

FAFSA Frequently Asked Questions

1. What happens to students who have already exhausted all Federal and/or State aid at previous institutions?
 - a. For Spring 2026, need level isn't going to be considered for the Pioneer Scholarship. Tuition is covered regardless of need when the requirements are met. Fees will be addressed on a need-based basis, as is indicated by the Student Aid Index (SAI).
2. What is the school code we use for EC3? Where do I find it?
 - a. We have an agreement with South Mountain CC to use their code until our code is assigned. The code is **015001**
3. Which FAFSA are we going to be using for Pioneer Scholarship?
 - a. 2025-2026 FAFSA
4. What do different terms mean?
 - a. Terms are listed in alphabetical order at <https://studentaid.gov/help-center/answers/topic/glossary/articles>
 - b. You can also type in box "search within this topic" for a particular word if you do not want to scroll through the entire list.
5. Where can I get additional information or assistance with completing the FAFSA online?
 - a. <https://studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/filling-out>
 - b. Or make an appointment with any student services staff at advising@ec3pa.org
6. How do I know I am on an official FAFSA website and not a scam?
 - a. FAFSA stands for Free Application for Federal Student Aid.
 - b. Make sure you are on a site that ends in .gov NOT .com.
 - c. Also, FAFSA does not charge anyone to complete their FAFSA. It is free.
7. In addition to any federal or state deadlines for completing the FAFSA, does EC3 have a deadline?
 - a. January 16 for returning students. New students are asap.

8. I am looking at taking classes at EC3 for one term but plan on transferring afterwards. Do I use the same FAFSA form for both colleges?
 - a. We are using the 2025-2026 FAFSA for the Spring 2026 semester. For future terms, you'll need to complete the 2026-2027 FAFSA.
9. Do I have to complete a FAFSA every year or just when I start college?
 - a. YES! EVERY YEAR!
10. What is the difference between a grant, scholarship, loans, and work-study?
 - a. There is a video on website: <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types>

Suggestions for applying to FAFSA

1. Go to <https://studentaid.gov/>
2. Create an account. It will tell you if a username is already in use. While setting it up it will use 2 step verification by either a text message or phone number. Also, please remember these, you will need them each year you apply.
3. If you are married or under the age of 26 your spouse and/or parents will also need to create an account. This process goes smoother if the student applies first.
4. Documents to have:
 - a. tax forms (if you don't have these you will have to allow FAFSA to release and receive this info from the IRS),
 - b. Social security number,
 - c. records of child support,
 - d. current account balances for all banking
5. Residency is just the state you live in and for how long have you lived there. If it is your entire life just use the month and year you were born.
6. There are short 2-5 minute videos you can watch before you start any section.(you should take a second to watch them before you work on a section.
7. You are able to save and continue if you get stuck.