



NORTH DAKOTA

FAFSA UPDATE

MARCH 2024

FEDERAL STUDENT AID OFFERS "PRO TIPS" FOR FAFSA

Now is the time to complete the 2024-25 FAFSA. Federal Student Aid has some "pro tips" for families.

1. Create a StudentAid.gov account. Both the student and all FAFSA contributors will need to obtain an account.
2. Have your documents and your contributor's information ready.
3. The student should complete their section first.
4. Read questions carefully.
5. Review, sign, and submit your form.

If you make a mistake, you can correct it later after you receive your FAFSA Submission Summary.

COUNSELOR ROLE IN NAVIGATING 2024-25 FAFSA

School counselors are essential to helping students access financial aid for college, according to a February 6 article on the Brookings Institution website. The commentary said counselors are on the front lines of supporting students and their families with this year's FAFSA.

CONTACT



Alexandria Bauer

Financial Aid Assistant
North Dakota University System
Bismarck, ND 58505
701.328.2964

FAFSA COMPLETION DOWN DRAMATICALLY AS DELAYS AND TECHNICAL ISSUES PLAGUE FAFSA

FAFSA completion has dropped about 45 percent nationwide according to National College Attainment Network (NCAN), which provided the latest data with its FAFSA Tracker.

North Dakota's drop in FAFSA completion has also been significant with a -36.6 percent change in the amount of the state's high school seniors submitting a FAFSA as of February 16.

A drop in FAFSA completion is not surprising due to the challenges students and parents have encountered with the form. Also, comparing this year to previous years may not be an accurate analysis due to the differences in the release date of the FAFSA as well as the experiences in completing the forms.

However, in just looking at the rate of completion, only 20.3 percent of North Dakota seniors have submitted a 2024-25 FAFSA while, nationally, 24.2 percent of high school seniors have submitted the form.

2024-25 FAFSA CORRECTIONS NEED TO WAIT – FOR NOW

Students and parents with a 2024-25 FAFSA that is in the "In Review" status and who need to make FAFSA corrections or updates, including adding potential colleges, will need to wait until later.



The "In Review" status means the FAFSA is ready for processing. However, the U.S. Department of Education has not processed any FAFSAs yet and won't likely do so until mid-March.

Once the FAFSA has been processed, the student will receive an email, letting them know they have a FAFSA Submission Summary to review at which time they can make any corrections or updates.