File the FAFSA For 2025-2026

Make sure you have all of the documents you need (see below)

1) Go to **https://studentaid.gov/** and click on "Start Here"

2) Create your FSA ID:

   a. If you have not created an FSA ID yet, select **"Create an FSA ID"**

   b. You will need a current e-mail account, and an active phone number

   c. If dependent, be sure to create one for a parent as well

   d. Once completed, return to the FAFSA to continue.

   When you create your FSA IDs, be sure to write them down.

3) Click "Log In", Enter your FSA ID and Password, and select "Log In".

4) Select "FAFSA Form" from the top menu and then "Complete the FAFSA Form"

5) Under **2025-26 FAFSA** Form, select "Start New Form".

6) Follow on screen prompts and answer basic questions about yourself

7) Choose schools to have the FAFSA information sent to (USCL's school code is 003453)

8) Answer income information about yourself:

   a. Federal tax information for **2023** will be transferred automatically.

   b. Report **current** assets (savings, investments, business)

   c. Report other resources (like child support)

9) Answer "Dependency" questions (Dependent student must add parents to the FAFSA)

10) Invite your contributors (parent(s) or spouse) to add complete the FAFSA

    a. This sends them an email with a link to **https://studentaid.gov/**

    b. They need to have or create an FSA ID

    c. Their tax information for **2023** will be transferred automatically.

    d. They may be asked for **current** assets and other resources.

11) Each person electronically "Signs" the FAFSA.

12) Submit the FAFSA and save your confirmation number (take a photo)

To complete the FASFA you will need the following items for yourself and your spouse or parents:

➢ Social Security numbers, Full Name, Dates of Birth

➢ A valid and accessible e-mail address and phone number for the student and each contributor

➢ **2023** year income information:
   o Federal tax information is now transferred directly from the IRS
   o Other income earned in 2023, if you did not file taxes on that income

➢ **Current** total net value of cash, savings, checking accounts, investments (stocks, bonds, CDs, etc.), land and properties (other than your home), large private businesses (those with 100 or more employees), and business farms…
   UNLESS your total income in 2023 was less than $50,000, **AND**…
   o in 2023 or 2024; someone in your household received SSI, SNAP, Free/Reduce Lunches, TANF or WIC; or
   o you or your parent (If dependent) filed a 1040 but did NOT file a Schedule 1; or
   o you or your parent (If dependent) were a dislocated worker.

➢ Your alien registration card and/or Visa (if you are not a U.S. citizen)

FSA ID WORKSHEET

To access https://studentaid.gov/ you will need to create a Federal Student Aid Identification (FSA ID).
When you do so there are a number of security questions. You can use this worksheet to assist you in recording
your answers to those questions. **You should keep this sheet in a secure location so you can access it later if needed.**

1.   **PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS**
     Enter your full name as it appears on the social security card, the social security number, and date of birth

2.   **ENTER AN EMAIL ADDRESS** The email address must be unique to each individual. DO NOT use your school email.

3.   **CREATE A USERNAME** 6 — 30 characters. Avoid using personal identifiers like your name or birthdate.

4.   **CREATE A PASSWORD** 8 — 30 characters, and contain at least one upper case letter, one lower case, one number.
     Avoid personal identifiers. This cannot contain any part of your name or date of birth.

5.   **CHALLENGE QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

     There are four challenge questions and answers. Select the questions from drop down menus and
     provide your answers below. Be sure to note if you used a capital letter.

1.   2.

3.   4.

6   **VERIFY YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS & MOBILE PHONE NUMBER** FSA will send an email with a code that must
     be entered to verify your email address. FSA will send a text message with a code used to verify your
     mobile phone number.

7.   **OTHER** You may setup other security codes or passwords. Record those here.