

UNDERSTANDING FINANCIAL AID VERIFICATION



TIPS FOR SUCCESS

What is “Verification?”

Verification is the process your college, university or technical school uses to confirm that the information on your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is accurate. Your school has the authority to contact you to request documentation that supports the information on your FAFSA.

How do I know whether I have been selected?

You may see a note on your Student Aid Report (SAR) saying you’ve been selected for verification, or your school may contact you to inform you that you’ve been selected.

What should I do if I’m told I’ve been selected for verification?

Two things: Don’t assume you’re being accused of doing anything wrong, and don’t panic. Some schools select students at random and some verify all their students' FAFSAs. All you need to do is provide the documentation your school asks for by the school’s deadline.

What if I don’t have or can’t get the documentation?

If you or your parent(s) cannot provide the documentation requested, contact the financial aid office at your school immediately; they will work with you on alternatives.

IRS DRT and Tax Transcripts for Verification

If you used the Internal Revenue Service Data Retrieval Tool (IRS DRT) to transfer federal income tax return data to the FAFSA application without modification, you may not have to submit additional documentation for verification.

However, if you didn’t use the IRS DRT, you filed an amended tax return, or your school requests it, you may be asked to submit a tax transcript with further information as part of the verification process. You can find your tax transcript through the IRS’s Get Transcript service at irs.gov/transcript.

Potentially Requested Documents:

Taxes	Household Size	Number in College	Completion of High School	Identity	Statement of Educational Purpose
<p>**IRS Data Retrieval Tool should eliminate need for additional documentation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IRS Tax Return Tax Transcript NOT a copy of the return Request Form 	<p>College’s Financial Aid Office will send a form for completion</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Electronic form in Student Portal</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Copy of diploma HS transcript if graduation data is included on transcript Other documentation varies by college 	<p>Appear in Person:</p> <p>Provide government issued ID and sign a statement</p> <p>Unable to Appear in Person:</p> <p>Appear before a notary with government issued ID. Sign and mail the notarized statement</p>	