

# Creating a Federal Student Aid Account (FSA ID)

What you need to know...

What is a Federal Student Aid (FSA) Account?

An FSA Account is a username and password that you will use to log into certain U.S. Department of Education websites, and electronically sign the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®).

Who should create an FSA Account?

Students interested in receiving federal student aid should create an FSA Account. You **AND** any parent electronically signing the FAFSA will need their own separate FSA Account.

When should I create an FSA Account?

Due to processing time, we recommend you apply at least 3 days **BEFORE** filing the FAFSA or attending a FAFSA Completion Event.

What do I need to create an account?

You will need your own mobile phone number and/or email address.

# How to Create a Federal Student Aid Account (FSA ID)



**Before you start:** Make sure you have access to your personal email account or mobile phone while setting up the account.

- Step 1** Visit [studentaid.gov/fsa-id](https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id) and click "Create an Account," then click "Get Started."
- Step 2** Enter your name, date of birth, and Social Security number exactly as they appear on your Social Security card.  
**Note:** A Social Security number, email address, and mobile phone number can only be associated with one Federal Student Aid Account.
- Step 3** Enter your username, email, and password.
- Step 4** Enter your optional mailing address and phone number. You may also set up Mobile Phone Account Recovery if you provided a mobile phone number, allowing you to unlock your account from your mobile device.
- Step 5** Confirm your communication and language preferences.
- Step 6** Provide four required unique, challenge questions and answers.
- Step 7** Confirm and verify your personal information and acknowledge the account terms and conditions.
- Step 8** Add Two-Step Verification to safeguard your account. Whenever you sign in, you will receive a code to verify it is really you. Verify your account via the email or mobile phone number you previously entered. You will see a green box confirming your Two-Step Verification is set up.
- Step 9** A backup code is generated when you complete the Two-Step Verification process. Store this code in a secure place. Should you find yourself in a situation where you cannot use either of the Two-Step Verification methods, your generated backup code can be used to access your account.

**OPTIONAL** Use of an authenticator app, available from your phone's app store, provides the most security of the two-step verification methods. Select "set up an authenticator app" and follow the instructions provided.

## I created my FSA Account, now what?

You can now use your account to sign an original FAFSA. Once the Social Security Administration verifies your information in 1-3 days, you will be able to start a renewal FAFSA, make changes to an existing FAFSA, and log in to U.S. Department of Education websites.



**Never share your username and password with anyone, not even to someone helping you fill out the FAFSA.**

For additional information, visit [studentaid.gov/fsa-id](https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id).

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