



Financial Aid Checklist



2027-2028 Academic Year

The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) will open **October 1** at www.studentaid.gov.

- If you are completing the FAFSA for the first time, click on “Create Account.”
 - Using your legal name, apply for your Studentaid.gov Account (FSA ID) at www.studentaid.gov.
 - The Applicant (student) and a Contributor (parent or student’s spouse) must each create a Studentaid.gov account.
 - If the student’s parents filed the 2025 income tax return as Married Filing Separately, each parent will have to create an FSA ID and give consent to retrieve tax return information.
- If you’ve applied for federal financial aid in the past, click on “Log In.”
 - Parents who have previously done a FAFSA will use the same Studentaid.gov account (FSA ID) for all of their children.
 - If you’ve forgotten your user name or password, click on “Forgot My Username” or “Forgot My Password” and follow the prompts.
- Information needed to properly fill out the FAFSA:
 - The **2025** tax return of the student and parent(s)
 - Total current amount of cash, savings, checking accounts and net worth of Investments, and Real Estate (excluding home in which the student lives)
 - Amount of Child Support received in the last completed calendar year
- Tips for filling out the FAFSA:
 - **The Student should begin the FAFSA then invite their parent or spouse to contribute to the form.**
 - Enter parent’s email address.
 - Parent or spouse will receive the invitation link via the email address provided on the student FAFSA.
 - If the student’s parents are divorced, the parent who provided the most financial support in the last calendar year must be the parent on the FAFSA.
 - 2025 income tax information should automatically be retrieved through the IRS Direct Data Exchange.
 - In some circumstances, contributors may have to manually enter their tax and income data.
 - Students and Contributors must consent to retrieve and disclose federal tax information from the IRS.
 - **If consent is not granted, the student will not be eligible for federal student aid.**
 - Add the school: Highland Community College School Code: 001921
 - If you have technical issues with the FAFSA website, contact them directly at 1-800-433-3243.
- Once we receive your FAFSA, we will review it for any potential issues and will mail to you a Missing Information letter which will explain what is needed.
- Once all processes are complete, you will receive an email from the Financial Aid Office to visit your self-service portal to review additional documents that are needed or your financial aid offer. You should be able to complete most processes on your self-service portal.

Please contact Highland Community College’s financial aid office if you have questions.

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