FINANCIAL AID CHECKLIST

2027-2028 Academic Year | Vincennes University

Vincennes University College Code: **001843**

(Use for all campuses: Vincennes, Jasper, Gibson, Aviation, ASL, Military, and Distance Ed)

Timeline & Actions

When	Required Action
Now	Create a Studentaid.gov account username and password (FSA ID) for use throughout the federal aid process during and after college. The FSA ID confirms an individual's identity and should only be created by the owner of the FSA ID. Since the FSA ID is used as a legal signature and enables access to numerous U.S. Department of Education (ED) websites, it should never be shared with others. Remember that most High School email addresses will become inaccessible AFTER graduation. Please utilize email sites like GMAIL, YAHOO, and/or MAIL.com to create one specifically for college. If your parent(s) are required to provide information on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®), a separate FSA ID is required for each parent/contributor. The FSA ID may be obtained at www.studentaid.gov.
After October 1, 2026	Log onto StudentAid.gov to complete your 2027-2028 FAFSA. You will use 2025 income & tax return information.
By April 15, 2027	Indiana residents, complete or renew the 2027-2028 FAFSA to be eligible for State of Indiana grants and benefits such as Twenty-First Century or the Frank O'Bannon. Deadline is April 15th every year.
1-2 Weeks After Filing	Check your FAFSA Summary Sheet (FAFSA results) on the FAFSA web site, StudentAid.gov. Click on "My Activities" to find any issues you need to take care of. Take care of these immediately! Check your Indiana ScholarTrack account at ScholarTrack.in.gov to see if you have any FAFSA corrections to fix. These are called "edits" on ScholarTrack. You need to correct all edits. It's simple to register for an account if this is your first time using https://scholartrack.che.in.gov/
As it Arrives	First correspondence from VU Student Financial Services will be by postal mail. After that, we only send emails to notify you of documents needed, instructions, or changes to awards. Return promptly any documents we request and follow directions carefully. Incomplete documents cause delays and possible loss of your financial aid. Always check your preferred email for updates and messages.
Throughout School Year	Review your Financial Aid Offer(s) on your VUX Financial Aid Card Financial Aid -> Award Offers (this is also where you accept your loans, if needed) make sure dropdown menu shows for the 27-28 Aid Year
Annual Application (opens Oct 1, 2027)	You must complete a new FAFSA every year! You can use the FAFSA renewal to help speed up the process. You will need your FSA Username and Password to get started on the 2028-2029 FAFSA.

Contact Information

VU Student Financial Services
812-888-4361
Email: fa@vinu.edu
Web: https://vinu.edu/web/financial-services

Admissions
812-888-4313 | 800-742-9198
Vincennes: vuadmit@vinu.edu
Jasper: vujcadmissions@vinu.edu
Web: https://vinu.edu/admissions/

PRO-TIPS For FAFSA Success
Avoid Common Errors & Ensure Early Funding

Understanding "Contributors"

What is a Contributor?

A contributor is anyone required to provide information or sign the FAFSA (student, spouse, biological/adoptive parent, or parent's spouse).

- If parents live together, but are not married, both are contributors.
- If parents/spouses did not file taxes jointly, both are contributors.
- CRITICAL: All contributors MUST give consent to have federal tax information transferred from the IRS, or the student will not be eligible for aid.

Tips to Avoid Delays

1. Act Early and Accurately

- **File as soon as possible:** Submit the FAFSA immediately after it opens, as some aid is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.
- **Complete all signatures:** Missing student or parent/contributor signatures is a common cause of delays.
- **Use legal names:** Use your full name exactly as it appears on your Social Security card.
- **Avoid leaving blanks:** Enter "0" or "not applicable" rather than leaving fields empty, which can cause submission errors.

2. Post-Submission Actions

- **Check your FAFSA Submission Summary (FSS):** Review it immediately for accuracy and to see if you have been selected for verification.
- **Monitor your Unsatisfied Requirements on your VUX:** Keep an eye on your student portal at the college for requests for additional documents.
- **Respond quickly to verification:** Responding immediately to requests for documentation prevents long delays.

3. Proactive Communication

- **Contact the Financial Aid Office:** If you do not hear back within a few weeks, reach out to your college's financial aid office to confirm they have everything they need.
- **Use the correct school code:** Ensure you have the correct code for the institution(s) you are applying to.

4. Special Considerations

- **Watch for dependency issues:** Ensure you have correctly identified whether you are a dependent or independent student. If you have unusual circumstances, contact your school to speak with a Financial Aid Counselor.
- **Avoid unnecessary changes:** Making corrections while your application is already in the middle of the approval process can increase processing time. If you need to make a correction, contact your school.
- **Reduction in income:** If you or your contributors have experienced a decrease in income from what was reported on the FAFSA, contact your school to speak with a Financial Aid Counselor.