

FAFSA Simplification Implementation: School Checklist

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What is FAFSA Simplification?

- Significant changes to federal student aid policy, including simplifying the FAFSA, expanding Pell Grant eligibility to incarcerated students, and the repeal of limitations on subsidized loan eligibility for undergraduate Direct Loans were attached to the FAFSA Simplification Act which was part of a larger bill called the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021.
- A subsequent appropriations act (Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022) authorized funding for fiscal year 2022 Pell Grants and made technical changes to the FAFSA Simplification Act.

https://www.nasfaa.org/fafsa_simplification

What Resources are Available?

- [NASFAA FAFSA Simplification Resource Center](#)
 - [FAFSA Simplification Case Studies](#)
 - [FAFSA Simplification Implementation Checklist for Schools](#)
 - [Student Aid Index Modeling Tool](#) (NASFAA members only)
 - [Legislative Changes to Federal Methodology and the Pell Grant Program, 2021+](#)
 - [Detailed Summary of Non-Pell/ Federal Methodology Changes from the FAFSA Simplification Act and FAFSA Simplification Act Technical Corrections Act](#)
 - [Timeline of Effective Dates from the 2021-22 Consolidated Appropriations Acts](#)
 - [2024-25 Federal Methodology and Pell Formula Changes Flowchart](#)

What Resources are Available?

- [FSA FAFSA Simplification Information Page](#)
 - [Federal Register Notices Including Regulations](#)
 - [Dear Colleague Letters and Electronic Announcements](#)
 - [2024-25 FAFSA Roadmap](#)
 - [2024-25 Draft Student Aid Index \(SAI\) and Pell Grant Eligibility Guide](#)
 - [2024–25 Draft FAFSA[®] Specifications Guide](#)

What Resources are Available?

- [On-Demand Webinar: FAFSA Simplification](#) (NASFAA members only)
- [HHS Poverty Guidelines](#)
- [GEN-22-15 - FAFSA[®] Simplification Act Changes for Implementation in 2023-24](#)
- [H.R. 2471 - Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022](#)
- [H.R. 133 - Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021](#)

Madison College Plan

- Identified the transition to the new FAFSA as a formal ePMO project.
 - College leadership support and acknowledgment of how significant the change will be and the commitment of time and resources from departments
- Ongoing projects to work through
 - FA director search
 - Staff training – FA topics training series and transition to bi-weekly discussions of FAFSA simplification changes
 - SIS change in 2026 – Roadmap of FA technical processes
 - Rewriting our PJ policy for 2023-2024
- Identified short term goals to accomplish
 - Data analysis of ISIR's with the NASFAA Student Aid Index Modeling Tool
 - Assignment of FAFSA simplification update projects to individuals to complete

Herzing University Plan

- Created a task force including FA staff plus stakeholders from other impacted departments
- Used the NASFAA FAFSA Simplification Checklist as an initial guide
 - Will be using the new FSA Roadmap to finalize our timeline this spring
- Outlined all required updates and assigned timelines for task force members
- What we have completed so far:
 - 23-24 updates (COA, professional judgment policy)
 - Data review using NASFAA SAI Modeling Tool
 - Initiated communication with software provider on updates needed

UW – River Falls Plan

- Items completed so far
 - Studied and analyzed changes required in law
 - Cost of Attendance
 - Separated and relabeled Room and Board into Housing and Food
 - Modified Housing budget to reflect average room costs
 - Modified on campus Food budget to reflect cost for 21+ meals/week plan
- Working on
 - Linking all tuition and fee pages to financial aid Cost of Attendance page
 - Updating all costs of attendance on web page
 - Policy updates for Provisional Independent and expanded Homeless documentation
- Waiting on
 - Software provider (Oracle) updates to system to implement ISIR changes



Questions – How are you
preparing?