

## **2017-18 Financial Aid FAQs**

### **When can I submit my 2017-18 FAFSA or CA Dream Act Application?**

You can submit your FAFSA or CA Dream Act Application as early as October 1, 2016. In the future, you will be able to complete your FAFSA as early as October 1 every year.

### **Is there anything I should do before I complete the application?**

Yes, you should complete all of the following steps before you complete the 2017-18 FAFSA

- Create an FSA ID for yourself and for your parent, if you have not created one already. Go to <https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm> and follow the steps to create your FSA ID.
- Use the IRS Data retrieval to upload your 2015 income tax information to your 2016-17 FAFSA. If the income and tax information from both applications does not match it may require additional follow-up paperwork and delay the processing of your financial aid. \*You do not need to use the IRS DRT on the 2016-17 FAFSA if you have already submitted copies of your 2015 IRS Tax Return Transcript to the Financial Aid Office.

### **What information do I need to provide on the 2017-18 FAFSA?**

Students (and parents, if applicable) will report their **2015** income information on the 2017-18 FAFSA. This is the same income and tax information you reported on the 2016-17 FAFSA, because you'll already have your taxes done by the time you complete the application, you may be able to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool to automatically import your tax information into your FAFSA. We highly encourage you to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool if it is available to you.

### **Since the 2017–18 FAFSA asks for the same tax and income information as the 2016–17 FAFSA, will my 2016–17 FAFSA information automatically be carried over into my 2017–18 renewal FAFSA?**

No; too much could have changed since you filed your last FAFSA, and there's no way to predict what might be different, so you'll need to enter the information again. However, keep in mind that many people are eligible to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool to automatically import their tax information into the FAFSA, making the process of reporting tax information quick and easy.

### **Can I choose to report 2016 information if my family's financial situation has changed since our 2015 taxes were filed?**

No; you must report the information the FAFSA asks for. If your family's income has changed substantially since the 2015 tax year, you should talk to the Financial Aid Office about your family's situation.

Note: The FAFSA asks for marital status as of the day you fill it out. So if you're married now but weren't in 2015 (and therefore didn't file taxes as married), you'll need to add your spouse's income to your FAFSA. Similarly, if you filed your 2015 taxes as married but you're no longer married when you fill out the FAFSA, you'll need to subtract your spouse's income.

### **Will my financial aid be processed earlier?**

Possibly. MiraCosta College anticipates that it will start to process 2017-18 FAFSA applications sometime in March 2017. Students will receive email notifications from our office once the process has begun. As always, students will receive email notifications from our office once this process has begun and also see To-Do List items posted to their SURF account if additional information is requested.

Note: You should be aware that the maximum Federal Pell Grant for 2017–18 won't be known until early 2017, so keep in mind that even if you do receive an aid offer early, it could change due to various factors.

### **Will the Cal Grant Deadline Change?**

The Deadline for Cal Grant will still be March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please visit the Financial Aid Office website for more information about the Cal Grant program.

### **Where can I get more information about—and help with—the FAFSA?**

Visit [www.studentaid.gov](http://www.studentaid.gov), or as you fill out your FAFSA at [fafsa.gov](http://fafsa.gov), you can refer to help text for every question and (during certain times of day) chat online with a customer service representative. As always, you can contact the Financial Aid Office at (760) 795-6711 or [mccfinaid@miracosta.edu](mailto:mccfinaid@miracosta.edu) for more information.