

# What Data do Applicants Provide on the FAFSA?

## Prior-Prior Year Implementation

On September 13, 2015, President Obama announced a change in how and when students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Families will be able to begin completing the FAFSA on October 1, rather than January. This change more closely aligns the financial aid application process with the admission application process. In order to accommodate this earlier filing schedule, the FAFSA will collect income information from two years prior to the academic year for which the aid is intended (*Prior-Prior Year*), rather than the previous year. The new process begins in October 2016 for the 2017-18 award year. This chart shows which data elements will likely be affected by the change to prior-prior year income on the 2017-18 FAFSA, to the best of NASFAA's knowledge.

| 2017-18 FAFSA Data Element   | Timeframe Used to Provide Information            | Is this a change? |
|--|--|-------------------|
| Student demographic information (e.g. name, address, phone, citizenship) | As of the date the applicant signs the FAFSA     | No                |
| Student's or parents' marital status                                     | As of the date the applicant signs the FAFSA     | No                |
| Dependency status questions  | Dates provided in the questions                  | No                |
| Household size   | As of the date the applicant signs the FAFSA     | No                |
| Number in college  | As of the date the applicant signs the FAFSA     | No                |
| Receipt of federally means-tested benefits                               | Dates provided in the questions                  | No                |
| Tax return completion status   | 2015 tax return filing status (prior-prior year) | Yes               |
| <b>Income data:</b>  |  |                   |
| • Adjusted gross income  | 2015 tax data (prior-prior year)                 | Yes               |
| • Income tax paid  | 2015 tax data (prior-prior year)                 | Yes               |
| • Income earned from work  | 2015 tax data (prior-prior year)                 | Yes               |
| Tax exemptions   | 2015 tax data (prior-prior year)                 | Yes               |
| <b>Asset data:</b>   |  |                   |
| • Balance of cash, checking and savings accounts                         | As of the date the applicant signs the FAFSA     | No                |
| • Investment net worth   | As of the date the applicant signs the FAFSA     | No                |
| • Business/Investment farm net worth                                     | As of the date the applicant signs the FAFSA     | No                |

| 2017-18 FAFSA Data Element   | Timeframe Used to Provide Information | Is this a change? |
|--|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Additional financial information:</b>   |                                       |                   |
| • Education credits  | 2015 tax data (prior-prior year)      | Yes               |
| • Child support paid   | 2015 calendar year (prior-prior year) | Yes               |
| • Taxable earnings from need-based employment programs (e.g. Federal-Work Study)               | 2015 tax data (prior-prior year)      | Yes               |
| • Taxable college grant and scholarship aid reported in the AGI                                | 2015 tax data (prior-prior year)      | Yes               |
| • Combat pay or special combat pay included in the AGI   | 2015 tax data (prior-prior year)      | Yes               |
| • Earnings from work under a cooperative education program offered by a college                | 2015 tax data (prior-prior year)      | Yes               |
| <b>Untaxed income:</b>   |                                       |                   |
| • Payments to tax-deferred pension and retirement savings plans                                | 2015 tax data (prior-prior year)      | Yes               |
| • IRA deductions and payments to self-employed SEP, SIMPLE, Keogh, etc.                        | 2015 tax data (prior-prior year)      | Yes               |
| • Child support received   | 2015 calendar year (prior-prior year) | Yes               |
| • Tax exempt interest income   | 2015 tax data (prior-prior year)      | Yes               |
| • Untaxed portions of IRA distributions or pensions  | 2015 tax data (prior-prior year)      | Yes               |
| • Housing, food, or other living allowances paid to members of the military, clergy and others | 2015 tax data (prior-prior year)      | Yes               |
| • Veterans noneducation benefits   | 2015 calendar year (prior-prior year) | Yes               |
| • Other untaxed income (e.g. workers compensation, disability benefits, etc.)                  | 2015 calendar year (prior-prior year) | Yes               |
| • Untaxed portions of health savings accounts  | 2015 tax data (prior-prior year)      | Yes               |
| • Money received or paid on the student's behalf not reported elsewhere on the FAFSA           | 2015 calendar year (prior-prior year) | Yes               |



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