

FSA ID

An FSA ID is a username and password that you must use to log in to certain U.S. Department of Education (ED) websites in order to access your own personal information such as the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®)* at fafsa.gov. Your FSA ID is used to sign legally binding documents electronically and has the same legal status as a written signature. Don't give your FSA ID to anyone—not even to someone helping you fill out the FAFSA and DO NOT create an FSA ID for anyone other than yourself.

How to create an FSA ID:

1. Go to fsaid.ed.gov
2. Enter the following information:
 - Provide an e-mail that you can readily login to receive an email.
 - Create a unique username and password. Write this information down for future use and store it in a secure place.
 - Verify that you are at least 13 years old.
3. Enter your personal information:
 - Provide your Social Security number, name, and date of birth. **Always double check that you are using the correct SSN and the name that you use matches your SS Card.** Check the box to “show text” to make sure you are entering everything correctly.
 - Include your mailing address, e-mail address, telephone number, and language preference.
 - For security purposes, provide answers to five challenge questions. **Always use the “show text” option and write your questions and answers down for future reference.**
4. Submit your FSA ID information:
 - Agree to the terms and conditions.
 - Verify your e-mail address. (This is optional, but helpful. By verifying your e-mail address, you can use your e-mail address as your username when logging into certain ED websites. This verification also allows you to retrieve your username or reset your password without answering challenge questions.)

FSA ID Tips

- An e-mail address cannot be used with more than one FSA ID. If you forget your username or password, you can request that a secure code be e-mailed to you to allow you to reset your username or password. For security reasons, you don't want that code being sent to someone else.
- A dependent student will need to have one of his or her legal parents sign the student's FAFSA, so the parent needs an FSA ID as well.
- If you already have a Federal Student Aid PIN, you can link your PIN to your FSA ID. This allows you to immediately use your FSA ID to access your personal information on any of the ED websites that require an FSA ID. If you are creating an FSA ID for the first time, or if you don't link your FSA ID to your PIN, you may use your FSA ID to sign an original FAFSA, but nothing else.

Sources: studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/filling-out/fsaid fsaid.ed.gov

Can I make an FSA ID for someone else or have someone make an FSA ID for me?

No. Only the owner of an FSA ID should create or use the account.

Here's why:

Only create an FSA ID using your own personal information and for your own exclusive use. You are not authorized to create an FSA ID on behalf of someone else, including family.

Misrepresentation of your identity to the federal government could result in criminal or civil penalties.

You are much more likely to lose access to your FSA ID if someone else creates it for you. To use your FSA ID, you need to know the username, password and answers to challenge questions. Plus, you need access to the e-mail account associated with the FSA ID. Without these, you can easily lose access to your FSA ID and be unable to log in to Federal Student Aid websites.