

Early FAFSA Filing (Prior Prior Year) Videos to Assist with Completing Your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

		
What Does Early FAFSA mean?	First-Time Filers Sign and Submit	Renewal Filers Sign and Submit

Early FAFSA Filing (Prior Prior Year) FAQs

- **What is meant by prior, prior year (PPY)?**

In the past when filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) students used the calendar year that just ended (e.g. in 2016 which begins with fall 2016, the 2015 calendar year is the tax year that was used). For 2017 (beginning Fall Term 2017) rather than the 2016 tax year, you will again use the prior, prior year or 2015.

- **Are there other differences with completing the 2017 FAFSA?**

Yes. In past years, students could not submit a FAFSA until January 1. Beginning with the 2017 academic year, student may file the FAFSA as early as October 1, 2016 – three months earlier.

- **What are the advantages to using prior, prior year?**

In the past, when filing the FAFSA, in order to file by deadlines established for time sensitive programs, students may have used estimated numbers and then correct them when the tax return is filed. Since you will be using a tax year for which the deadline has already come and gone (even the extension deadline), the numbers should be actual and there should be no need to change.

Another advantage is the service the Internal Revenue provides called Data Retrieval. When filing the FAFSA, students may select the Data Retrieval option to provide the answers from the Federal tax return. This will both automatically import the appropriate tax information into the FAFSA, populating the fields with the correct corresponding data, and reduce the need for potential corrections, verifications, and award adjustments.

- **What is Data Retrieval, and why should I use it?**

The IRS Data Retrieval Tool (DRT) allows automatic population of a student's FAFSA with tax return data and decreases the need for additional documentation. It can be used by millions more students and families under PPY, since tax data from two-years prior should be readily available at the time the application is being completed. It reduces the need to make corrections to the completed FAFSA which, in turn, reduces the need to adjust financial aid that has already been awarded/packaged.

- **May a student choose which year they use to file the 2017 FAFSA?**

No. The FAFSA will request prior-prior year income information for all applicants.

- **Will I receive aid offers earlier if I apply earlier?**

Winston-Salem State hopes to begin packaging financial aid awards mid- February 2017. If this is the case, students will be notified of their awards via the Banner Rams Online account.

- **Which FAFSA should I complete, and which tax year information should I be using based on my start time?**

When a Student is Attending University (By Term)	You will Submit this FAFSA	When a Student Can Submit a FAFSA (Deadline)	Which Year's Income Information is Required
Fall 2016/Spring 2017/Summer 2017	2016-2017	January 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017	2015
Fall 2017/Spring 2018/Summer 2018	2017-2018	October 1, 2016 – June 30, 2018	2015
Fall 2018/Spring 2019/Summer 2019	2018-2019	October 1, 2017 – June 30, 2019	2016

- **Where can I get more information about and help with the FAFSA for 2017?**

- Visit studentaid.gov/fafsa and remember, as you fill out your FAFSA at fafsa.gov, you can refer to help text for every question and/or (during certain times of day) chat online with a customer service representative.

- **How will this impact my North Carolina State funding?**

The State of North Carolina will give preference to North Carolina filers who complete their FAFSA by March 1, 2017.

- **What data elements will require current data rather than prior, prior year data?**

2017-18 FAFSA Data Element	Timeframe Used to Provide Information	Is this a change?
Student demographic information (e.g. name, address, phone, citizenship)	As of the date the applicant signs the FAFSA	No
Student's or parents' marital status	As of the date the applicant signs the FAFSA	No
Dependency status questions	Dates provided in the questions	No
Household size	2017-18 award year, as known when the applicant signs the FAFSA	No
Number in college	2017-18 award year, as known when the applicant signs the FAFSA	No

Receipt of federally means-tested benefits	Dates provided in the questions	No
Balance of cash, checking and savings accounts	As of the date the applicant signs the FAFSA	No
Investment net worth	As of the date the applicant signs the FAFSA	No
Business/Investment farm net worth	As of the date the applicant signs the FAFSA	No