



Common FAFSA Mistakes

Mistake 1: Missing Signatures

- To submit the completed FAFSA, dependent students must include their own signature and one of their parent's signatures.
- To sign the FAFSA electronically, students and parents have to use their FSA IDs on the web application.
- A social security number is required to create an FSA ID.
- If a student's parent cannot create an FSA ID because they do not have a social security number, they can print, sign, and mail in the parent signature page.

Mistake 2: Parents' Income and Asset Information is Incomplete

- Dependent students whose parents make less than \$50,000 a year meet the Simplified Needs Test. These students will need to answer fewer questions about their parents' income and net worth.
- If a student's parents make more than \$50,000, they will need to fill out more asset information. This may include information about savings and investment accounts, rental properties, etc.

Mistake 3: Parental Social Security Number, Last Name, or Date of Birth Missing

- Most dependent students need to include income and identification information for both parents.
- If the application is missing a social security number, last name, or date of birth for one or both parents, it will be marked incomplete.
- If one or both parents do not have a social security number, they can instead enter 00000000.

Mistake 4: Missing Marital Status and Number of Family Members

- Dependent students should set their marital status to "unmarried." Note that married students are automatically considered independent, regardless of their age.
- The household size for dependent students includes the student, student's parents, other children even if they do not live with the parents but receive more than half of their support from the parents, and all other individuals, regardless of their age, who live with the parents and receive more than half of their support from the parents.