

VERIFICATION

What is verification?

Verification is a process used to check the accuracy of the information a student (or parent) supplied when applying for federal financial aid through the FAFSA. Verification ensures information used to determine eligibility for federal financial aid programs is correct as inaccurate information may result in a student receiving less (or more) money than they should.

Why was I selected for verification?

The Department of Education determines who is selected for verification through a federal audit system. Students selected for verification are notified by the federal processor immediately after submission of the FAFSA. Additionally, the financial aid office will notify the student of the particular requirements once the FAFSA information is reviewed by the school for matriculated students.

In addition to applications selected by the Department of Education, an institution has the authority to verify any student's information (under federal regulations 34CFR, Part 668) and ask for any additional documentation needed to ensure the integrity of the federal programs.

What will I be asked to provide?

You be instructed by the financial aid office as to the specific materials to verify your information based on federal requirements. These materials may include, but are not limited to, a signed verification worksheet, an official IRS federal tax return transcript (for student and parent if student is dependent), W2 wage statements, a statement of educational purpose, verification of identity and declaration of untaxed income. Families who file extensions and file their taxes later in the year are not excused from the verification process. The school will notify you of non-standard documentation which can be accepted in these instances.

Do I have to complete the verification process?

If you wish to receive federal need based aid, participation in the verification process is not optional. If the student / parent does not submit the requested documentation, the student will not be eligible to receive federal or institutional need-based financial aid and the parents of dependent students will not be eligible to receive a PLUS loan. An applicant who has been selected for verification but is eligible for only the Unsubsidized Federal Stafford Loan may be excused from completing the verification process in some instances. A student who might be eligible for a subsidized loan cannot waive verification by choosing to forfeit any need based grants and borrow an unsubsidized loan only.

What Happens If the information on my FAFSA is different than information on my submitted documents?

If there are differences between your FAFSA and the information on your financial or other documents you supply, Hendrix will make corrections to your FAFSA data. All corrections are reprocessed electronically. Any correction may cause changes to your award amounts. These changes in award amounts will be disclosed to you in an updated award notification.

Who Do I Contact If I Have Questions About Verification?

If you need help, contact Kirsten Oesau at Oesau@hendrix.edu or you may contact any member of the financial aid office at student_aid@hendrix.edu. You may also visit us on the 2nd floor of the Dawkins Welcome Center in the Financial Aid suite.