



2026/27 VERIFICATION POLICIES

What is Verification?

Verification is the process of comparing the information reported on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) with information on your IRS Tax Transcript, tax returns and other financial documents and making corrections to the FAFSA as necessary. Colleges are required through statute and regulation to complete verification for any application selected for such by the Department of Education.

Who must complete Verification?

RCC verifies all applications selected for verification by the Department of Education. In addition, RCC may select an application for verification if it appears to contain conflicting or inconsistent information. All applicants selected for verification are notified in writing of the federal verification requirements and deadlines.

What documents are needed for Verification?

- ♦ Applicants selected for verification by the Department of Education have a customized list of items that they are required to submit. Students can log into their financial aid self-service account to view the list of items needed for verification.
- ♦ Possible items selected for verification may include, but are not limited to: household size, wages and total income, verification of non-filing, untaxed income, high school completion, assets and investments, divorce or separation agreements, legal custody agreements, in-person verification of identity, and a statement that financial aid will be used for educational purposes.

What happens after Verification documents are submitted?

All documents are reviewed for completeness, accuracy and consistency. If corrections are required, RCC will update the data on the FAFSA and wait for the revised results from the Department of Education's FAFSA Processing System before completing the awarding process. If additional information is necessary, a request for information will be mailed to the applicant. Once Financial Aid is satisfied with all documentation and FAFSA data, an estimated Award Letter will be sent to the applicant.

What are the deadlines for submitting Verification documents?

Verification documents should be submitted as soon as possible so that awarding can proceed. In all cases, an applicant must complete the verification process within 120 days from the student's last date of enrollment or August 31, 2027, whichever is earlier. Failure to return required verification documents results in a forfeiture of all federal aid opportunities.

****** IRS Tax Return Notes ******

Applicants (and their parents, if dependent) who are selected to verify their 2024 income must provide signed copies of their 2023 IRS tax returns or a 2024 IRS Tax Return Transcript or Verification of Non-filing. For tax filers, the only exception to providing tax returns is if the applicant (and their parent, if dependent) completed the 2026/27 FAFSA and consented to use the FADDX direct to the IRS.