

FAFSA Simplification Pre-Implementation Survey

NASFAA

February 2023

FINDINGS:

METHODOLOGY:

On February 2, 2023, NASFAA distributed a survey to 3,367 primary contacts at NASFAA member institutions. A reminder email was sent on February 7, 2023 to those who had not yet completed their survey. The survey closed on February 8, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. ET. There were 374 respondents who answered at least once survey question, resulting in approximately a 11% response rate.

OVERALL RESULTS:

Question: Please rate the following resources in their effectiveness at helping you prepare for the changes already in place and for the upcoming changes from the FAFSA Simplification Act?

	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Have not used this resource	n
Legislative text	5%	21%	34%	14%	26%	364
ED guidance	12%	32%	33%	16%	7%	361
ED Ask-a-Fed	7%	17%	13%	4%	59%	363
State/regional association resource(s)/training	12%	29%	21%	5%	32%	364
FSA Training Conference	16%	28%	28%	8%	20%	366
NASFAA summary of Pell/FM changes	40%	40%	5%	1%	14%	366
NASFAA summary of non-Pell/FM changes	35%	37%	8%	0%	19%	361
NASFAA SAI Modeling Tool	21%	27%	7%	3%	42%	362
NASFAA FAFSA Simplification checklist	46%	33%	5%	1%	15%	364
NASFAA FAFSA Simplification case studies	24%	30%	8%	1%	37%	363
NASFAA timeline of effective dates	46%	38%	5%	1%	10%	364
NASFAA Webinar(s)	44%	39%	5%	1%	11%	365
NASFAA "Off the Cuff" Podcast	29%	29%	9%	1%	32%	367
NASFAA Today's News coverage	54%	38%	6%	0%	2%	363

NASFAA AskRegs	45%	32%	7%	0%	16%	365
Other organization/association resources not listed here (e.g. Vera Institute for Justice, NCAN)	3%	13%	12%	1%	71%	346

Question: Please share your thoughts about the following provisions of FAFSA simplification. (Refer to the Changes to Federal Methodology and the Pell Grant Program, 2021+ document and Detailed Summary of Non-Pell/Federal Methodology Changes from the FAFSA Simplification Act and FAFSA Simplification Act Technical Corrections Act for more information on these changes.)

	This will place more burden on financial aid offices	My institution is on track to implement this change	My institution is not on track to implement this change	My institution was not aware of this change	More guidance is needed on this change	This option does not apply to my institution.	n
Direct data exchange with IRS	6%	66%	3%	1%	30%	1%	145
Income items included in SAI limited to those on the tax return	15%	53%	7%	1%	32%	3%	142
Removal of state/other tax allowance	13%	51%	2%	12%	24%	2%	131
Higher IPAs	14%	54%	4%	4%	32%	3%	130
Addition of small business/family farms to assets	39%	41%	10%	4%	25%	3%	135
Removal of favorable treatment for multiple family members in college	48%	42%	7%	2%	23%	1%	140
Change to who is considered custodial parent	31%	48%	2%	3%	29%	3%	153
Family size definition based on IRS rules	26%	36%	8%	8%	34%	0%	125
Student Contribution from Available Income allowed to be as low as -1500	27%	36%	8%	1%	42%	2%	160
Change to who qualifies to not report assets on FAFSA	13%	46%	8%	6%	40%	0%	136
Removal of requirement to prorate SAI for periods of enrollment other than 9 months	13%	32%	5%	23%	35%	5%	149
Roles-based FAFSA completion	19%	25%	5%	17%	46%	2%	130

Requirement to have an FSA ID to access the FAFSA	22%	67%	1%	4%	12%	3%	143
EFC name change to SAI	24%	72%	6%	1%	11%	0%	151
Pell Grant eligibility restoration for incarcerated students	15%	19%	5%	0%	13%	56%	150
Lifting of eligibility ban for students with drug convictions	3%	79%	1%	0%	9%	11%	145
Lifting of eligibility ban for students not registered with Selective Service	5%	91%	5%	1%	3%	0%	143
Repeal of SULA	6%	70%	4%	0%	13%	12%	142
Automatic maximum/minimum Pell based on federal poverty guidelines	22%	53%	5%	1%	31%	3%	150
Negative SAI	36%	29%	14%	0%	49%	2%	154
Pell proration based on exact credits taken	38%	23%	9%	15%	38%	6%	141
Removal of requirement for ½ time enrollment for additional 50% Pell	11%	37%	7%	23%	19%	11%	150
Pell LEU restoration	18%	51%	4%	7%	23%	7%	162
New FAFSA questions on race and gender	13%	64%	4%	4%	16%	7%	135
Removal of option for independent student to provide parental information	21%	51%	1%	6%	12%	16%	156
Removal of ability for FAAs to submit application on student's behalf on FAA Access	31%	35%	1%	10%	10%	24%	142
New requirement to report FWS earnings to COD	56%	20%	15%	5%	36%	5%	152
Prohibition on policy of denying all PJ requests	11%	64%	2%	0%	7%	21%	149
Distinction between special circumstances (for PJ for Pell eligibility) and unusual circumstances (for PJ for SAI and COA adjustments)	27%	43%	11%	4%	33%	1%	150
Provisional independent student status	37%	28%	11%	5%	41%	4%	148
New examples of unusual or special circumstances for PJ	25%	49%	4%	8%	28%	1%	130
Requirement to carry forward dependency override to subsequent year	11%	69%	6%	4%	13%	6%	143
Requirement to publicize PJ	26%	64%	6%	7%	10%	1%	156
Codification of guidance allowing FAAs to adjust income to zero with unemployment documentation during national emergencies	14%	61%	5%	4%	22%	5%	145
ED authority to regulate COA	42%	36%	4%	3%	38%	0%	149
Computer cost allowed in COA for < ½ time enrollment	10%	57%	6%	11%	16%	10%	134
On-campus housing component of COA must be calculated separately for students with and without dependents	39%	30%	8%	9%	17%	24%	138
On-campus housing allowance must be based on greater of average or median	30%	44%	5%	5%	10%	22%	146
Housing allowance cannot be zero for students living with parents	14%	68%	1%	4%	11%	11%	142
Food COA component must provide the equivalent of three meals/day	26%	67%	3%	1%	10%	2%	141
Cost of first professional credential required part of COA	39%	41%	8%	3%	17%	11%	145
Requirement to publicize all COA elements on websites where tuition and fees are described	39%	64%	8%	1%	9%	1%	148

Exclusion of foster care payments and certain emergency aid from treatment as EFA	15%	46%	7%	12%	27%	2%	132
Requirement for ED to streamline/simplify verification process	8%	42%	4%	6%	50%	1%	146
Requirement. for ED to consider verification burden on low income students	10%	33%	1%	13%	46%	7%	134
Requirement for ED to review effectiveness of verification in preventing overpayments	12%	25%	5%	14%	47%	5%	146
ED authority to enter data-sharing agreements with other agencies to conduct outreach on means-tested benefits with applicant authorization	11%	27%	7%	16%	41%	8%	148

Question: Please rate your institution's overall level of preparedness for the upcoming FAFSA simplification changes.

Completely on track	1%
Mostly on track	27%
Somewhat on track	59%
Not at all on track	10%
Unsure/don't know	2%
n	274

Question: Are you contemplating or have you decided to add a supplemental application to collect data previously collected on the FAFSA?

Yes, we plan to add an institutional application	1%
Yes, we plan to add a third party application (e.g. CSS Financial Aid Profile)	1%
Yes, we are contemplating adding a supplemental application	2%
No, we already use a supplemental application	11%
No, we do not use a supplemental application and do not have plans to add one	60%
Don't know/unsure	24%
n	274

Question: Why are you considering or planning to add a supplemental question? (Select all that apply)

Need parental information for independent students in order to administer health professions aid administered by the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA)	8%
Need parental information for independent students in order to administer institutional aid	33%
Need Selective Service System registration information for state aid programs	8%
Need other information that will no longer be available from the FAFSA	50%
n	12

Question: Please rate your institution's senior leadership's (e.g. president, vice president, provost, chief financial officer, etc.) level of engagement with your office's implementation of the upcoming FAFSA simplification changes.

Very engaged	8%
Somewhat engaged	34%
Somewhat unengaged	18%
Not at all engaged	35%
Unsure/don't know	5%
n	274

Question: Please choose the top three barriers to your office's successful implementation of the upcoming FAFSA simplification changes on your campus.

Staffing shortages	55%
Funding shortages	13%
Lack of buy-in from senior leadership	5%
Lack of institutional information technology resources	34%
Lack of time	59%
Lack of guidance from Department of Education	58%
Lack of confidence that student information system (SIS) provider will be ready for changes	56%
Haven't had time to become informed about upcoming changes	19%
n	276

Question: How aware is your student population (and their parents, if applicable) about the upcoming changes to the FAFSA and to eligibility as a result of FAFSA simplification?

Very aware	0%
Somewhat aware	11%
Somewhat unaware	23%
Not at all aware	51%
Unsure/don't know	14%
n	276

Question: Please rate your confidence in the Department of Education's ability to provide the following deliverables for successful FAFSA simplification implementation in the 2024-25 award year:

	Completely confident	Fairly confident	Somewhat confident	Slightly confident	Not confident at all	n
Release of timely training opportunities	1%	12%	21%	27%	39%	276
Release of timely, helpful technical specifications	1%	10%	15%	30%	44%	276
October 1 release of 2024-25 FAFSA	3%	11%	8%	18%	60%	276

RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

FTE Bucket

1000-4999	43%
Under 1000	19%
5000-9999	14%
20000 and above	13%
10000-19999	10%
n	374

REGION

MASFAA	25%
EASFAA	23%
SASFAA	16%
WASFAA	14%
RMASFAA	11%
SWASFAA	10%
n	374

Sector

Nonprofit	45%
Public 4-Yr	24%
Community Colleges	24%
For Profit	5%
Graduate/Professional	3%



n	374
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