

Providing Financial Information Using the IRS Data Retrieval Tool (IRS DRT)

Providing Financial Information

The FAFSA asks for financial information, including balances of savings and checking accounts and information from tax forms.

- If you are filling out the 2016–17 FAFSA, you will need 2015 tax information.
- If you are filling out the 2017–18 FAFSA, you will also need 2015 tax information. (Starting with the 2017–18 FAFSA, you'll need to report income information from the tax year two years prior to the *academic year*. [Learn more about the 2017–18 FAFSA.](#))

Automatically Filling in Your Tax Information Using the IRS Data Retrieval Tool

Be sure to consider the option the FAFSA offers you to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool (IRS DRT). (If you got an extension on filing your taxes and didn't file until September or October, [find out when your tax return information will likely be available using the IRS DRT.](#)) Here's how the IRS DRT process works:

1. The IRS DRT takes you to the IRS website, where you'll need to log in by providing your name and other information exactly as you provided it on your tax return.
2. At the IRS site, you can preview your information before agreeing to have it transferred to your FAFSA.
3. When you return to the FAFSA, you'll see that questions that are populated with tax information will be marked with "Transferred from the IRS." Don't make any changes to those answers (except where Individual Retirement Account or pension rollovers are involved), or you'll invalidate the information you retrieved.
4. If you or your parents are married and you've used the IRS DRT to transfer information into your FAFSA, you'll see that a value for Income Earned from Work is transferred. Refer to the [guidance about Income Earned from Work for student and spouse](#) and [guidance about Income Earned from Work for parents](#) in the help topics on the FAFSA site to correctly document this value.

Using the IRS DRT saves you time and effort:

- You don't have to find your tax records.
- You don't have to worry about making mistakes entering your tax information on your FAFSA[®].
- If you use the IRS DRT and don't change any of the retrieved information in your FAFSA (other than that listed in step 3 above), you won't need to provide tax transcripts if you're selected for *verification*.