

COMMON MISTAKES IN COMPLETING THE FAFSA

1. **Incorrect Social Security Number (Question 8)** - Review your student Social Security card to be sure you've entered the correct number.
2. **Unsigned form** – If you complete a paper copy of the FAFSA form, be sure to sign and date the form (student and a parent for dependent students). If you file the FAFSA online without a PIN, be sure to print, sign, and mail the signature page to the federal processor. If both the student and at least one parent get a FAFSA PIN at www.pin.ed.gov before you complete the FAFSA online, then you don't have to worry about the signature requirement since your PIN serves as your electronic signature.
3. **Incomplete form** - Complete the entire form. List the net worth of your assets as of the day you complete the FAFSA (Questions 43-45, 81-83). If your answer to some questions is zero, be sure to write "0" instead of leaving the answer blank. Be sure to answer Question 31 related to drug convictions.
4. **Federal income tax paid is incorrect amount (Questions 36, 74)** - Report the actual federal income tax paid (usually determined by the tax tables when completing the income tax form), not the amount withheld by your employer as shown on your W-2 form.
5. **Income earned from work left blank (Questions 38, 39, 76, 77)** - Report the wages, salaries, and tips earned from work for the student and each parent if the student is dependent. Report the wages, salaries, and tips earned from work for the student and spouse if the student is independent. This income will not be counted twice, but will determine your allowance for Social Security tax payments and a special allowance for families in which both parents are employed or the student and spouse are employed.
6. **Number in household/number in school is incorrect (Questions 65, 66, 84, 85)** - If you are a dependent student, report only the people who live with your parents and will continue to receive more than half of their support from your parents between July 1, 2005 and June 30, 2006. If you are an independent student, report only the people living in your household who will continue to receive more than half of their support from you between July 1, 2005 and June 30, 2006. In order to be included in the number in school, your sibling(s), spouse and/or children must be attending at least six hours in one term between July 1, 2005 and June 30, 2006, working towards a degree from a college that participates in the federal financial aid programs. Parents are excluded from the number in college for both federal and institutional aid.
7. **Forgot to list Taylor University as a recipient of the data** - Be sure to indicate that you want the FAFSA results sent to Taylor (Question 86), Code 001838 for the Upland campus and/or Code E00624 for the Fort Wayne campus. If you're not sure which campus you will be attending, please list both on the FAFSA.
8. **Divorced/remarried parental status listed incorrectly (Question 55)** - List the current marital status of your custodial parent (the one with whom you reside and whose information is listed on the FAFSA). If your custodial parent has remarried, you'll also need to include the stepparent's information on the FAFSA.
9. **Incorrect address (Questions 4-7)** - Write in your permanent mailing address; do not use your campus or summer address.