



Financial Aid News

Common Errors When Filing the FAFSA

Did You Know?

- Making a mistake on the FAFSA can delay the processing of your application because it takes an additional two-three weeks to process a corrected FAFSA.
- Geneva College requests that You file the FAFSA between January 1st and March 15th.

Most Common Errors...

- Do *not* use www.fafsa.com! The correct website used to apply is www.fafsa.gov. The FAFSA is a free application, so if you have to pay money for filing, you are on the wrong website.
- The most common errors on the FAFSA involve the answers to questions involving Adjusted Gross Income (AGI), total income tax, Social Security Number mismatch, marital status and the worksheets.
- Failing to answer a question (leaving it blank instead of writing in a 0) is another common error.

Signature Errors...

- If you are a dependent student, both you and your parents need a pin number in order to sign the FAFSA electronically.
- Make sure to apply for a pin number by using your Social Security Number (at least one parent will apply with their own) two-three weeks before filing the FAFSA. This pin number will be the same for every FAFSA you file in the future. The website to apply for a pin number is www.pin.gov.
- Sign the form and make sure everybody who is supposed to sign the form signs it. An unsigned form will not be processed.

Miscellaneous Errors...

- Dollar amounts on the FAFSA are written without cents. If you enter \$500 as \$500.00, it will be misread as \$50,000.
- Read the questions carefully. The words "you" and "your" on the FAFSA always refer to the student, not the parents.
- Remember to count yourself, the student, as one of the people who will be college students during the award year.
- In the question that asks about your interest in different types of aid (e.g., work-study and student loans), answer "yes" to each question. Answering "yes" does not obligate you to accept a loan. Answering "no" will not get you more grant aid.
- If you are a male between the ages of 18 and 26 who has not already registered with Selective Service, you should register using the appropriate question on the FAFSA.

Don't hesitate to call the Financial Aid Office if you have other filing questions!

Resource: www.finaid.com