What's an FSA ID and Why Do I Need One?

The FSA ID, which replaced the Federal Student Aid PIN in May 2015, is the username and password you use when you visit certain U.S. Department of Education websites. When you type in your FSA ID at these sites, you are saying either "Yes, it's really me" or "Please accept my FSA ID as my signature on this online form."

How do I get an FSA ID?

Visit StudentAid.gov/fsaid to learn about and create an FSA ID.

Here's what you need to get your FSA ID:

• your Social Security number (you must have an SSN to get an FSA ID)

• your full name (must match your Social Security card)

• your date of birth

Although you're not required to provide your e-mail address when you set up your FSA ID, it'll make retrieving your username and password easier if you forget them. Just make sure you don't use the same e-mail address as someone else (your parent, for instance). Each e-mail address can be associated with only one FSA ID.

What are some of the uses for my FSA ID?

Among other things, you can use your FSA ID to

• sign and submit, correct, and check the status of your online *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* at fafsa.gov;

• review what federal student aid you have received in the past by logging in at StudentAid.gov/login; or

• sign federal student loan documents, complete loan entrance or exit counseling, and/or apply for income-based loan repayment at StudentLoans.gov.

Visit StudentAid.gov/fsaid#where for more ways you can use your FSA ID.

Top FSA ID Tips

- Never tell anyone else your FSA ID—not even your parent, child, school official, or loan company representative. Remember, your FSA ID is your signature. Protect it!

- Create your own FSA ID. Letting someone else create or use your FSA ID can cause problems or delays with your student aid. And never make an FSA ID for someone else.

- You'll use your FSA ID every year you fill out a FAFSA and for the lifetime of any loans. So be sure to take a little time while making it to create a memorable username, password, and answers to your "challenge questions." Keep your FSA ID in a safe place, or memorize it.

- One of your parents might need an FSA ID as well. If you need to provide information about your parents on the FAFSA, one of your parents will have to sign the application. Your parent can create an FSA ID and then sign the FAFSA electronically using that FSA ID. Not sure whether you will need to put your parents' information on the FAFSA? Check out StudentAid.gov/dependency.

- Each e-mail address can be associated with only one FSA ID. If you share an e-mail address with someone else, only one of you will be able to use that e-mail address to create an FSA ID. So, for instance, if you're a dependent student, and you and your mom share an e-mail address, one of you should use a different e-mail address when creating an FSA ID.

- If you had a Federal Student Aid PIN, you can link that with your FSA ID and use your FSA ID immediately on any of the websites that require it. If you didn't have a PIN, or didn't link it to your FSA ID, at first you will only be able to use your FSA ID to complete, sign, and submit an original FAFSA. Within one to three days of creating your FSA ID, you should receive an e-mail indicating that you may now use your FSA ID for all of its purposes—including to submit a Renewal FAFSA.