

# Navigating FAFSA and RDS to Prepare for College

Both FAFSA and RDS are required and need similar information for completion. Below is a breakdown of what these two items are and the information needed to complete them.



**FAFSA:** Complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) to determine your eligibility for federal and state financial aid.

**RDS:** Use RDS (Residency Determination Service) to receive an RCN (Residency Certification Number) to determine your eligibility for in-state tuition and state grant awards.

<b>What?</b>	Possible eligibility for federal and state financial aid for college	Possible eligibility for in-state tuition and state grants
<b>Where?</b>	<a href="https://fafsa.gov">fafsa.gov</a>	<a href="https://ncresidency.org">ncresidency.org</a>
<b>First Step?</b>	Get FSA ID (Federal Student Aid Identification) – student and parent/legal guardian	Complete RDS online
<b>When?</b>	FSA ID before Oct. 1; FAFSA as soon as possible after Oct. 1	Ideally before student applies to NC colleges and universities
	<b>INFORMATION REQUIRED</b>	<b>INFORMATION REQUIRED</b>
<b>Student's Personal Identifying Information</b> (SSN, ARN, USCIS or TIN)*	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Parent's Personal Identifying Information</b> (SSN, ARN, USCIS or TIN)*	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Student-filed Federal Taxes</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Parent/Legal Guardian-filed Federal Taxes</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Student-filed State Taxes</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Parent/Legal Guardian-filed State Taxes</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Address of Permanent Residence</b>	<b>YES</b> , for state grant eligibility	<b>YES</b> , for in-state tuition and state grant eligibility
<b>Driver's License or Vehicle Information</b> (if available)	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Military Information</b> (if applicable)	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Documentation</b> (if applicable)	<b>NO</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>What to Save After Completing Form?</b>	<b>FSA ID</b> - Keep it safe.	<b>RCN</b> - (Residency Certification Number) Keep it safe.
<b>Apply Again?</b>	<b>YES</b> . Use FSA ID to complete the FAFSA each year in college.	<b>NO</b> . RCN never changes, but you may need to reapply if you transfer to a different institution.

\*SSN = Social Security Number; ARN = Alien Registration Number; USCIS=US Citizenship and Immigration Services; ITIN = Individual Taxpayer Identification Number

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