

2021-22 TASFA Notes

Texas Application for State Financial Aid

July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

These notes help explain certain questions on the TASFA. The green items indicate a student (or spouse) question, and the purple items indicate a parent question. Contact the financial aid office at the institution you currently attend or plan to attend for the 2021-22 award year if you need additional assistance completing this application.

SECTION ONE: STUDENT INFORMATION

Notes for questions 5 and 6 (page 1)

Question 5. If you have been issued a social security card, enter your assigned number. If you have been approved for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), enter your assigned social security number (SSN) through this program. If you do not have an assigned SSN, mark "N/A."

Question 6. Enter your ID number issued by your college or university, if applicable.

Notes for question 24 (page 2)

Enter your gender at birth.

Individuals who were born male are required to complete a **Selective Service Statement of Registration Status** and either be registered with Selective Service or be exempt from registration to be eligible for state financial aid ([TEC, Section 51.9095](#)). If you are male and between the ages of 18 through 25, you can register by visiting www.sss.gov or completing a registration form found at a U.S. Post Office. If you are over the age of 25, you can no longer register. Male students over the age of 25 who knowingly and willfully failed to register with selective service are not eligible for state financial aid.

Selective Service Statement of Registration Status

- If you marked **I am under the age of 18 and not currently required to register**: Contact your current institution to confirm whether additional proof is required.
- If you marked **I am REGISTERED with the Selective Service**, and your current institution does not have proof of your registration on file: You must submit documentation to your current institution in order to be eligible for state financial aid.
- If you marked **I am EXEMPT from registration**, and your current institution does not have proof of your exemption on file: You must submit documentation to your current institution in order to be eligible for state financial aid.
- If you marked **I am over the age of 18. I am not registered with Selective Service and I am not exempt from registration with Selective Service**, then you may not be eligible for state financial aid. Contact your current institution to discuss your eligibility status.

Notes for question 25 (page 2)

If you have been convicted of a felony or a crime involving a controlled substance (e.g., drugs, alcohol), enter "Yes."

If "Yes," contact your institution's financial aid office regarding additional documentation that may be requested (e.g., confirmation of eligibility).

Notes for question 26 (page 2)

State financial aid programs can include:

- Toward EXcellence, Access, and Success (TEXAS) Grant
- Texas Educational Opportunity Grant (TEOG)
- Tuition Equalization Grant (TEG)
- Texas College Work-Study (TCWS)
- Work-Study Student Mentorship Program (WSMP)
- College Access Loan (CAL)
- Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program (TASSP)
- Bilingual Education Program
- Exemptions or Waivers

Notes for question 27 (page 2)

- A. Your institution will require proof of your authorization to work in the United States (e.g., copy of your SSN card) if you are interested in applying for a work-study program.
- B. Work-study programs provide employment positions to eligible students with financial need.

Notes for questions 28 and 29 (page 2)

Question 28. Report your marital status as of the date you sign your TASFA (enter married if you are separated but not divorced). If your marital status changes after you sign your TASFA, check with the financial aid office at your institution.

Question 29. Enter the month and year of the status selected in question 28. If you have never been married, remarried, separated, divorced, or widowed, mark "N/A."

SECTION TWO: STUDENT DEPENDENCY DETERMINATION

Notes for question 30 (page 2)

If you were born on January 1, 1998, you should enter "No."

Notes for question 35 (page 2)

Enter "Yes" if at any time since you turned age 13:

- You had no living parent (biological or adoptive), even if you are now adopted;
- You were in foster care, even if you are no longer in foster care today; or
- You were a dependent/ward of the court, even if you are no longer a dependent/ward of the court today.

If you are not sure if you were in foster care, check with your state's child welfare agency. You can find that agency's contact information at www.childwelfare.gov/nfcad.

Notes for questions 36 and 37 (page 2)

The definition of legal guardianship does not include your parents, even if they were appointed by a court to be your guardians. You are also not considered a legal guardian of yourself.

Enter "Yes" if you can provide a copy of the court's decision that as of today you are an emancipated minor or are in legal guardianship. Also, enter "Yes" if you can provide a copy of a court's decision that you were an emancipated minor or were in legal guardianship immediately before you reached the age of being an adult in Texas. The court must be located in your state of legal residence at the time the court's decision was made.

Enter "No" if you are still a minor and the court decision is no longer in effect or the court decision was not in effect at the time you became an adult. The financial aid administrator at your school may require you to provide additional information such as a copy of the court's decision.

Notes for questions 38-40 (page 2)

Enter **“Yes”** if you received a determination at any time on or after July 1, 2020, that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or at risk of being homeless.

- **Homeless** - means lacking fixed, regular, and adequate housing, which includes living in shelters, motels, or cars, or temporarily living with other people because you had nowhere else to go.
- **Unaccompanied** - means you are not living in the physical custody of your parent or guardian.
- **Youth** - means you are 21 years of age or younger or you are still enrolled in high school as of the day you sign this application.

Answer **“No”** if you are not homeless or at risk of being homeless, or if you do not have a determination. You should contact your financial aid office for assistance if you do not have a determination but believe you are an unaccompanied youth who is homeless or are an unaccompanied youth providing for your own living expenses who is at risk of being homeless.

SECTION THREE: PARENT INFORMATION

Notes for questions 41-56 (page 3)

Note: If you believe you have a special circumstance in which you are unable to enter parental information on the TASFA, **it is important for you to notify and work closely with the financial aid office of the institution you plan to attend when completing the TASFA.**

In limited circumstances such as the ones listed below, you may be able to submit your TASFA without providing parental information:

- Your parents are incarcerated.
- You have left home due to an abusive family environment.
- You do not know where your parents are and are unable to contact them (and you have not been adopted).

In these special circumstances, it is important for you to understand the following: The financial aid staff may ask for additional information to determine whether you can have an expected family contribution (EFC) calculated without parental data. Gather as much written evidence of your situation as you can. Written evidence may include court or law enforcement documents; letters from a clergy member, school counselor, or social worker; and any other relevant documentation that explains your special circumstance.

Question 41 and 43-56. Report your legal parents’ marital status as of the date you sign your TASFA (enter married if they are separated but not divorced). If your parents’ marital status changes after you sign your TASFA, check with your financial aid office at your institution.

- If your parent was never married and does not live with your other legal parent, or if your parent is widowed and not remarried, answer questions 43-49 about that parent.
- If your legal parents (biological, adoptive, or as determined by the state [for example, if the parent is listed on the birth certificate]) are not married to each other and **live together**, select “Unmarried and both parents living together” and provide information in questions 43-56 about both of them regardless of their gender. Do not include any person who is not married to your parent and who is not a legal or biological parent.
- If your legal parents are married, select “Married or remarried.” If your legal parents are divorced but living together, select “Unmarried and both parents living together.” If your legal parents are separated but living together, select “Married or remarried,” not “Divorced or separated.” Answer questions 43-56 about both parents.
- If your legal parents are divorced or separated, answer questions 43-49 about the parent you lived with more during the past 12 months. (If you did not live with one parent more than the other, give answers about the parent who provided more financial support

during the past 12 months or most recent year that you received support from a parent.) For instance, if you feel the support was equal (50/50), list information for the parent that provided at least 51% (slightly more) of your support for the year. If this parent is remarried as of today, answer questions 43-56 about that parent and your stepparent.

- If your widowed parent is remarried as of today, answer questions 43-56 about that parent and your stepparent.

Question 42. Enter the **month** and **year** of your parents’ marital status selected in **question 41**. If your parents have never been married, remarried, separated, divorced, or widowed, mark **“N/A.”**

SECTION FOUR: INCOME INFORMATION

PART A. EARNINGS

Notes for questions 57-62 (page 3)

Notes for questions 63-68 (page 3)

Question 57 and 63. Indicate whether you, your spouse, and/or your parent(s) worked anytime from January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019. If you, as the student, are married, you must provide spouse income and information.

Question 58 and 64. Enter 2019 earnings (wages, salaries, tips, etc.), even if a tax return was not filed. This information may be on the W-2 forms or on the tax return: IRS Form 1040—line 1 + Schedule 1, lines 12 + 18, + Box 14 (Code A) of IRS Schedule K-1 (Form 1065). If any individual earning item on these tax forms is negative, do not include that item in your calculation.

In order to accurately assess your financial situation, your institution needs to account for all sources of income. In cases where your family’s earnings from employment are at or above the IRS filing threshold requirements, the financial aid office will require that you file taxes before processing your TASFA. Tax filing requirements can be found in IRS Publication 17, Table 1-1: 2019 Filing Requirements for Most Taxpayers. See <https://www.irs.gov/uac/About-Publication-17>.

Nontax filers: If you (and your spouse) and/or your parent(s) did not file taxes, contact the financial aid office to see if additional information is needed.

Notes for questions 59 and 60 (page 3)

Notes for questions 65 and 66 (page 3)

Question 59 and 65. Indicate whether you, your spouse, and/or your parent(s) have completed a federal or foreign tax return for 2019. If **“Yes,”** you will be required to submit documents to your financial aid office (e.g., tax returns, tax transcripts, W-2s).

Question 60 and 66. Enter an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) for you, your spouse, and/or your parent(s), if used to file a 2019 tax return. **Note:** Mark N/A if an ITIN was **not** used to file a 2019 tax return.

Notes for question 61 and 62 (page 3)

Notes for question 67 and 68 (page 3)

Question 61 and 67. Adjusted gross income (AGI) is on IRS Form 1040—line 8b. If you did not file a tax return, mark N/A.

Question 62 and 68. Income tax amount is the total of IRS Form 1040—line 14 minus Schedule 2—line 2. If negative, enter a zero. If you did not file a tax return, mark N/A.

Note: Income tax is not income. It is the amount of tax that you, your spouse, or your parents paid on income earned.

Notes for question 69 (page 4)

Notes for question 70 (page 4)

In general, a person may be considered a dislocated worker if he or she:

- is receiving unemployment benefits due to being laid off or losing a job and is unlikely to return to a previous occupation;
- has been laid off or received a lay-off notice from a job; was self-employed but is now unemployed due to economic conditions or natural disaster; or
- is the spouse of an active duty member of the Armed Forces and has experienced a loss of employment because of relocating due to permanent change in duty station; or
- is the spouse of an active duty member of the Armed Forces and is unemployed or underemployed, and is experiencing difficulty in obtaining or upgrading employment; or
- is a displaced homemaker. A displaced homemaker is generally a person who previously provided unpaid services to the family (e.g., a stay-at-home mom or dad), is no longer supported by the spouse, is unemployed or underemployed, and is having trouble finding or upgrading employment.

PART B. 2019 UNTAXED INCOME

Notes for questions

71-75 (page 4)

Question 71. Report child support that you, your spouse, or your parent(s), as applicable, received for all children during 2019. Do not include foster care or adoption payments.

Question 72. Enter housing, food, and other living allowances paid to members of the military, clergy, and others (including cash payments and cash value of benefits). Do not include the value of on-base military housing or the value of a basic military allowance for housing or report rent subsidies for low-income housing.

Question 73. Enter the total amount of untaxed income you, your spouse, or your parent(s), as applicable, received in 2019.

Examples of **untaxed income**:

- Payments to tax-deferred pension and retirement savings plans
- IRA deductions and payments to other qualified plans
- Tax-exempt interest income
- Untaxed portions of IRA distributions
- Untaxed portions of pensions
- Veterans noneducation benefits, such as disability, death pension, or dependency & indemnity compensation (DIC) and/or VA Educational Work-Study allowances
- Other untaxed income not reported may include workers' compensation, disability benefits, etc.

Do not include extended foster care benefits, student aid, earned income credit, additional child tax credit, welfare payments, untaxed Social Security benefits, Supplemental Security Income, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act educational benefits, combat pay, benefits from flexible spending arrangements (e.g., cafeteria plans), foreign income exclusion, or credit for federal tax on special fuels.

Question 74. Enter wages **not** listed on taxes or W-2 forms.

Question 75. Enter money received, or paid on your behalf (e.g., bills), not reported elsewhere on this form. This includes money that you received from a parent or other person whose financial information is not reported on this form and is not part of a legal child support agreement.

PART C. 2019 ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Notes for questions

77-79 (page 4)

Question 77. Report any child support payments paid by you, your spouse, or your parent(s), as applicable, during 2019 as a result of divorce, separation, or some other legal requirement. These are payments that are made to a child (or children) not living in your or your parents' household.

Question 78. Report earnings from need-based work programs and need-based employment portions of fellowships and assistantships.

Question 79. Report any student grant and scholarship aid that was reported to the IRS on your or your parents' 2019 federal income tax return. This includes benefits such as awards, living allowances, and interest accrual payments as well as grant and scholarship portions of fellowships and assistantships.

PART D. 2019 ASSETS

Notes for questions

80-82 (page 4)

Question 80. Do not enter student financial aid awards in this amount.

Question 81. Net worth means current value minus debt. If net worth is negative, enter 0.

Question 82. Business and/or investment farm value includes the market value of lands, buildings, machinery, equipment, inventory, etc. Business and/or investment farm debt means only those debts for which the business or investment was used as collateral. Business value does not include the value of a small business if your family owns and controls more than 50% of the business and the business has 100 or fewer full-time or full-time equivalent employees.

For small business value, your family includes:

- Persons directly related to you
- Persons who are or were related to you by marriage, such as a spouse, stepparent, or sister-in-law

Investment farm value does not include the value of a family farm that you, your spouse, and/or your parent(s) live on and operate.