

A close-up, low-angle shot of a person's legs and feet as they run on a track. The person is wearing dark-colored running shoes with a prominent, light-colored, grid-like tread pattern on the soles. The background is heavily blurred, showing streaks of light and color, suggesting a fast-paced environment like a stadium or track. The sun is visible in the upper left, creating a bright, warm glow and lens flare effects across the scene.

# *Train the Trainers*

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What you should know to serve your students.

# Agenda

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Why File A FAFSA?



StudentAid.Gov



Financial Aid 101



Categories, Types, and Sources of Aid



IRS DRT



Special Circumstances



Verification



Common FAFSA Mistakes



Other Tricky Items...



When to ask for help?



# Why File?

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- Many students/families who don't fill out the FAFSA just assume they won't get financial aid...
- Students/Families are often poor judges of their own financial aid neediness. There are a lot of factors that go into determining the EFC and calculating need.
- A student/family will never know how their actual financial situation will compare to the cost of the college...
- College costs increases annually. Even if a student/family earns a lot of money, they may find they have financial need at specific schools, which will help them qualify for aid.
- It all depends on how a college offers aid and where the student's EFC is relative to a school's financial aid policy.



# StudentAid.Gov

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Studentaid.gov is the Department of Education's one-stop website for all things related to federal student aid.

- FAFSA Application
- Loan Entrance Counseling
- Loan Agreement (a.k.a. Master Promissory Note)
- Apply for a Parent PLUS Loan
- Student Grant and Loan History and any documents



<https://studentaid.gov/>

# Financial Aid 101: FSA ID

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## FSA ID

*noun.*

An FSA ID is simply a username and password combination, which can be used to securely log in to U.S. Department of Education websites like [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov). If you plan to fill out the FAFSA when it becomes available in October, you (and your parent if you're a dependent student) should create an FSA ID ASAP.

**Federal Student Aid**  
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# Financial Aid 101: Cost of Attendance

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Cost of Attendance is the estimate cost of college each year.



TUITION AND FEES



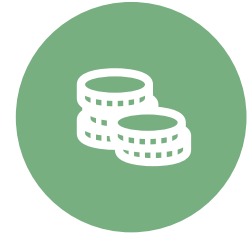
ROOM AND BOARD



BOOKS AND SUPPLIES



TRANSPORTATION



MISCELLANEOUS  
EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES

# Financial Aid 101: EFC

The Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is an index number used by colleges to determine how much financial aid a student would qualify for if they attended their school.

Items such as family size, taxed and untaxed income, assets, and benefits such as unemployment and Social Security could be considered in the EFC formula.

EFC is not the amount of money a student or their family will have to pay for college, nor is it the amount of financial aid a student will receive.

# Financial Aid 101: Need



Need is the difference between college cost and a student's ability to pay.



Financial need is defined by the formula:

$$\text{Cost of Attendance} - \text{EFC} = \text{Need}$$



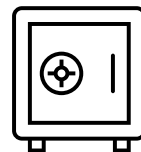
# Categories of Financial Aid

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## Need-Based Financial Aid

- Based on a student's calculated need
- This means the student (and their family) does not have the money to pay for a significant portion of college out-of-pocket
- Simply put, students who qualify for need-based aid need more help.



## Non-Need-Based Aid

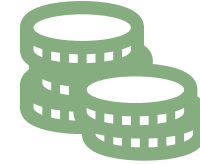
- Any type of financial aid not based on need.
- Generally, available to students regardless of income.

# Types of Financial Aid

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Scholarships



Grants



Loans



Work-Study Student  
Employment

# Types of Aid Continued

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## Need-Based

- Federal Pell Grant
- Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (SEOG)
- Direct Subsidized Loan
- Work-Study
- State Grant
- College Need Grants

## Non-Need Based

- Direct Unsubsidized Loan
- Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan
- Teacher Education Access for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant
- Merit and/or Talent Based Scholarships



# Sources of Financial Aid

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- Federal Government
- State of North Dakota
- College or University
- Private Sources

# Sources of Aid: Federal Student Aid Programs

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Pell Grant

Supplemental Educational  
Opportunity Grant (SEOG)

Teacher Education  
Assistance for College and  
Higher Education (TEACH)

Federal Parent PLUS Loan

Work-Study (FWS)

Iraq Afghanistan Service  
Grant

Federal Direct Student  
Loans



# Sources of Aid: ND State Grant and Scholarships

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ND Academic Scholarship

ND Career & Technical Education Scholarship

ND Indian Scholarship

ND Scholars Program

ND Career Builders Scholarship / Loan

Dual-Credit Tuition Scholarship

ND State Grant

# Sources of Aid: College or University

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- Merit or Need-Based Aid
- Aid may be gift (i.e., scholarship) or self-help (i.e., loan or campus employment)
- Aid awarded based on FAFSA application or other institutional aid application
- Deadlines/Application requirements vary



# Sources of Aid: Private

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1

Foundations, businesses, churches, civic and charitable organizations...etc.

2

Deadlines and application procedures vary

3

Students (and families) should begin researching now

# IRS Data Retrieval Tool (DRT)

Allows for certain tax return information to be transferred from the IRS database

Participation is voluntary. Student/Parent must agree to transfer data

IRS will authenticate taxpayers' identity

If tax record found, IRS transfers data to populate FAFSA

Use of DRT reduces documents requested by the Financial Aid Office

The screenshot shows the 'Student Tax Filing Status' form. At the top, a progress bar indicates the following steps: Student Demographics (completed), School Selection (completed), Dependency Status (completed), Parent Demographics, Financial Information (current step), Sign & Submit, and Confirmation. The 'STUDENT INFORMATION' section is active, displaying a green message: 'Application was successfully saved.' Below this, two informational boxes are present: one stating that 'you' and 'your' refer to the student, and another 'Attention!' box requiring 2017 tax return information. Three dropdown questions follow: 'For 2017, have you completed your IRS income tax return or another tax return?' (selected: Already completed), 'For 2017, what is your tax filing status according to your tax return?' (selected: Married-Filed Joint Return), and 'Did you file a Puerto Rican or foreign tax return for 2017?' (selected: No). The 'IRS Data Retrieval Tool' section is highlighted with a red oval. It contains the text: 'Applying is faster and easier if you transfer your tax return information into this FAFSA with the IRS Data Retrieval Tool (IRS DRT)!'. Below this text is a button labeled 'LINK TO IRS' with a double-headed arrow icon. At the bottom right of the form are 'PREVIOUS' and 'NEXT' navigation buttons.

# Special Circumstances

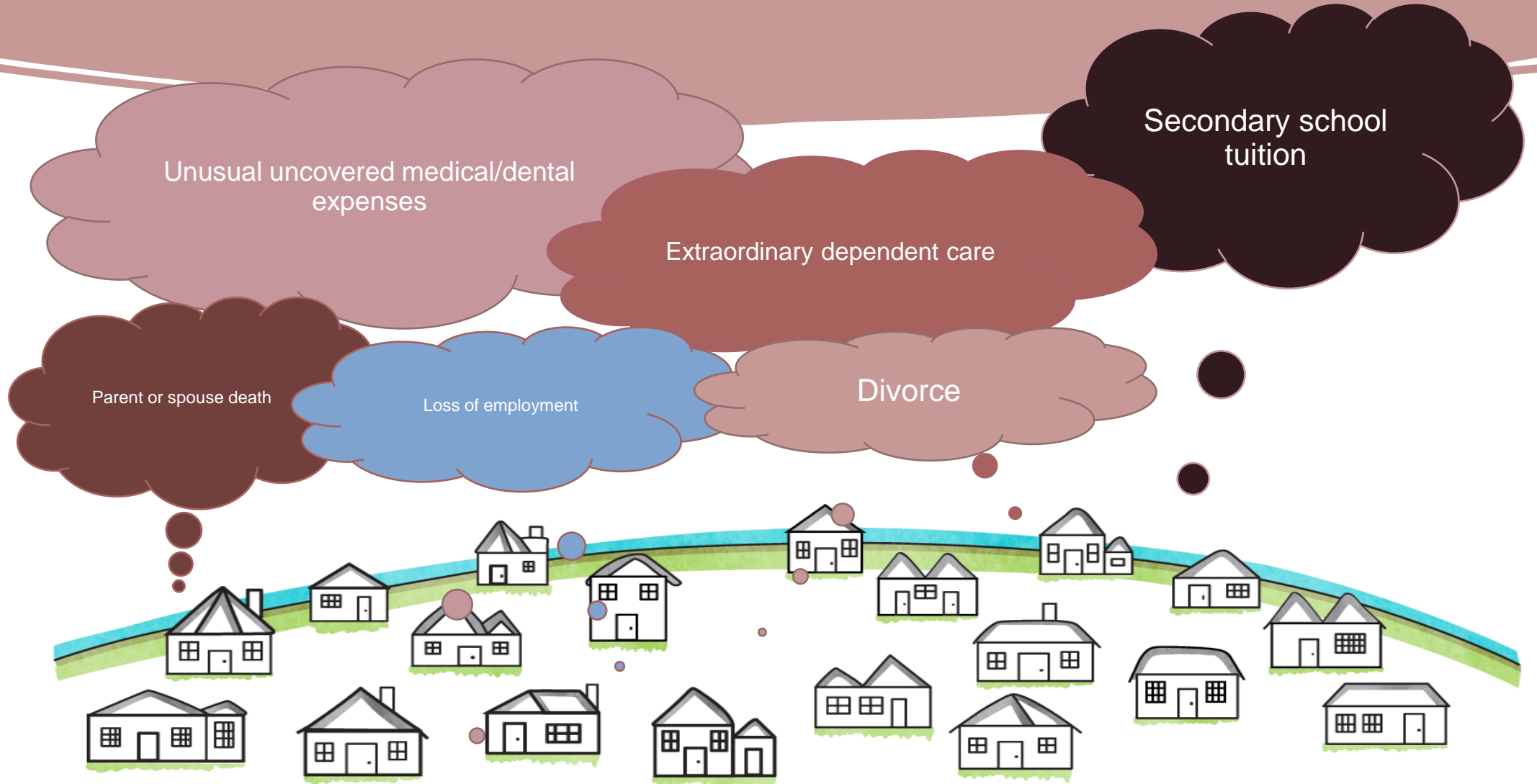
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- Conditions that cannot be documented on the FAFSA
- Applicant should communicate with their college or university's Financial Aid Office
- College will likely request student and, if applicable, parent to provide written explanation and documentation
- College will review and request additional documentation when necessary
- Decisions are final and cannot be appealed to the US Department of Education





# Special Circumstances Examples






# Verification

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*Verification is a review process used to confirm the data reported on a student's FAFSA application is accurate. If a student is selected for verification, their college will require additional documentation and/or forms that supports the information reported.*

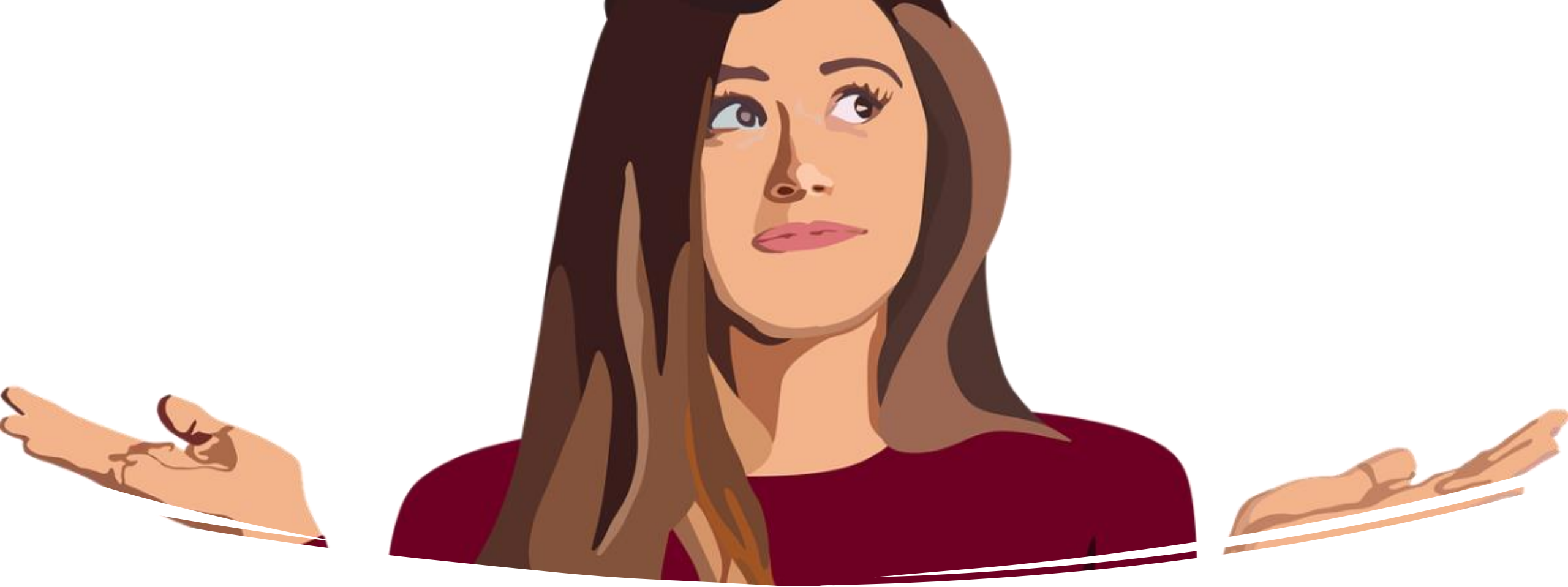


# What documents are needed for FAFSA Verification?

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The documents needed to complete verification depend on the circumstances under which a student's FAFSA was selected. Common documents needed:

- Proof of adjusted gross income
- Household verification form
- Copies of IRS tax return and/or W-2s
- Confirmation of non-tax filing status
- Documents clarifying inconsistent information reported on the FAFSA



**What happens if you  
don't complete  
Verification?**

*If an applicant does not complete verification, they may lose out on financial aid, such as grants, loans, and scholarships.*

# Common FAFSA Mistakes

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Waiting to file a FAFSA or missing FAFSA deadlines

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Not creating an FSA ID before starting the FAFSA application

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Supplying incorrect personal information

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Leaving answer fields blank

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Confusing parent data with student data

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Using the incorrect source for tax information or the wrong tax year data

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Forgetting to sign and date the FAFSA

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Providing an email address, the student does not check

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Forgetting to list a college or the college the student plans to attend

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# Other Tricky Items...

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- Legal Name - Enter the exact name on the SSN or Alien Registration Card
- Legal Status - Green Card holders and US Citizens are treated the same
- Who is the primary parent?
- Assets - Don't the value of your 401K or the home you live in



A white telephone handset is shown on a blue background. The handset is positioned horizontally, with its coiled cord extending to the left and right. The text "When to call the for help?" is overlaid in a white, cursive font, centered over the handset. A thin white horizontal line is positioned below the text.

*When to call the for help?*





# Questions

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# Thank You!

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