File the FAFSA For 2026-2027

THE FAFSA OPENS OCTOBER 1ST ! **Make sure you have all of the documents you need (see below)**

1) Go to https://studentaid.gov/ and click on "Start Here"
2) Create your FSA ID:
   a. If you have not created an FSA ID yet, select "Create an FSA ID"
   b. You will need a current e-mail account, and an active phone number
   c. If dependent, be sure to create one for a parent as well
   d. Once completed, return to the FAFSA to continue.

   When you create your FSA IDs, be sure to write them down.
3) Click "Log In", Enter your FSA ID and Password, and select "Log In".
4) Select "FAFSA Form" from the top menu and then "Complete the FAFSA Form"
5) Under 2026-27 FAFSA Form, select "Start New Form".
6) Follow on screen prompts and answer basic questions about yourself
7) Choose schools to have the FAFSA information sent to (USCL's school code is 003453)
8) Answer income information about yourself:
   a. Federal tax information for 2024 will be transferred automatically.
   b. Report current assets (savings, investments, business)
   c. Report other resources (like child support)
9) Answer "Dependency" questions (Dependent student must add parents to the FAFSA)
10) Invite your contributors (parent(s) or spouse) to add complete the FAFSA
    a. This sends them an email with a link to https://studentaid.gov/
    b. They need to have or create an FSA ID
    c. Their tax information for 2024 will be transferred automatically.
    d. They may be asked for current assets and other resources.
11) Each person electronically "Signs" the FAFSA.
12) Submit the FAFSA and save your confirmation number (take a photo)

To complete the FASFA you will need the following items for yourself and your spouse or parents:

- **Social Security numbers, Full Name, Dates of Birth**
- **A valid and accessible e-mail address and phone number for the student and each contributor**
- **2024 year income information:**
  - Federal tax information is now transferred directly from the IRS
  - Other income earned in 2024, if you did not file taxes on that income
- **Current total net value of** cash, savings, checking accounts, investments (stocks, bonds, CDs, etc.), land and properties (other than your home), large private businesses (those with 100 or more employees), and business farms…

  UNLESS your total income in 2024 was less than $50,000, AND…
  - in 2024 or 2025; someone in your household received SSI, SNAP, Free/Reduce Lunches, TANF or WIC; or
  - you or your parent (If dependent) filed a 1040 but did NOT file a Schedule 1; or
  - you or your parent (If dependent) were a dislocated worker.
- **Your alien registration card and/or Visa (if you are not a U.S. citizen)**

Still need help? Contact the USCL Financial Aid Office… USCL's SCHOOL CODE IS 003453
803-313-7068 usclfa@mailbox.sc.edu Online via https://sc.edu/lancaster/chat

FSA ID WORKSHEET

To access https://studentaid.gov/ you will need to create a Federal Student Aid Identification (FSA ID). When you do so there are a number of security questions. You can use this worksheet to assist you in recording your answers to those questions. **You should keep this sheet in a secure location so you can access it later if needed.**

1. PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS
Enter your full name as it appears on the social security card, the social security number, and date of birth

2. ENTER AN EMAIL ADDRESS The email address must be unique to each individual. DO NOT use your school email.

3. CREATE A USERNAME 6 — 30 characters. Avoid using personal identifiers like your name or birthdate.

4. CREATE A PASSWORD 8 — 30 characters, and contain at least one upper case letter, one lower case, one number. Avoid personal identifiers. This cannot contain any part of your name or date of birth.

5. CHALLENGE QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

There are four challenge questions and answers. Select the questions from drop down menus and provide your answers below. Be sure to note if you used a capital letter.

1. 2.

3. 4.

6 VERIFY YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS & MOBILE PHONE NUMBER FSA will send an email with a code that must be entered to verify your email address. FSA will send a text message with a code used to verify your mobile phone number.

7. OTHER You may setup other security codes or passwords. Record those here.

Need help accessing your FSA ID?

Contact the **Federal Student Aid Information Center (FSAIC)**
Live Chat and Email contact are available on their website:
https://studentaid.gov/help-center/contact
Phone: 1-800-433-3243
Hours of Operation

Monday: 8 a.m.–9 p.m. Eastern time (ET)
Tuesday–Wednesday: 8 a.m.–8 p.m. ET
Thursday–Friday: 8 a.m.–6 p.m. ET
Saturday–Sunday: Closed
Closed on all federal holidays.