Trends in FAFSA Submissions by State and Region

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How and why

The origin story
How and why

The origin story

To receive federal financial aid, students must first complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®). In the reports below, you can find the number of FAFSAs completed by postsecondary school, state, or high school.

- [FAFSA Data by Demographic Characteristics](#)
- [FAFSA Data by Postsecondary School and State of Legal Residence](#)
- [FAFSA Completion by High School and Public School District](#)
How and why

Why FAFSAs matter

Enrollment

Persistence

Underutilization

Research questions

1. FAFSA **counts** over time
2. Measuring FAFSAs **per person**
3. FAFSA **rates** over time
4. **How** rates vary by jurisdiction
5. **Why** rates vary by jurisdiction
Counts by

state
demographics
postsecondary institution
high school and district

Rates by

high school
district
Counts by state demographics postsecondary institution high school and district

Rates by high school district
# Application Data by State

2006-2007 Application Cycle

Quarter 4 (10/01/2006 - 12/31/2006)

## NUMBER OF FAFSA APPLICATIONS
Award Year To Date Total

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Dependent Students</th>
<th>Independent Students</th>
<th>Award Year To Date Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>75,337</td>
<td>108,110</td>
<td>183,447</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alaska</td>
<td>10,899</td>
<td>14,312</td>
<td>25,211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alberta</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>265</td>
<td>438</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Samoa</td>
<td>1,830</td>
<td>690</td>
<td>2,520</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>72,124</td>
<td>124,525</td>
<td>196,649</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arkansas</td>
<td>45,995</td>
<td>73,024</td>
<td>119,019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Counts by demographics

## Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) By Various Demographic Characteristics

### 2006/07 Application Cycle

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data Element and Value</th>
<th>Final Transaction Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total (Applicant Count)</strong></td>
<td>14,041,324</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gender</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>8,651,346</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>5,250,770</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blank</td>
<td>139,208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Age</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 or Less</td>
<td>1,471,739</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 through 24</td>
<td>6,872,338</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 or More</td>
<td>5,685,595</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How have counts of FAFSA submissions changed over time?
FAFSA submissions, 2006–07 through 2015-16

FAFSA submissions (millions)

Academic year

FAFSA submissions, 2006–07 through 2015-16

FAFSAs (millions)

Academic year

Change in FAFSA submissions, 2006–07 through 2015-16

Public school enrollment by region

What is a meaningful measure of FAFSA submissions per person?
Conceptually:

Number of FAFSAs from area

Number of area’s potential applicants in same year
Denominators used elsewhere

Estimated public high school graduates in same year\(^1\)

Public school 12th graders in same year + private school graduates in recent year\(^2\)

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Why include private schools?

Students in grades 9-12: Percentage in private school

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwest</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Selected denominators

Public + private 12th grade enrollment

Public + private high school graduates

First-time, full-time, award-seeking undergraduates by student’s state

First-time, full-time undergraduates who recently completed high school by student’s state

18-through-24-year-olds in population

12-month enrollment of undergraduates + graduate students by institution’s state
FAFSAs per person, 2006–07 through 2012–13

FAFSAs
per person

10.0
8.0
6.0
4.0
2.0
0.0

Academic year

FTFT undergraduate who recently completed high school
FTFT undergraduate
High school graduate
12th grade student

NOTE: Estimates exclude Puerto Rico. FTFT = full-year, full-time, degree- or certificate-seeking.
FAFSAs per person, 2006–07 through 2013–14

FAFSAs per person

0.0
0.2
0.4
0.6
0.8
1.0


Academic year

Undergraduate or graduate student enrolled any time

18-24-year-old

NOTE: Estimates exclude Puerto Rico.
How does the rate of FAFSAs per person vary by state and region?
AFSAs per 18–24-year-old, 2006–07
FAFSAs per 18–24-year-old, 2007–08

[Map showing FAFSA data for each state, with color coding representing different ratio ranges.]

Ratio
- .39 or below
- .40 – .49
- .49 – .59
- .59 – .69
- .70 or more

Legend

24
FAFSAs per 18–24-year-old, 2009–10
FAFSAs per 18–24-year-old, 2010–11
Why does the rate of FAFSAs per person vary by state and region?
Possible explanations

Local economic conditions

Eligibility for Title IV aid

Price of attendance at state institutions

Median income

Non-need-based state aid

State, local, and institutional policies
Possible explanations

Local economic conditions
Eligibility for Title IV aid
Price of attendance at state institutions
Median income
Non-need-based state aid
State, local, and institutional policies
No FAFSA, no diploma for Louisiana students

Segann March, segann.march@shreveporttimes.com  Published 11:44 a.m. CT Jan. 13, 2016 | Updated 8:03 a.m. CT Jan. 15

Half of Louisiana's college bound seniors aren't filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid — a trend the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education is trying to reverse.

Starting in the 2017-2018 school year, Louisiana seniors are required to file a FAFSA or sign a waiver approved by the state department or school district, or they will not graduate from high school.
Louisiana Sees Spike in FAFSA Completions With High School Graduation Requirement, Early FAFSA

By Allie Bidwell, Communications Staff

Each year, hundreds of thousands of students leave money on the table they could use to pay for college because they fail to fill out the FAFSA. But in just one year, the state of Louisiana has seen a spike in the number of students who have completed the federal aid application.

Compared with this time in 2016, the rate of students completing the FAFSA has increased by 24 percentage points, according to a study group convened by the Louisiana Department of Education. The change comes after the state's Board of Elementary and Secondary
Possible explanations

Local economic conditions

Eligibility for Title IV aid

Price of attendance at state institutions

Median income

Non-need-based state aid

State, local, and institutional policies
State unemployment rate, 2012

$R^2 = .17$.

NOTE: Results exclude Puerto Rico.

Possible explanations

- Local economic conditions
- Eligibility for Title IV aid
- Price of attendance at state institutions
- Median income
- Non-need-based state aid
- State, local, and institutional policies
State noncitizens (5 year average, 2010–2014)

NOTE: Results exclude Puerto Rico. Permanent residents and a very small number of other noncitizens are eligible for Title IV aid.

Possible explanations

Local economic conditions

Eligibility for Title IV aid

Price of attendance at state institutions

Median income

Non-need-based state aid

State, local, and institutional policies
In-state public 2-year tuition, 2011–12

\[ R^2 = .14. \]

In-state public 4-year tuition, 2011–12

R² = .09.

In-state public 4-year total price of attendance, 2011–12

R² = .10.

Possible explanations

- Local economic conditions
- Eligibility for Title IV aid
- Price of attendance at state institutions

**Median income**

- Non-need-based state aid
- State, local, and institutional policies
State median household income, 2012

R² = .26.
NOTE: Results exclude Puerto Rico.
State median household income, 2012

$R^2 = .26.$

NOTE: Results exclude Puerto Rico.

Possible explanations

- Local economic conditions
- Eligibility for Title IV aid
- Price of attendance at state institutions
- Median income
- Non-need-based state aid
- State, local, and institutional policies
Non-need-based state aid, 2011–12

R² = .49.

Non-need-based state aid, 2011–12

\[ R^2 = .49 \]

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- Education Analyst (early-career)
- Research Education Analyst (mid-career)
- Education Research, Evaluation, and Technical Assistance Specialist (mid-career)
- Research Systems Programmer/Analyst (intermediate)
- SAS Programmer (entry-level)
- SAS Programmer (intermediate)

Locations vary • rti.org/careers
Thank you!

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Bonus material
State FAFSAs per person, most recent year available