


**Early FAFSA /Prior Prior Year /
2017-18 FAFSA Processing**

Bruce Honer | October 2016
U.S. Department of Education
NAFAA Conference

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**Early FAFSA
Filing and
Prior-Prior
Year**



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2017-18 Application Changes

- Two major changes beginning with 2017-18 award year
 - ❖ Early FAFSA launch
 - Beginning with 2017-18 award year, FAFSA cycle will begin on October 1 instead of January 1
 - 2017-18 FAFSA available 10/01/16
 - Change is permanent
 - ❖ Prior-Prior year income
 - 2017-18 FAFSA will collect tax year 2015 income
 - IRS Data Retrieval Tool (DRT) available at time of launch

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2017–18 Application Changes

CHANGES TO THE FAFSA PROCESS FOR 2017–18

SUBMIT A FAFSA EARLIER. Students will be able to submit a 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 students to complete and submit their FAFSAs as early as October 1 every year. (There is NO CHANGE to the 2016–17 schedule. The 2016–17 FAFSA became available Jan. 1, 2016.)

USE EARLIER INCOME AND TAX INFORMATION. Beginning with the 2017–18 FAFSA, students will report income and tax information from an earlier tax year. For example, on the 2017–18 FAFSA, students (and parents, as appropriate) will report their 2015 income and tax information, rather than their 2016 income and tax information.


Here's a summary of key dates for submitting the FAFSA, depending on when you plan to go to school.

IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND COLLEGE FROM	YOU WILL SUBMIT THIS FAFSA	YOU CAN SUBMIT THE FAFSA FROM	USING INCOME AND TAX INFORMATION FROM
July 1, 2015–June 30, 2016	2015–16	January 1, 2015–June 30, 2016	2014
July 1, 2016–June 30, 2017	2016–17	January 1, 2016–June 30, 2017	2015
July 1, 2017–June 30, 2018	2017–18	October 1, 2016–June 30, 2018	2015
July 1, 2018–June 30, 2019	2018–19	October 1, 2017–June 30, 2019	2016

FederalStudentAid StudentAid.gov/fafsa

Early FAFSA/Prior-Prior Year Considerations


- Outreach
 - ❖ Early FAFSA webpage
 - <http://ifap.ed.gov/EarlyFAFSA/indexV1.html>
 - Periodic EAs, DCLs, training, etc.
 - ❖ Student websites, publications and communications updated appropriately and timely
 - ❖ Early FAFSA mailbox – EarlyFAFSAFeedback@ed.gov



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Early FAFSA/Prior-Prior Year Considerations

- Materials and resources for outreach
 - ❖ FAFSA – financialaidtoolkit.ed.gov/fafsa
 - ❖ Resources – financialaidtoolkit.ed.gov/resources
 - ❖ FAFSA changes – financialaidtoolkit.ed.gov/fafsa-changes
 - Talking points
 - Table of FAFSA launch dates and tax years
 - Fact sheets for counselors, parents and college students
 - Outreach calendar
 - PowerPoint presentations
 - Information and upcoming webinars



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GEN-16-14: Conflicting Information

- ED will identify possible conflicting information resulting from use of 2015 income and tax information for 2016-17 and 2017-18 FAFSAs
- Limit burden and minimize instances of conflicting information related to 2015 income and tax information
- Normal conflicting information rules apply for non-income and tax related information

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GEN-16-14: Conflicting Information

- FOTW new edits warn if one or more income or tax amounts reported for 2017-18 differs from amount reported on 2016-17 FAFSA
- If corrections not entered, comments included on SAR and ISIR
- Edits NOT triggered if
 - 2016-17 FAFSA transaction was based on estimated income/taxes
 - Change in dependency status between two years
 - There has been a change in either student's or parents' marital status between two years

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GEN-16-14: Conflicting Information

- CPS will identify conflicting information between two years that once resolved would have significant impact on EFC
- CPS will NOT flag if
 - Student is not expected to be Pell-eligible
 - Change in dependency status between two years
 - Change in student's or parents' marital status between two years
 - PJ was performed in either year

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GEN-16-14: Conflicting Information

- Institutionally required resolution
- Student's 2017-18 ISIR and SAR will be flagged with 'C' code and comment code 399
 - Will NOT be included on 2016-17 ISIR
- If comment code 399 not included on 2017-18 ISIR, school is not required to determine if there are any differences in income or tax information between two ISIRs
 - *However, any other conflicting information (e.g., citizenship status or HS completion status) must be resolved*

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GEN-16-14: Conflicting Information

- Applicability of ISIRs
- School does NOT have to resolve comment code 399 if
 - Never received 2016-17 ISIR
 - Received 2016-17 ISIR but did not and will not disburse TIV aid in *either* year
- School does have to resolve comment code 399 if
 - Received 2016-17 ISIR and disbursed or may disburse TIV aid
 - Received 2016-17 ISIR but did not review or process 2016-17 ISIR

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GEN-16-14: Conflicting Information


- Resolving potential conflicting information
- School must compare all of 2015 income and tax-related FAFSA/ISIR items from both years' ISIRs to determine which are in conflict
- If, for either year, *school had verified conflicting information or student/parent used IRS DRT and did not change any of transferred data*, school can assume verified or DRT values are correct and submit changes to other ISIR's year's values
 - Exception
 - If school is aware that subsequent to verification, amended tax return was filed, school must ensure **both years'** ISIRs based on amended tax data

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GEN-16-14: Conflicting Information

- Conflicts must be resolved if information
 - Was not verified
 - Was not transferred using IRS DRT
 - Was transferred and then changed or
 - If school is aware amended tax return was filed with IRS
- May need to reach out to student for reasons why data is different between years

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GEN-16-14: Conflicting Information

- Additional disbursements and overpayments
 - 2017-18 FAFSA/ISIR – if required correction is for 2017-18 year, school must use EFC from corrected ISIR to award/disburse
 - 2016-17 FAFSA/ISIR – if required correction is for 2016-17 year, school must ensure that all awards/disbursements for 2016-17 are using corrected 2016-17 ISIR
 - Exception – not required to submit corrections to 2016-17 ISIR if 09/09/17 published deadline for making corrections has passed

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GEN-16-14: Conflicting Information

- Unable to resolve
 - Until conflicting information is resolved, school may not disburse any additional 2016-17 or 2017-18 Title IV aid
 - If unable to resolve school must consider student in overaward status for any need-based 2016-17 Title IV aid that was disbursed
 - except FWS – though no more FWS can be earned

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GEN-16-14: Conflicting Information

- Additional disbursements and overpayments
 - **Lower EFC:** when correction results in lower official 2016-17 EFC, school must disburse any additional 2016-17 aid it determines student is eligible to receive
 - Consistent with late disbursement rules at 34 CFR 668.164(g)
 - **Higher EFC:** when correction results in a higher official 2016-17 EFC, school must determine student's 2016-17 Title IV eligibility based on corrected EFC and may not make any additional 2016-17 disbursements for which student is no longer eligible
 - Overawards may occur

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GEN-16-14: Conflicting Information

- Resolving overawards and overpayments
 - Title IV Grants and Perkins Loans
 - Adjust subsequent disbursements
 - If not resolved by adjusting subsequent disbursements, student must repay portion disbursed no longer eligible for
 - School is not liable
 - Follow normal overpayment rules and procedures
 - Direct Subsidized Loans
 - Does not need to be immediately repaid but instead will be repaid under terms of promissory note
 - No action school must take except to record its determination

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Processing Update



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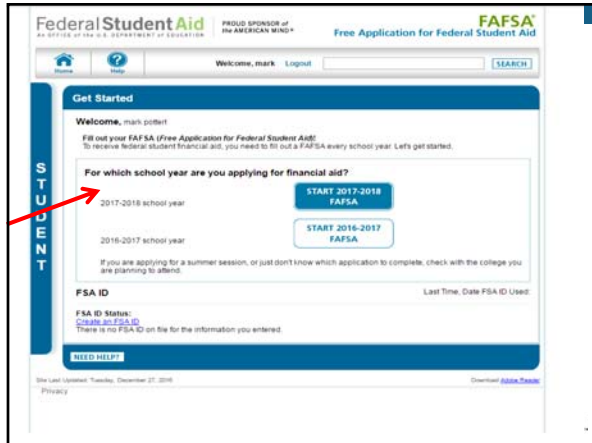


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2017-18 Enhanced Messaging - FOTW

- **Issue:** Students are confused about which FAFSA to complete when two cycles are active and the student has not completed a FAFSA for either year
- **Solution:** Messaging on “Get Started” page enhanced for clarity

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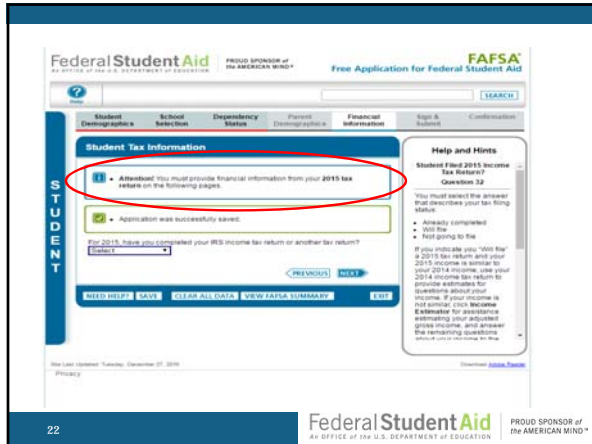


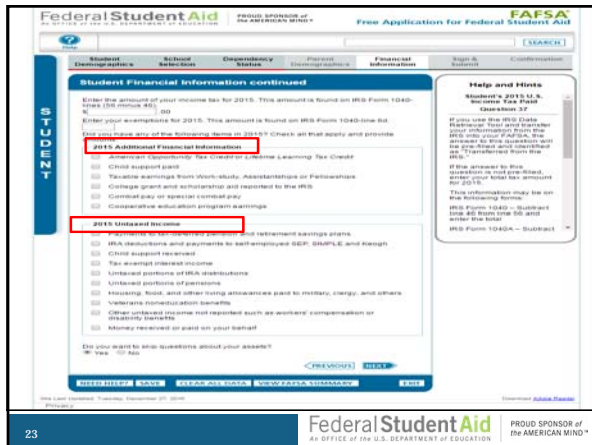
2017-18 Enhanced Messaging - FOTW

- **Issue:** Students and parents might not be sure which tax year data to report on financial information pages
- **Solution:** Applicants and parents are instructed to provide financial information from their 2015 tax return

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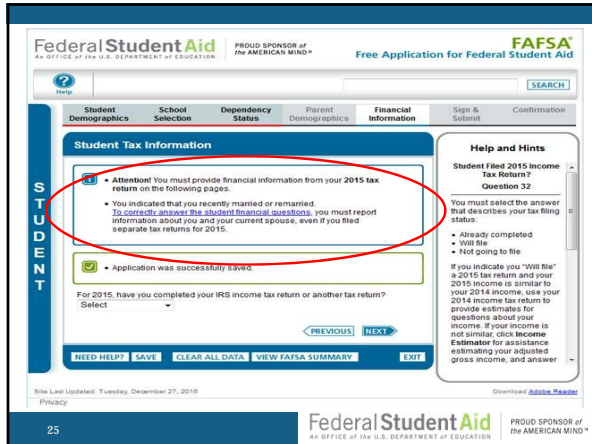


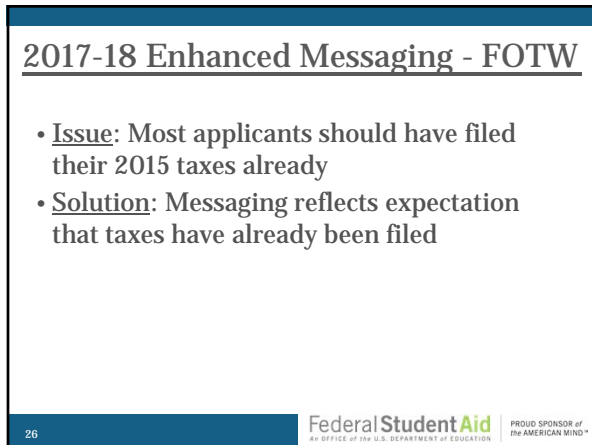


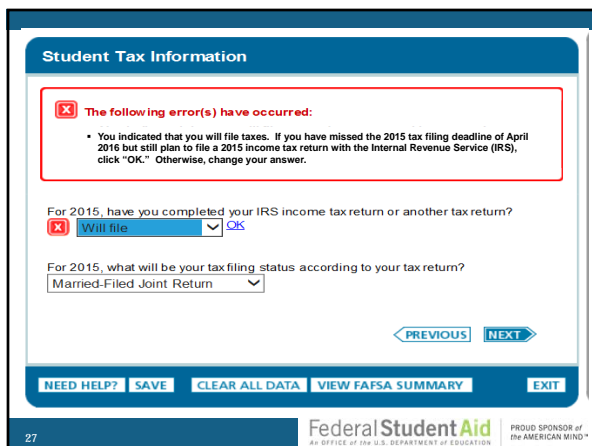
2017-18 Enhanced Messaging - FOTW

- **Issue:** There will be larger population of applicants and parents for whom the income tax return won't provide correct information due to recent marital status change
- **Solution:** Messaging and help text have been added

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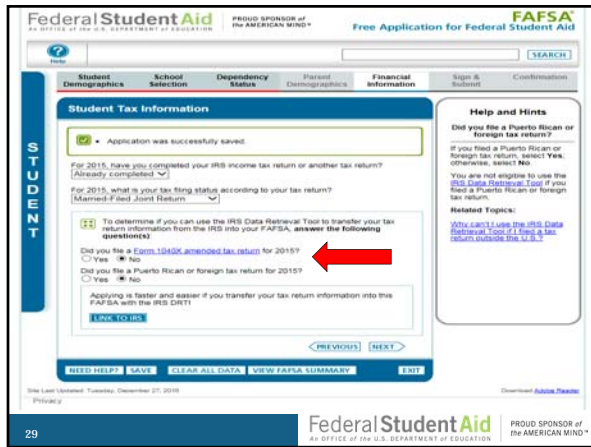



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2017-18 IRS DRT Enhancements

- Issue:** Filtering questions don't align with collection of prior-prior year tax information
- Solution:** Filtering questions have been modified


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2017-18 IRS DRT Enhancements


- Issue:** Applicants who are eligible to use the IRS DRT are not using it
- Solution:** Eligible applicants can only advance through FOTW if they use IRS DRT or actively opt out of using IRS DRT

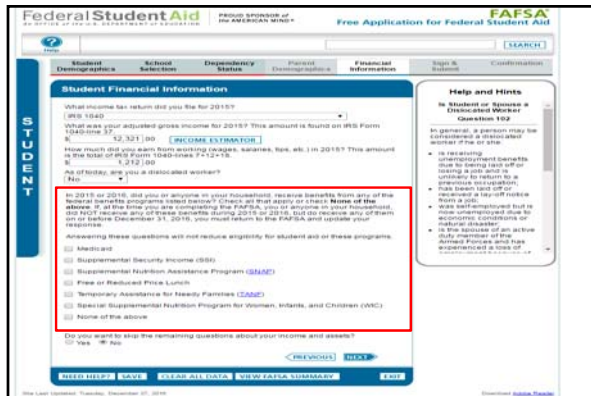
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Other 2017-18 FAFSA Changes

- Will no longer print FAFSA as color packet
 - More than 99 percent of FAFSAs are filed electronically
 - PDF FAFSA available online to be printed
 - Call 1-800-4FEDAID to request copy
- Medicaid added as federal means-tested benefit

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Important Dates


October 2016

- 2017-18 FAFSA on the Web availability (October 1, 2016)
- 2017-18 IRS Data Retrieval Tool availability (October 1, 2016)
- 2017-18 FAA Access to CPS Online availability (October 1, 2016)
- 2017-18 EDEExpress for Windows 2017-2018, Release 1.0 (October 3, 2016)

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Questions



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ED Contacts

Research and Customer Care Center
800.433.7327
fsa.customer.support@ed.gov

Reach FSA
855.FSA.4FAA – 1 number to reach 10 contact centers!

Campus-Based Call Center	eZ-Audit
COD	School Eligibility Services Group
CPS/SAIG	Foreign Schools Participation Division
NSLDS	Research and Customer Care Center
G5	Nelnet Total & Permanent Disability


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Questions?

Contact me with follow-up questions about this session:
Bruce Honer-Federal Training Officer
bruce.honer@ed.gov; 415-486-5521



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Training Feedback

To ensure quality training we ask all participants to please fill out an online session evaluation

- Go to <http://s.zoomerang.com/s/BruceHoner>
 - ❖ Evaluation form is specific to Bruce Honer
- This feedback tool will provide a means to educate and inform areas for improvement and support an effective process for “listening” to our customers
- Additional feedback about training can be directed to joann.borel@ed.gov; 936-201-3298

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Thank You

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