

DON'T DELAY YOUR FINANCIAL AID BY MAKING A MISTAKE ON THE FAFSA

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SUBMITTING A NAME THAT DOES NOT MATCH YOUR LEGAL NAME

If your name is legally Jonathan Smith according to your Social Security card, but you submit your name as John Smith on your FAFSA, it could delay your application. Since the FAFSA verifies your legal information with the Social Security Administration, you must ensure the name you use to start the FAFSA is the legal name on your Social Security card.

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INCORRECT SCHOOL CODE ON FAFSA

CON Bon Secours Memorial College of Nursing: 010043

SOMI St. Mary's Hospital School of Medical Imaging: 023585

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YOUR 2019 TAXES

The FAFSA requires you to report income information from an earlier tax year.

- On the 2021-2022 FAFSA form, you (and your parents, if required) will report your 2019 income information, rather than your 2020 income information.
- Since you have likely already filed your 2019 taxes by the time the FAFSA launches, you should be able to import your tax information directly into the FAFSA form using the IRS Data Retrieval Tool (DRT). No more logging back in to update after filing taxes!
- Not everyone is eligible to use the IRS DRT, and the IRS DRT does not input all the financial information required on the FAFSA form. Therefore, you should have your 2019 tax return and 2019 IRS W-2 available for reference.

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DO YOU HAVE A BACHELOR'S DEGREE?

Will you have completed your first bachelor's degree before May 2021? If the answer is yes, select YES on the FAFSA form and contact the Financial Aid Office to complete the Bachelor's Degree Verification Form. If you will not complete your first bachelor's degree before May 2021, select NO.

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WHAT WILL YOUR COLLEGE GRADE LEVEL BE WHEN YOU BEGIN THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR?

Indicating your correct grade level is VERY important because it impacts your annual loan limits. Review your degree audit on your student portal. When determining your grade level, include your transfer credits and your earned credits prior to Fall 2021. Here is the breakdown for what grade level to select:

- 2nd year undergraduate/Sophomore: 30-59 credits
- 3rd year undergraduate/Junior: 60-89 credits
- 4th year undergraduate/Senior: 90 or more credits

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WHAT DEGREE OR CERTIFICATE WILL YOU BE WORKING ON WHEN YOU BEGIN THE 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR?

- CON You only can use these 2 answers while attending: 1st bachelor's degree (if you do not currently have a bachelors degree) or 2nd bachelor's degree (if you currently have a bachelors degree).
- SOMI You can only select: Certificate or diploma (occupational, technical or education program of less than two years).

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OTHER COMMON MISTAKES

- Use the 1040 federal tax return for reporting tax information. Do not rely solely on your W-2 and 1099 forms.
- Report your correct marital status, as of the date you submit the FAFSA.
- If you are a dependent student, whose parents are divorced and re-married, your stepparent's financial information must be provided.
- Include yourself in your household size. Even if you didn't live there during the previous year, you should always include yourself as part of your or your parent's household.
- Don't forget to sign the application. If you are a dependent student according to the FAFSA, both you and your parent must sign with your individual FSA IDs.



As with all forms and applications, make sure you read the instructions and questions carefully. If you are unclear about a question or are having trouble filling out the FAFSA, contact the Office of Financial Aid at 804-627-5301 or at bsr-confinancial@bshsi.org. You can also call the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-433-3243.

Make an appointment with the Financial Aid Counselor to complete the FAFSA together.

Make sure to fill it out right the first time, to ensure you'll receive your financial aid in no time.