement that financial aid received for the 2023-24 year will be used for educational purposes, typically provided by the college

6. PLAN YOUR STRATEGY



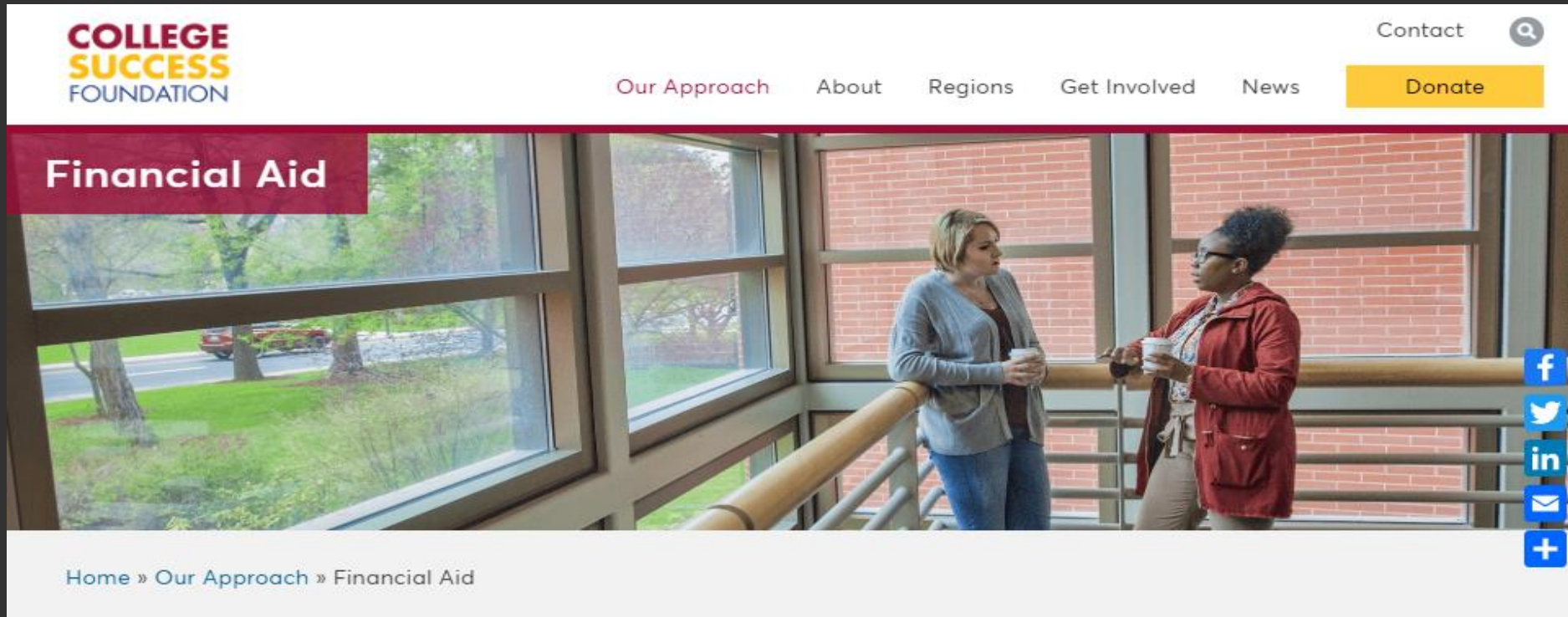
- As soon as you receive your Student Aid Report, review it carefully and determine if you will need to submit documents
- Request copies of tax return transcripts, or record of account transcript or verification of non-filer to the IRS EARLY
- Check your colleges' student portal and email for additional instructions from the financial aid office regularly

7. REDUCE YOUR ANXIETY



- Get in the mindset that it's possible you may get selected
- Know that after this presentation, you are informed and aware of how to be proactive
- Make a list of supporting adults who can help you complete this process
- You are not alone
- You can do this!

DON'T FORGET! FINANCIAL AID HUB



We have tons of resources in our financial aid hub:

1. Recorded presentations
2. PowerPoints
3. Handouts & Tools

<https://www.collegesuccessfoundation.org/our-approach/financial-aid/>

QUESTIONS? COMMENTS? **HELP?**



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