

List of 2024-25 FAFSA Terminology

The FAFSA Simplification and FUTURE Acts made changes to the 2024-25 FAFSA that resulted in changes to older, well-known terms, which are listed below. These terms and definitions have been provided by Federal Student Aid, an Office of the U.S. Department of Education.

Account Username and Password (FSA ID): Username and password used to log in to all Federal Student Aid products and tools on StudentAid.gov.

Contributor: any individual required to provide consent and approval for federal tax information (FTI) along with their signature on the FAFSA® form, including the student; the student's spouse; a biological or adoptive parent; or the parent's spouse (stepparent).

FAFSA FTI Approval: formal approval granted by an applicant and any applicable contributors for a given FAFSA cycle (e.g., December 2023 to September 2025 for the 2024-25 FAFSA form) to retrieve and use FTI to determine an applicant's federal financial aid eligibility as well as permit the redisclosure of FTI by the Department to an eligible institution; state higher education agency; or a designated scholarship organization for the application, award, and administration of student aid programs. An applicant and contributor (if applicable) must provide approval once each year. If FAFSA FTI approval is not provided, the student will not be eligible for any Title IV aid until the approval is provided by each contributor.

FAFSA Privacy Act Consent: formal consent provided by an applicant and any applicable contributor(s) for a given FAFSA cycle (e.g., December 2023 to September 2025 for the 2024-25 FAFSA form) that meets the statutory requirements of collecting and using an individual's personally-identifiable information (PII) under the Privacy Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. § 552a). PII provided on the FAFSA (e.g., name, date of birth, social security number) with consent of the