

Massachusetts Application for State Financial Aid (MASFA)

Office of Student Financial Assistance | Massachusetts Department of Higher Education

2026-2027 MASFA Account Creation Instructions

WHAT IS THE MASFA?



The **Massachusetts Application for State Financial Aid (MASFA)** form is the first step in the financial aid process. The Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) and your college/university will use information collected from the MASFA form to help determine student eligibility for MA state and institutional financial aid programs.

WHO SHOULD COMPLETE THE MASFA?



Complete the **2026-2027 MASFA** if you are [ineligible or unable to file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) and meet the following requirements:

- Are not present in the United States on a [visa or immigration status within the meaning of 8 U.S.C. § 1101\(a\)\(15\)\(A-S\)](#); **and**
- Attended 3 years of high school in Massachusetts; **and**
- Earned a Massachusetts high school diploma or alternative (e.g., GED, HiSET)

Students should only complete the **ONE** financial aid application (FAFSA or MASFA). Use our [FAFSA/MASFA Eligibility Questionnaire](#) to determine which application to complete.



APPLY BY THE DEADLINE

Submit your application as early as possible. The **Massachusetts 2026-2027** priority deadline to be considered for MASSGrant, MASSGrant Plus, MASSGrant Plus Expansion is **May 1, 2026**. The 2026-2027 MASFA form will remain open until June 30, 2027.

Please be advised that your college and/or other sources of aid may have their own filing deadlines for various forms. You should inquire with them about those dates.



HOW DO I ACCESS THE MASFA FORM?

The application is only available in an online version (paper application is **not** available). Use our [FAFSA/MASFA Eligibility Questionnaire](#) to determine if you are eligible to complete the MASFA.

The MASFA form is accessed through a **specific link** once the student completes the [FAFSA/MASFA Eligibility Questionnaire](#). This link will redirect students to the MASFA/MASSAid portal. Students **MUST** use the specific link to access the 26-27 application (they should not create a MASSAid Student Portal account).

PLEASE NOTE: *If the student previously had a MASSAid account (because they completed a FAFSA), our office will need to delete their account before they can create their MASFA/MASSAid account and access the application.*



WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I COMPLETE THE APPLICATION?

Once your application is complete, it will be reviewed by the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) and shared with the school(s) listed on the application. We highly encourage you to contact the Admission and Financial Aid office at the school you are or may be planning to attend for more information on admission/enrollment requirements and to determine your financial aid eligibility.

QUESTIONS?



If you have questions regarding the MASFA, contact the MA Office of Student Financial Assistance at masfa@dhe.mass.edu or 617-391-6070.

WHAT INFORMATION DOES THE STUDENT NEED TO PROVIDE ON THE APPLICATION?

The 2026-2027 MASFA form has the following sections:

1. Student Demographic Information
2. School Selection
3. Dependency Verification
4. Student **2024** Tax Information
5. Independent Student Information (for *independent* students only)
6. Parent **2024** Tax Information (for *dependent* students only)
7. Student Certification/Signature

The student will be required to complete the form in its entirety and sign it before it is considered complete.

PLEASE NOTE: The 2026-2027 application does **NOT** require a parent/guardian to create an account, complete a portion of the application or sign the application. However, dependent students must provide their parent(s) information on their application.

Unusual and Extenuating Circumstances

If there are unusual and extenuating circumstances why the student cannot provide parental information on their application, the student will be **REQUIRED** to provide the MA Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) with documentation.

Unusual Circumstances that MAY qualify for an appeal:

- Parental abandonment or estrangement
- Human Trafficking, as defined in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000
- Legally granted refugee or asylum status & parental location or status is unknown
- Parent incarceration/institutionalization
- Social service, police or legal intervention

Unusual Circumstances that do NOT qualify for an appeal:

- Parent(s) unwilling to provide information on MASFA
- Parent(s) refuse to contribute to student's education
- Parent(s) do not claim student as a dependent for income tax purposes
- Student lives on their own/demonstrates self-sufficiency (without a qualifying situation)
- Parent(s) not a resident of Massachusetts and/or living outside of Massachusetts or the United States

Special Circumstances

If you and your family experienced significant changes to your financial situation (such as loss of employment), or other special circumstances, complete and submit the MASFA form as instructed. Once you submit the form, you may follow up with the MA Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) to discuss your special circumstances.

Massachusetts Application for State Financial Aid (MASFA)

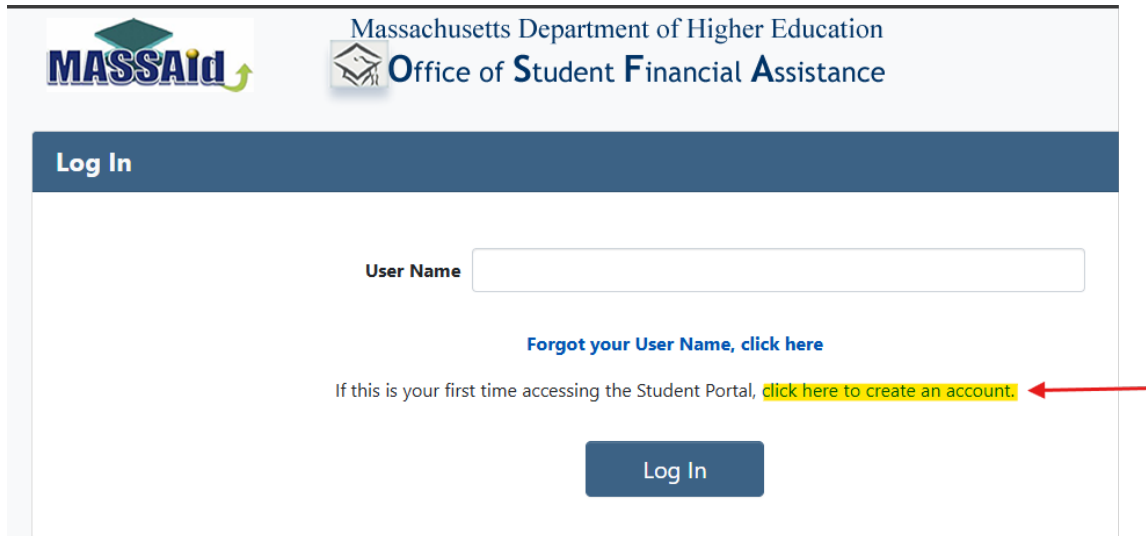
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DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY AND ACCOUNT CREATION

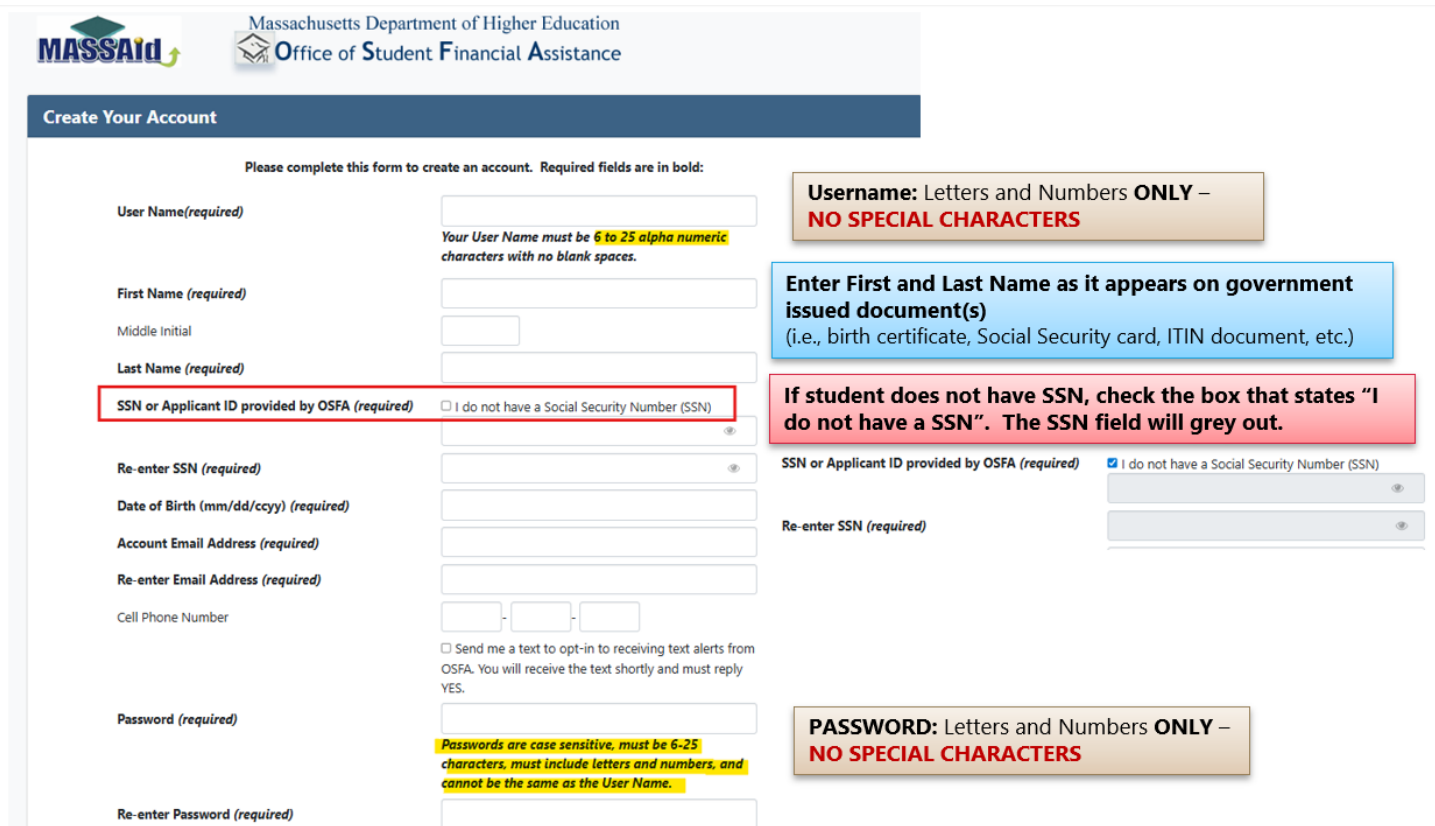
❖ Complete the Questionnaire: [FAFSA/MASFA Eligibility Questionnaire](#).

❖ Create an Account Page

Follow the link provided once you complete the questionnaire to create your account



The screenshot shows the MASFA Log In page. At the top, there is a header with the MASSAid logo and the text "Massachusetts Department of Higher Education Office of Student Financial Assistance". Below the header is a dark blue bar with the text "Log In". Underneath, there is a "User Name" label and a text input field. To the right of the input field is a link that says "Forgot your User Name, click here". Below this, there is a line of text: "If this is your first time accessing the Student Portal, [click here to create an account](#)". A red arrow points to this link. At the bottom, there is a dark blue button labeled "Log In".



The screenshot shows the MASFA Create Your Account page. At the top, there is a header with the MASSAid logo and the text "Massachusetts Department of Higher Education Office of Student Financial Assistance". Below the header is a dark blue bar with the text "Create Your Account". Underneath, there is a section titled "Please complete this form to create an account. Required fields are in bold:". The form contains several fields: "User Name (required)", "First Name (required)", "Middle Initial", "Last Name (required)", "SSN or Applicant ID provided by OSFA (required)", "Re-enter SSN (required)", "Date of Birth (mm/dd/ccyy) (required)", "Account Email Address (required)", "Re-enter Email Address (required)", "Cell Phone Number", "Password (required)", and "Re-enter Password (required)". There are also several informational boxes: a yellow box stating "Username: Letters and Numbers ONLY – NO SPECIAL CHARACTERS", a blue box stating "Enter First and Last Name as it appears on government issued document(s) (i.e., birth certificate, Social Security card, ITIN document, etc.)", a pink box stating "If student does not have SSN, check the box that states 'I do not have a SSN'. The SSN field will grey out.", and a yellow box stating "PASSWORD: Letters and Numbers ONLY – NO SPECIAL CHARACTERS".

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❖ Account Creation, continued

To finalize account creation, student will make a “Personal Image Selection” (security feature) and acknowledge the “Terms and Conditions”.

Personal Image Selection

Your Personal Image helps you know for sure that you are at the valid site. Every time you sign in, you will see your Personal Image after you enter your User Name.

Please select a Personal Image:



☒☐☐☐☐☐

Terms and Conditions

☒ I acknowledge by gaining access to this site I certify that I am the student/borrower or have the student/borrower's permission to access the information. Access without permission may subject you to civil penalties or criminal prosecution.

Once the student completes their account creation, they will automatically be redirected to the 2026-2027 MASFA homepage.



Massachusetts Department of Higher Education
Office of Student Financial Assistance

2026-2027 Massachusetts Application for State Financial Aid (MASFA)

Students must complete the MASFA application once per academic school year. For priority consideration, students should complete the application by May 1, 2026. The 2026-2027 application will remain open until June 30, 2027.

Let us walk you through the steps to complete the application.

* = Required

English

1MASFA

2Student Demographic Information

3School Selection

4Dependency Verification

5Student Tax Information

6Independent Student Information

7Parent Tax Information

8Sign and Submit Page

MASFA

To be eligible for most types of financial aid, students must complete either the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or Massachusetts Application for State Financial Aid (MASFA). Students should only complete **ONE** financial aid application.

- **Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** if you are a U.S. Citizen or eligible noncitizen.
 - Complete the 2026-2027 FAFSA by visiting the following website: <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>
- **Complete the Massachusetts Application for State Financial Aid (MASFA)** only if you meet all the following criteria:
 - Are **ineligible to complete the FAFSA**; **and**
 - Are not present in the United States on a **visa or immigration status within the meaning of 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(15)(A-S)**; **and**
 - Attended 3 years of high school in Massachusetts; **and**
 - Earned a Massachusetts high school diploma or alternative (e.g., GED, HiSET); **and**
 - Have physically resided in Massachusetts for at least one year prior to the start of the academic year

Need help or have questions? Call the MA Office of Student Financial Assistance at 617-391-6070.

PreviousNext

The student does not need to complete the entire application at once. They can save their information and exit, if needed. To log back in to the application (**only if they have already created an account**), student may use the following URL: [MASSAid Portal for students - User Login](#).

Once in their account, go to “Grant/Scholarship Online Applications” page. Under the “Other” section you will see the 2026-2027 MASFA.