



Dear Students/Parents:

Thank you for your interest in College Goal Sunday (CGS) FAFSA-Day Eastern at Eastern Connecticut State University, on **Sunday, October 28, 2018**. The event will begin promptly at **1:00 PM**, on the **fourth floor of Webb Hall, Room 410, and end at 4 PM**. Volunteers will be available to assist you with completing your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

In order to expedite the completion of your FAFSA at CGS FAFSA-Day Eastern, we encourage you to apply for a FSA ID (Federal Student Aid ID) for both yourself and your parent(s), before you attend the event. If you are a [dependent student](#), one of your parents whose information is reported on the FAFSA form will also need a FSA ID, so that that parent can sign your application electronically. If your parent does not have a Social Security number (SSN), your parent will not be able to create an FSA ID (which requires a SSN). This means you will have to [select the option to print a signature page when you get to the end of your FAFSA form](#). You can obtain the FSA ID electronically at either of the following links to the Federal Department of Education website:

<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/filling-out/fsaid>

You should also begin to think about the colleges that you are interested in attending for the fall 2019 semester, as you will be asked to list colleges that you are interested in attending on the FAFSA.

Tax Data Needed to Complete The FAFSA

Before you begin to gather your tax documents for completing the 2018-2019 FAFSA, you need to be aware of the following facts:

You **must** use your **2017** tax return data to complete your 2018-2019 FAFSA. You absolutely **cannot** use your 2018 tax return data. Even if you believe that your 2017 tax return data do not accurately reflect your current financial aid situation, you must use your 2017 tax return data. If you sincerely believe that your 2018 tax data more accurately reflect your current financial situation, you still should complete the FAFSA with 2017 tax data and contact each of the schools to which you are applying regarding your 2018 income reduction. Your school's financial aid administrators have the ability to access your situation and make the appropriate adjustment to your FAFSA.

Important: The FAFSA system will not allow you to update/complete your FAFSA with your 2018 tax data.

Determining Your Dependency Status

The FAFSA requires answers to questions that determine whether you are a dependent or [independent student](#), for purposes of applying for federal student aid. If you are a dependent student, you must report parent-information, as well as your own information, on your FAFSA. If you are in doubt as to your dependency status, you can [find out now whether you are a dependent student](#).

Data Retrieval Transfer (DRT)

The IRS DRT automatically transfers tax information into the FAFSA form. Be sure to consider this option, if it is offered to you. (If you received an extension on filing your taxes and did not file until September or October, [find out when your tax return information will likely be available using the IRS DRT](#).) Using the IRS DRT saves you time and effort, as you do not need to find your tax records or worry about making mistakes, when entering your tax information on your FAFSA. You, also, may not need to provide tax transcripts, if you are selected for verification. For more information on how to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool to transfer tax information into the FAFSA, see *Simple Steps to Transfer Tax Information Into Your FAFSA Form Graphics* at <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/sites/default/files/transfer-tax-info-to-fafsa.png>

Eastern's Title IV Code for your FAFSA is 001425

Documents Needed to Complete Your FAFSA

The FAFSA questions require information about you (such as your name, date of birth, address, etc.) and your financial situation. Depending on your circumstances, (such as whether you are a U.S. citizen or tax form you used), you might need the following information or documents, in order to ensure a smooth completion of your 2018-2019 FAFSA:

- Your Social Security number (it is very important that you enter it correctly on the FAFSA)
- Your parents' Social Security numbers, if you are a [dependent student](#)
- Your driver's license number, if you have one
- Your Alien Registration number, if you are not a U.S. citizen
- Federal tax information or tax returns including IRS W-2 information for you (and your spouse, if you are married) and your parents, if you are a dependent student: [dependent student](#)
- IRS 1040, 1040A, 1040EZ (tax year 2017)
- Foreign tax return (tax year 2017)
- Tax return for Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, or Palau (tax year 2017)
- Records of your untaxed income (such as child support received, interest income, and veterans non-education benefits) for you and your parents, if you are a dependent student [dependent student](#)
- Information on cash; savings and checking account balances; investments, including stocks, bonds and real estate (**excluding the home in which you live**); business and farm assets for you and your parents, if you are a dependent student [dependent student](#)

Important: Preserve these documents, as you may need them for future financial aid transactions.

If you **do not** have **all** the above listed documents, you should **still** plan on attending CGS FAFSA-Day Eastern, as volunteers may still be able to assist you with completing your FAFSA or, at least, get you started with your FAFSA filing process. **Reminder:** Your 2018-2019 FAFSA is based on **Prior-Prior Year's** tax data; hence, the tax data that you input into your FAFSA must be for **Tax Year 2017**.

All information that is reviewed by our FAFSA-Day volunteers is treated with the highest degree of privacy and confidence and will not be used for any purpose, other than helping students and families to complete their FAFSA.

Directions to Eastern are available at the following link:

<http://www.easternct.edu/ecsu/map/dir2.htm>

Parking: On-campus parking is available and free.

Additional information about 2018 CGS FAFSA-DAY Eastern is available at the following website:

<http://www.easternct.edu/finaid/>

Inclement Weather: Information on the status of CGS FAFSA-Day Eastern, due to inclement weather, will be available at all local radio and television stations (such as channels 3, 8, 30 etc.) and the ECSU weather line at 860-465-4444. Please note that, if the University is closed, CGS FAFSA-Day Eastern will be postponed/cancelled.

We look forward to meeting you and your parents on **Sunday, October 28, 2018**, at Eastern Connecticut State University. The FAFSA event will begin promptly at **1:00 PM** on the **fourth floor** of **Webb Hall, Room 410**, and end at **4 PM**. If you have questions, contact our Financial Aid Office at (860) 465-5205.

The primary source of data used in this correspondence is from the Department of Education, Federal Student Aid (FSA) website

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