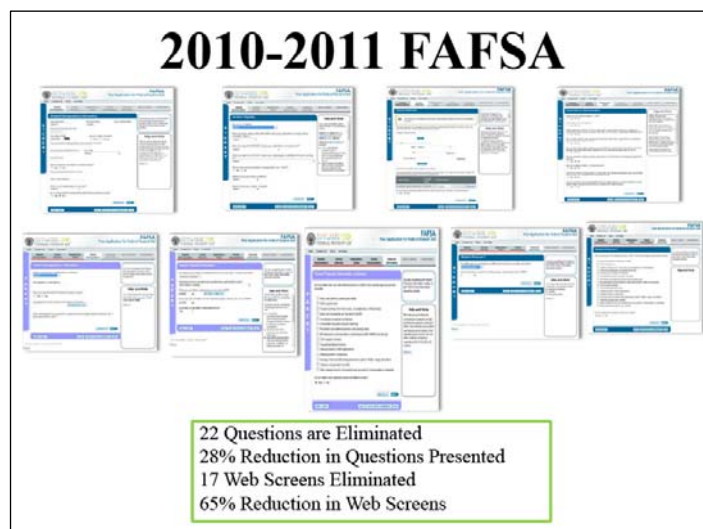
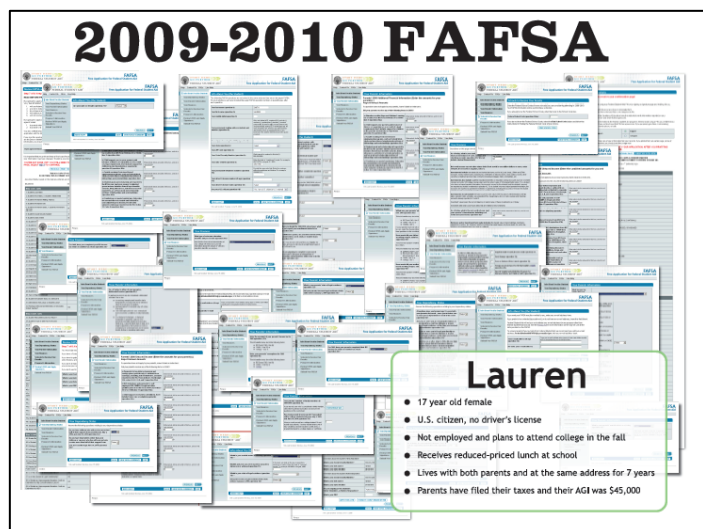


FAFSA-on-the-Web

Simplification Update, January 5, 2010



What's New:

Fewer Questions: Questions are now asked only of applicants with relevant characteristics.

- Students with low incomes will no longer be asked for asset information, which is not used to determine their aid eligibility.
- Questions regarding the state and date of legal residency are asked only of applicants who have not had the same address for at least 5 years.
- Questions regarding additional financial information and untaxed income are presented in a simplified keyword “check box” format on one page.
- Only returning students are asked about prior drug convictions because the question does not apply to first-year students.
- Questions regarding veterans’ benefits are removed because they are no longer affect eligibility for other federal aid.
- Improvements implemented in July, 2009, on the 2009-10 form are carried over to the new form:
 - Men over the age of 26 are no longer asked to register for the selective service.
 - Students who are at least 24 or married—who are automatically exempted from providing their parents’ financial information—are now able to skip questions intended only to determine whether parental information is necessary.
 - Applicants determined to be dependent but whose parents refuse to provide parental data on the FAFSA are now allowed to submit the FAFSA without parental information in order to receive unsubsidized loans only.

Friendlier Navigation: The entire online form has been redesigned, making it more user-friendly and reducing its overall length.

- Student and parent sections are clearly identified with side tabs.
- Status indicators guide applicants through web modules, such as demographics, basic eligibility, and dependency status.
- Dynamic question labels, help text, and instructions based on an applicant’s profile (e.g. marital status, tax filing status, and type of return filed) have been added for increased clarity and direction.

- The display of the help text and instructions, which takes up much of the web screen on the 2009-10 form, is enhanced by the use of help text that disappears when you are no longer in a particular section.

What's Coming:

IRS data share: Later this month, students applying for aid in the spring semester using the 2009-2010 application for aid will be able to retrieve and import their tax data from the IRS. In the summer of 2010, students applying for aid in the 2010-11 year will also be able to apply for aid using their tax data.

Tax Year	My Tax Information	FAFSA Question Numbers
2008		
Name (s)	Jane Smith	
Social Security Number	***-**-6789	
Filing Status	Single	
Type of Tax Return Filed	1040	Question 34 on the FAFSA
Adjusted Gross Income	\$36,721	Question 36 on the FAFSA
Income Tax	\$3,400	Question 37 on the FAFSA
IRS Exemptions	2	Question 38 on the FAFSA
Education Credits	\$2,500	Question 46a on the FAFSA
IRA Deductions and Payments	\$2,500	Question 47b on the FAFSA
Tax-Exempt Interest Income	\$2,500	Question 47d on the FAFSA
Untaxed IRA Distributions	\$2,500	Question 47e on the FAFSA
Untaxed Pensions	\$2,500	Question 47f on the FAFSA

To use this process, applicants will begin completing the FAFSA on the Web. A link to the IRS will display in the income section of the application with a message that students may access the IRS site to retrieve income information to complete the application.

What's Proposed:

In order to further facilitate simplification, the Administration has asked Congress to remove the remaining asset questions and other financial information that cannot be found on a family's tax return. HR 3221, legislation that has been passed by the House of Representatives, begins this task by removing most asset information from the needs analysis equation. Removing all of the asset questions would make it possible for students to apply for aid using only the financial information already found on their tax returns.