

Determining a plan to finance your education is an essential step in the college-going process, and for many students, that includes completing a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). There have been a lot of changes to the FAFSA filing process this year, which might be confusing. But don't worry, we are here to help! At Oglethorpe University, we are committed to making the financial aid process as transparent as possible.

With that in mind, here are **Five Insider Tips** to help you navigate filing your 2024-2025 FAFSA.

1. You can only save your FAFSA for 45 days. On day 46, you will have to restart the process, so plan to get it done before then.
2. We recommend that you and your contributor(s) set up their individual FSA IDs (Federal Student Aid login credentials) before completing the FAFSA. A contributor is "a person who has been asked to help a student fill out the FAFSA" and is most frequently your parent or their spouse. You will use your FSA ID throughout your college career, so keep track of it and your login info!
3. [Federal Student Aid](#) has published recommendations for any contributor who does not have a Social Security Number.
4. Don't worry if you see an "in review" status on your application once submitted. This status will likely remain unchanged until your FAFSA is fully processed by mid-March.
5. If you need assistance completing your FAFSA, we recommend contacting the [Federal Student Aid Info Center](#). Expect long wait times if you call. **Pro move:** try calling when they open at 8 a.m. on weekdays or 11 a.m. on Saturdays (EST).
6. **Bonus Tip:** Sign up to receive [text messages](#) from OU so you will immediately know when we have received your FAFSA and updated your financial aid offer letter.

Sincerely,

Chris, Belinda, and Shane  
Oglethorpe University Office of Financial Aid