

CIRCLE FAFSA

Completing the FAFSA for Circle **Free Application For Federal Student Aid**

CIRCLE FINANCIAL AID OFFICE:
financialaidadministrator@circlesquare.org

The FAFSA is the first step in applying for Financial Aid. Prospective and returning students must complete a free FAFSA Application to determine eligibility for Federal Aid of any kind, as well as for need-based CITSTS Scholarships. The FAFSA is normally available every October 1st for the following academic year – for example, on October 1, 2023 for the 2024-25 academic year. The financial information and other information you or your parent enter on the FAFSA help determine your eligibility for aid. Award amounts are based on student eligibility, financial need assessment, cost of attendance (COA), and the length of the program.

In the 2024-25 FAFSA, your spouse, parent, parent spouse or partner, or step-parent must create their own FSA-ID in order to be a “Contributor” to your FAFSA and provide any required information. They cannot login with the student FSA-ID.

For non-CIRCLE specific questions about completing the FAFSA, you should call **1-800-433-3243** for the latest information on correct FAFSA completion.

Start your FAFSA Application here:

<https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>

while referring to the CIRCLE-specific answers that follow:

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Section 1: Student identity

You must use your legal name: Last, First, (and middle initial if you have one) as it appears on your Social Security Card. **DO NOT USE YOUR STAGE NAME or NICKNAME.** Using a stage name or nickname on the FAFSA application, admissions application, school registration documents, class attendance, Federal Work Study, or any other financial aid documents, can lead to significant delays and problems with your application, processing, and receipt of Federal funds.

Section 2: Student Contact Information

The Financial Aid Office will only use the email address you enter on the FAFSA. If you change your email address, you must update your FAFSA and then notify the Circle Financial Aid Administrator.

Section 3: Student Marital Status

You must answer.

Section 4: Student Grade Level, degree history & career plans

If this is your **first** year at CIRCLE, your answer is:

First year undergraduate (Freshman)

This includes Eckerd transfers.

If this is your **second** year at CIRCLE your answer is:

Second year undergraduate (Sophomore)

1st question:

Degreed students: If you already have, or will have, a Bachelor's degree (a 4-year degree), or a Graduate degree (Master's, Doctorate, PhD, or JD), by the start of classes in September 2024, you must answer **YES**.

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If you have an Associate's degree (2 years) only, or less than 2 years of college, the answer is **NO**.

2nd question:

CIRCLE does not have a teaching certification, therefore your answer is **NO**.

Section 5: Student Personal Circumstances

Select all answers that are true for you. If none are true, you must select *None of these apply*. **You cannot leave this section blank.**

Section 6: Student Other Circumstances

Select all answers that are true for you. If none are true, you must select *None of these apply*. **You cannot leave this section blank.**

Sections 7, 8, 9, 10: Read Page 4 of the FAFSA Instructions to see which questions you can skip.

Section 11: Student Demographic Information/gender

You may select *Prefer not to answer*, but you cannot leave this section blank.

Section 12: Student Race & Ethnicity

You may select *Prefer not to answer*, but you cannot leave this section blank.

Section 13: Student Citizenship

You must answer.

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Section 14: Student State of Legal Residence

You must answer. If you've lived in your state your entire life, enter your birth month and year.

Section 15: Parent Education Status

You must answer.

Section 16: Parent Killed in Line of Duty

You must answer.

Section 17: Student High School Information

You must answer.

Section 18: Federal Benefits Received

Read Page 4 of the FAFSA Instructions to see which questions you can skip.

Section 19: Student Tax Filing Status

Section 20: Student 2022 Filing Status & Tax Return Information

If the answer is No to both questions above in Section 19, *and* the student is not married, Questions 20-22 can be skipped - however, if the student is also required to provide Parent information, Question 22 *must* be answered. The 2024-25 FAFSA uses information from the **2022** tax filing year, also known as "*prior- prior year*". ***You and your parent, if dependent, are consenting to use the DRT" tool that links to the IRS by completing the FAFSA. On Question, No. 24: if you do not check "Approval to transfer federal tax information from the IRS, you will not be eligible for Federal Financial Aid.***

Section 21: Student Annual Child Support Received.

You must answer, unless the answer is No to both questions above in Section 19, *and* the student is not married, Questions 20-22 can be skipped-

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however, if the student is also required to provide Parent information, Question 22 *must* be answered.

Section 22: Student Assets

You must answer, unless the answer is No to both questions above in Section 19, *and* the student is not married, Questions 20-22 can be skipped - however, if the student is also required to provide Parent information, Question 22 *must* be answered

Section 23: Colleges

In order for Circle to receive your FAFSA data, you must enter Circle's Federal School Code: **014760**.

Section 24: Student Consent, Approval & Signature

You must check "approval", sign and date, or you will not be eligible for Federal Financial Aid.

Section 25-29: Student Spouse

If you are not married, you can skip these questions.

See "Who must provide information on the FAFSA form? *Student Spouse*" on page 3.

Section 30-41: Parent Information

See "Who must provide information on the FAFSA form? *Parent*" on page 3.

If student is determined *Dependent*, the parent must answer.

Parent must answer 41: Approval, Signature & Date, or student will not be eligible for Federal financial aid.

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Section 42-45: Parent Spouse or Partner

To be answered only by legal parent or step-parent. See “Who must provide information on the FAFSA form? *Parent*” on page 3. If student is determined *Dependent*, the legal parent or step-parent must answer.

Legal Parent or Step-Parent must answer 46: Approval, Signature & Date, or student will not be eligible for Federal financial aid.

Section 47-49: Preparer

Read Page 6: Student, Student Spouse, Parent, Parent Spouse or Partner, ***Preparer Certification of Truthfulness by Signing.***

When finished, and after any updates to your FAFSA, be sure to hit **SUBMIT.**

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For CHAT and EMAIL options, visit

<https://studentaid.gov/help-center/contact#all-aid-fsaic>

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