

FAFSA Simplification Fact Sheet



SCHOLARSHIPS AND
STUDENT AID

Student Aid Index (SAI) Overview

WHAT IS THE FAFSA SIMPLIFICATION ACT?

- a more streamlined application process,
- expanded eligibility for federal financial aid,
- reduced barriers for certain student populations, and
- a better user experience for the FAFSA form.

CURRENT KEY INFORMATION AND TALKING POINTS:

2024-2025
FAFSA NOT
AVAILABLE
UNTIL
DECEMBER

STUDENT AID
INDEX (SAI)
IS REPLACING
EFC IN THE
FORMULA

FORMULA
CHANGE WILL
MEAN MORE
PELL FOR SOME
STUDENTS

ESTIMATOR
TOOL WILL BE
AVAILABLE IN
THE SUMMER
2023



COST OF
ATTENDANCE (COA)



STUDENT AID
INDEX (SAI)



FINANCIAL
NEED

Benefits and what's next



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BENEFITS TO STUDENTS, FAMILIES AND BORROWERS

- Replacing the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) with the Student Aid Index (SAI)
 - Students and families will see a different measure of their ability to pay for college and will also experience a change in the methodology used to determine aid. The new formula removes the number of family members in college from the calculation and allows a minimum SAI of negative \$1,500 to give financial aid administrators more insight when making determinations for students with especially challenging situations.
- Expanding access to federal aid
 - The FAFSA Simplification Act expands the Federal Pell Grant to more students and links eligibility to family size and the federal poverty level. Some applicants will be able to determine Pell Grant eligibility prior to enrolling in college based on their family size, household income, and state's poverty standards.

WHAT'S NEXT AND TIMELINE:

- OSSA will host a webinar with more information this summer, date TBD (keep an eye out for save the date, will also be recorded)
- OSSA will check in with campus partners to ensure materials are updated to reflect FAFSA not opening until December 2023
- The current Net Price Calculator (NPC) will not reflect the changes with SAI until later in the summer when we know more and can update it



Have a question, reach out to aidinfo@unc.edu and we will do our best to answer as we learn more.