Non-financial Barriers to Federal Student Aid

When Money Is Not The Problem
Demographic Data

- Name
  - Full legal name only

- Sex and Social Security Registration
  - Sex assigned at birth regardless of student’s gender identity—MUST register with selective service if assigned male at birth and entered the US before age 25.
  - If required, register through the FAFSA itself or at [https://www.sss.gov/](https://www.sss.gov/)
Fixing an Incorrect Name or SSN

- **Name:**
  1. Log into FAFSA
  2. Change name to match Social Security Card
  3. Sign and submit!

- **Social Security Number:**
  - 1. Start a new FAFSA!
    - OR
  - 2. If meeting a deadline (such as for MAP Grant eligibility): Call 1-800-4-FED-AID for assistance.
Life Circumstances

- Citizenship
  - Citizens and permanent residents are eligible regardless of status of parent(s)
  - Some others—refugees, human trafficking victims—also eligible
  - Temporary visas and undocumented/DACA students are **not** eligible

- High School Completion Status
  - Student must complete high school or GED before receiving federal financial aid
Addressing Citizenship

- **Issue #1**: Student is unsure if they are eligible.
- **Resolution**: See notes for question 14 to right side of FAFSA site for a full list of eligible immigration statuses.

- **Issue #2**: Student is not eligible.
- **Resolution**: MANY scholarships for undocumented and/or international students—contact individual schools.

- **Issue #3**: Student’s parent(s) have no social security number.
- **Resolution**: Use all zeroes for any parent without an SSN. **Do not** use an ITIN.
Criminal History

- **Drug-related Convictions**
  - To disqualify the student, incident must:
    - Be related to sale or possession of illegal drugs
    - Be a conviction (not just a charge)
    - Have occurred while receiving federal financial aid

- **Current Incarceration**
  - Not eligible for federal aid until no longer incarcerated
Regaining Eligibility

- Complete Student Eligibility Worksheet to determine when student will regain eligibility.
  - Can regain eligibility even in the middle of the academic year!
  - Eligibility continues unless a new qualifying incident occurs.

- Can regain eligibility early by completing approved rehabilitation programs—talk to your financial aid office.

- [https://ifap.ed.gov/drugworksheets/1718StudentAidEligibilityWorksheetQ23.html](https://ifap.ed.gov/drugworksheets/1718StudentAidEligibilityWorksheetQ23.html)
Family Circumstances

- Missing or Incarcerated Parents
- Student is Fleeing Abuse
- Parents Will Not Cooperate or Provide Information
- Parents Do Not Speak English
Missing, Incarcerated, Abusive Parents

- Talk to aid office at each individual school—student can provide documentation and receive a dependency override to waive parental information requirement.
  - May include: letter from counselor or therapist, court documents, police reports, etc.
Uncooperative Parents

- First: Find out why parents will not provide information—is it due to a misunderstanding of the process?
- Second: Is the student actually dependent?
- If parents still refuse:
  - Unsubsidized loans
  - Scholarships
  - On-campus work
Non-English Speakers

- FAFSA and other resources available in English and Spanish (and sometimes Braille).
- Video/audio versions of many Federal Student Aid resources (English/Spanish).
- https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/resources
Students must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) throughout their education. Parameters include:

- GPA
- Course Completion Rate
- Progress Toward Degree
Re-establishing SAP

- **Option 1:** Student brings GPA, course completion rate, or progress toward degree back in line on their own. Eligibility is automatically regained.

- **Option 2:** Student submits an appeal to the school. If approved, student can continue receiving federal aid while trying to improve their academic performance.
Danielle Long, Financial Aid Specialist, College of Lake County

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