How to create a Federal Student Aid (FSA) ID for users without a Social Security Number (SSN)

Portions of this information have been copied directly from StudentAid.gov, as well as fsapartners.ed.gov. Earlham College's Office of Financial Aid gives full credit to Federal Student Aid, an office of the U.S. Department of Education.
Step 1

Go to https://studentaid.gov/ and click “Create Account”
Step 2

Find and click “Get Started” to start the account creation process.

If you already have an FSA ID, you do not need to apply for a new one!
Step 3

Enter your personal information.

You can see the option for no Social Security Number (SSN). Click this box if this applies to you.

Click “Continue” to proceed.
Step 3

Warning Pop-up

Read the warning regarding the SSN field, ensuring you understand the implications.

Warning: Your Account Will Be Limited Without SSN

If you create an account without an SSN, you’ll be limited in what you can do. You should only continue creating an account without an SSN if one of the following statements is true for you:

- I am a parent or spouse of a student who is applying for aid, and I do not have an SSN.
- I am a citizen of the Freely Associated States and need to complete the FAFSA® form online.

Note: Any previously completed FAFSA forms won’t be linked to your account. You will still be able to access information from 2023-24 FAFSA form if you use your identifiers on the FAFSA roles page.

Click “Continue Without SSN”
Step 4

- Create a username
- Provide your email address
- Create a password

Click “Continue” to proceed.

**IMPORTANT!**
This will be your FSA ID, so make sure this information is stored in a safe place where you can retrieve it.
Step 5

- Providing a mailing address is **mandatory** for those without a SSN.
- Type your mailing address correctly.
- Include your United States-based mobile phone number.

Click “Continue” to proceed.
Choose your preferred communication method and click “Continue”
Step 7

Carefully select and answer challenge questions to enhance your account security.

Please remember your challenge questions and answers.

Click “Continue” to proceed.
• Take a moment to review the information you’ve provided.
• Make any changes by clicking “Edit.”
• If everything looks correct, agree to FSA’s Terms and Conditions.
• Click “Continue” to proceed.
Step 9

- Verify your mobile phone number and email for two-step verification.
- Consider setting up an authenticator app for additional security.
What is an authenticator app?

An authenticator app is a security tool that generates time-sensitive codes on your mobile device, providing an extra layer of protection beyond passwords for online accounts.

Popular examples include:
- Google Authenticator
- Microsoft Authenticator.
Storing your backup code

- This backup code is your last resort and can help you if your two-step authentication and authenticator app do not work.

- Make sure to store your backup code in a safe place that you can remember.

Click “Continue” to proceed.
Step 10

- You will now answer knowledge-based verification questions about you.
- Answer to the best of your ability.
- If you make a mistake there are other ways to prove your identity.
- The questions are multiple choice.

If you answer all questions correctly, a screen will confirm your account creation!
If you answer the questions incorrectly, your account will be created but you will not be able to complete a FAFSA!

- An email will also be sent to you with the same instructions.
- Contact the Federal Student Aid Information Center (FSAIC) at 1-800-433-3243.
- A customer service representative will look into your account and initiate the identity verification process.
- You will then receive an email with a case number and instructions for providing the required documentation to verify your identity.
- Submit the required documentation.
- Within 1-3 days you will receive an email from FSA confirming that your identity has been verified!
Required documents to verify your identity

• Completed attestation form
  ○ You will receive a link via email when asked to verify your identity.

• Proof of identity (ONE of the following):
  ○ Driver’s License
  ○ State or City Identification Card
  ○ Foreign Passport

  OR

• A utility bill AND ONE of the following IDs:
  ○ Municipal Identification Card
  ○ Community ID
  ○ Consular Identification Card

Make sure the ID is not expired!