

# SAR (Student Aid Report)

## What is it, how do I get one, and why is it important?

### What is the SAR?

The Student Aid Report (SAR) summarizes the information you submitted on your FAFSA and provides information about financial aid eligibility based on that information.

A sample SAR is shown on the next page.

### How and when will I get my SAR?

After you submit your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), you'll get your personal SAR (within three days if you complete the FAFSA online; within three weeks if you mail the paper FAFSA). Whether you receive your SAR online or through the mail depends on whether you provide an email address on your FAFSA. If you provide a valid email address, you'll receive an email with instructions on how to access an online copy of your SAR. If you have an FSA ID (username and password) and your FAFSA has been processed, you can log in at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov) to view your SAR information regardless of how you filed the FAFSA. The school(s) you list on your FAFSA will have access to your SAR data electronically within a day after it is processed.

### What information does a SAR contain (and not contain)?

The SAR won't tell you how much financial aid you'll get, but if your application is complete, an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) will display in the upper right hand corner of your SAR and your estimated Pell Grant amount will be provided. If your application is incomplete, your SAR will not include an EFC or Pell amount, but it will tell you what you need to do to resolve any issues.

The SAR also contains a four-digit Data Release Number (DRN), which appears on the first page in the upper right corner of the paper SAR and SAR Acknowledgment. On the electronic SAR, the DRN is located in the box that contains the Application Receipt Date, below the EFC. You will need the DRN if you choose to allow your college or technical school to change certain information on your FAFSA.

### What am I supposed to do with my SAR?

When you get your SAR, review it carefully to make sure it's correct and complete. Take a copy of it to your college/career counselor to get help reviewing it. The school(s) you listed on your FAFSA will use SAR information to determine your eligibility for federal and state financial aid. A school may ask you to verify the accuracy of the data you provide on the FAFSA, so you need to be sure the information is correct.

If you don't have any changes to make to the information listed on your SAR, just keep it for your records.

### What if my SAR does not list an EFC?

If your EFC is blank on your SAR or if there is a "C" after the number, you need to make corrections to your FAFSA. It is extremely important that you make these corrections to your FAFSA to receive financial aid. Your SAR will provide you with details about the errors in your FAFSA.

### What if there is an asterisk (\*) next to my EFC?

If there is an asterisk (\*) next to your EFC, this means that your FAFSA has been selected for verification. Being selected for verification is quite common. This just means that you will need to work with your college to complete a few extra steps to verify the information you provided on your FAFSA.

# Sample SAR

Federal Student Aid FAFSA

Form Approved  
OMB No. 1845-0001  
App. Exp. 12/31/2016

## Electronic Student Aid Report (SAR)

20XX-XX

Application Receipt Date:	02/21/20XX	XXX-XX-XXXX BA 03
Processed Date:	03/17/20XX	EFC: 000000 *
		DRN: [REDACTED]

The SAR summarizes the information you submitted on your 2019-20 FAFSA

Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

This is your Expected Family Contribution. The number may be all zeros, or a combination of zeros and other numbers, but if it is blank or there is a "C" after the number, you need to make corrections to your FAFSA or you won't get any aid. The details are in the body of the SAR below.

The last four digits of your social security number appear here.

### Comments About Your Information

Learn about [federal tax benefits for education](#), including the *American Opportunity Tax Credit* (AOTC).

Based on the information we have on record for you, your EFC is 000000. You may be eligible to receive a Federal Pell Grant and other federal student aid. Your school will use your EFC to determine your financial aid eligibility for federal grants, loans, and work-study, and possible funding from your state or school.

Being selected for verification is quite common. The asterisk after the EFC above indicates this too.

Your FAFSA has been selected for a review process called verification. Your school has the authority to request copies of certain financial documents from you and your parent(s).

There is a limit to the total amount of Federal Pell Grants that a student may receive, which is the equivalent of six school years. Once a total amount of Pell Grant eligibility has been received, a student can no longer receive Pell Grant aid.

WHAT YOU MUST DO NOW (Use the checklist below to make sure that all of your issues are resolved.)

The date of birth you reported for your first parent on your FAFSA matches the Social Security Administration's (SSA) records, but the date of birth you reported for your second parent does not match the SSA's records. Your second parent should review the date of birth in Item 67 and either confirm the date you have reported or make the necessary correction by clicking 'Make FAFSA Corrections' on the 'My FAFSA' page.

If you need to make corrections to your information, click 'Make FAFSA Corrections' on the 'My FAFSA' page. You must use your Federal Student Aid PIN to access your record online. If you need additional help with your SAR, contact your school's financial aid office or click the 'Help' icon on the FAFSA home page. If your mailing address or e-mail address changes, you can make the correction online.

Based on your EFC of 000000, you may be eligible to receive a Federal Pell Grant of up to \$6,195 for the 2019-20 school year provided you have not met or exceeded the lifetime limit established for the Federal Pell Grant program.

Your Pell Grant eligibility is referenced at the bottom, if you qualify. The lower your EFC, the more money you qualify for, up to the maximum in 2019-20 of \$6,195.

Although you're instructed to use the "checklist" below, it's not formatted like a checklist; read everything below this instruction very carefully and do what it says! Your FAFSA is not considered "complete" until you do.