

# Financial Aid Terminology

## [New] FAFSA Terminology Cheat Sheet

Old Term	New Term	What is it
SAR	FAFSA Submission Summary	The student's output document provides a summary of data input on the FAFSA form.
EFC	Student Aid Index	The SAI measures your family's financial strength and is used to determine your eligibility for federal student aid. SAI can be a negative number (down to -1500), which can be used by colleges in determining students who have the most financial need.
	Consent	All users identified as required on a particular FAFSA form will be promoted to provide consent. This consent is required to retrieve FTI from the IRS and calculate aid eligibility.
Parent 2	Other Parent	If the student's parent is required to provide information in the Parent section, and that parent's current marital status, as indicated, is married, remarried, or unmarried, and both legal parents are living together, the student's other parent must complete the Other Parent section including tax information if parents didn't file a joint tax return.
	Primary or Custodial Parent	For dependent students whose biological/adoptive parents are divorced or separated, the primary or custodial parent is the parent who provides the greater portion of the student's financial support and is whose information should be used on the students FAFSA.

	Unusual Circumstances	Scenarios that prevent dependent students from providing parent information and may result in a dependency override.
Unusual Circumstances	Special Circumstances	Financial situations that an FAA may determine warrant a professional judgment.
IRS DRT	FTI- Federal Tax Information	Approval and consent for the disclosure and use of federal tax information from the US Department of Treasury.
	Contributor	The groups of individuals who need to provide their information and consent on the FAFSA: Student, Student Spouse, Parent, Other Parent, Preparer
Dependency Status Questions	Personal Circumstances	List of questions/situations that would make a student independent on the FAFSA.
	Provisional Independence	Students who indicate they have an unusual circumstance or indicated for the first time they are unaccompanied and homeless/at risk of being homeless, they will receive this status which will allow the FAFSA to be completed without providing parent information and receive an SAI and estimate of federal aid eligibility.
	Minimum Pell Grant	Ability of a student to receive some Pell Grant based on adjusted gross income, family size, state of legal residence, and prior-prior year poverty tables.
Maximum Pell Grant		Ability of a student to receive the maximum amount of available Pell Grant that that award year based on prior-prior year poverty tables, adjusted gross income, state of legal residence, and tax filing status.
Simplified Needs Test	Exempt from Asset Reporting	New name for the means-tested benefits part of the FAFSA.
	Nonbinary	A student who does not identify exclusively as male or female.

	Transgender	A student whose gender identity is different from their sex assigned at birth.
	HiSET, GED, TASC	The options for the “State-recognized high school equivalent” when selecting high school completion status.
Household Size	Family Size	Based on the number of people claimed as exemptions on the prior-prior year tax forms filed rather than manual entry on FAFSA form. Aligns to the IRS Tax Code to exemptions
Professional Judgment Adjustment	Correction	Change made by the applicant or FAA to information on applicant’s FAFSA form.
CPS (central processing system)	FPS (FAFSA processing system)	FPS is the replacement to the CPS which will send information to Federal Tax Information Module (FTIM) to calculate the students SAI using both federal tax information and FAFSA processing system data provided by contributors on the FAFSA
	FTIM (federal tax information module)	The new Federal Student Aid system designed to ensure compliance with IRS privacy requirements and security of data.
FSA ID		Username and password used to log in to all Federal Student Aid products and tools on StudentAid.gov.
	Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI)	Classification of the FTI related to the tax returns and return information. FTI fields on the ISIR will be labeled CUI.
Room and Board	Food and Housing	Components of the Cost of Attendance within a student's financial aid package.
Estimated Financial Assistance (EFA)	Other Financial Assistance	In the student’s financial aid package, when factoring in other aid to determine the amount of a student’s need- and non-need-based financial aid.

Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant (IASG)  Children of Fallen Heroes (CFH)	Special Rules for Pell Grant	New or modified eligibility criteria for students whose parent or guardian died in the line of duty while serving on active duty as a member of the Armed Forces on or after Sept. 11, 2001 or actively serving as and performing the duties of a public safety officer and is less than 33 years old as of the first Jan 1 of the processing year.
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