RP Tax Service

Getting Ready for College Financial Aid

Free educational guidance

Family checklist | 2027–28 FAFSA

This checklist helps Hawai‘i families prepare the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. It is educational guidance only. RP Tax Service cannot complete or submit the FAFSA for you. Federal rules do not allow someone to charge a fee to complete the FAFSA on a student’s behalf.

1. Documents and records to gather

- ☐ StudentAid.gov account for the student
- ☐ Separate StudentAid.gov account for each parent or spouse contributor
- ☐ Social Security numbers, if you have them (students generally need an SSN, except citizens of the Freely Associated States)
- ☐ 2025 federal tax returns and W-2s (2027–28 FAFSA uses tax year 2025 — do not use a different year)
- ☐ Records of child support received, if the form asks
- ☐ Current cash over $1,000, plus savings and checking (report assets as of the day you sign)
- ☐ Investment records and, if they apply, business or income-producing farm net worth (your primary home is not an investment)
- ☐ List of colleges or trade schools (online: at least 1, up to 20), even if you have not been accepted yet

2. Accounts, contributors, and consent

- ☐ Each contributor has created their own account (do not share accounts)
- ☐ Dependent student has the parent’s email ready for a contributor invitation
- ☐ If a parent is married and filed 2025 taxes separately, plan for the other parent to be invited if required
- ☐ Every required contributor is ready to consent to IRS tax-information transfer — even if they did not file a return (no consent means no federal student aid)
- ☐ A parent or spouse without a Social Security number knows they can still create an account
- ☐ If unsure which parent must participate, use the “Who’s My FAFSA Parent?” wizard on StudentAid.gov

3. Deadlines — file by the earliest date

- ☐ 2027–28 FAFSA is open now (Federal Student Aid announced it on September 23, 2026)
- ☐ Use tax year 2025
- ☐ Federal deadline: June 30, 2028 (last day to submit this year’s form, not the best day)
- ☐ Hawai‘i has no single statewide FAFSA deadline on the federal form — check each school
- ☐ UH Mānoa priority date: February 1, 2027 (school code 001610)
- ☐ UH West O‘ahu and Kapi‘olani Community College priority date: March 1
- ☐ Hawai‘i Promise (UH Community Colleges), first consideration: March 1
- ☐ Other campuses and private schools — write their dates: _____
- ☐ Hawai‘i Community Foundation scholarships: December 1, 2026–February 1, 2027, 4 p.m. HST; upload your processed FAFSA Submission Summary

4. After you submit

- ☐ Review the FAFSA Submission Summary and correct any errors
- ☐ Confirm every school you are considering is listed
- ☐ If family income has changed a lot, still file as instructed, then ask the school about an aid adjustment

5. Where to file and get free help

Complete the FAFSA for free:
fafsa.gov or studentaid.gov
Create an account (FSA ID):
studentaid.gov/account/create
Federal help:
1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243)
Hawai‘i FASA help:
FAFSA@hawaii.edu
Hawai‘i P-20 workshops and resources:
collegeiswithinreachhawaii.com
Events: collegeiswithinreachhawaii.com/upcoming-events
UH campus aid offices and contacts:
hawaii.edu/costs/financial-aid
Also ask your high school counselor or each campus financial aid office.

6. Official pages referenced (click to open)

Federal Student Aid
studentaid.gov/articles/things-you-need-for-fafsa
studentaid.gov/articles/fafsa-for-parents
studentaid.gov/help/consent-federal-tax-info
studentaid.gov/articles/3-fafsa-deadlines
studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/grants/pell-grant

Scholarships and other forms
Hawai‘i Community Foundation:
hawaiicommunityfoundation.org/students
UH System Common Scholarship Application:
hawaii.edu/costs/financial-aid
CSS Profile (College Board, not the FAFSA): cssprofile.collegeboard.org

Hawai‘i schools
UH Mānoa dates:
manoa.hawaii.edu/fas/resources/important-dates-deadlines
UH West O‘ahu: westoahu.hawaii.edu/financial-aid/applying-for-aid
Kapi‘olani Community College:
www.kapiolani.hawaii.edu › Financial aid dates and deadlines
Hawai‘i Promise: uhcc.hawaii.edu/admissions/hawaii-promise.php

RP Tax Service
We can help you understand and organize tax documents used on the FAFSA. We cannot fill out or submit the FAFSA for you. For tax-document questions, contact the office.
Sources: official 2027–28 FAFSA PDF; StudentAid.gov checklist (Sept. 2026); Federal Student Aid Financial Aid Toolkit (Sept. 23, 2026); UH Mānoa, UH West O‘ahu, Kapi‘olani CC, UHCC Hawai‘i Promise, and Hawai‘i Community Foundation pages. Current as of November 9, 2026 — recheck official sites before you file.