FAFSA DELAY IMPACT

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AID

The 2024-25 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) has been completely redesigned and the Federal aid eligibility calculations revised.  The Office of Financial Aid (FA) shared previously this initially caused delays in the FAFSA’s availability for students and families to complete the FAFSA.  Although many students are now able to complete the form, both students and institutions are still faced with several potential challenges.

While many families report an easier experience completing the FAFSA, there remain several [KNOWN ISSUES](https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/topics/fafsa-simplification-information/2024-25-fafsa-issue-alerts) that families experience. Some issues have designated workaround instructions to guide the family through resolving the issue. Other issues do not have a workaround, and in these cases, the issue will prevent the student and family from completing the FAFSA until the issue is resolved. Many of these open issues are affecting contributors (the student or family member contributing information) who do not have a Social Security Number. There is currently not an effective workaround for these families, but it is being worked on by the US Department of Education.  We will share more as we gain further knowledge of best practices.

Please note that undocumented students and students who are undocumented but have received Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) do not meet the eligibility requirements for federal student aid. However, some will complete the FAFSA to receive eligibility for other types of student financial aid (community-based financial aid, donor-funded scholarships, etc.). In these instances, students can find additional FAFSA completion guidance on [FEDERAL STUDENT AID’S UNDOCUMENTED STUDENT AND FINANCIAL AID PAGE](https://studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/filling-out/undocumented-students).

On January 30, 2024, the US Department of Education (ED) announced that institutions will not receive any results of student’s completed FAFSA until mid-March.  Additionally, all FAFSA results will not be released immediately and ED indicated it could take weeks to clear the backlog.

**In response, the Butler University Office of Financial Aid has continued to update campus stakeholders and proactively reach out to our students and families.**

Prospective students and parents received earlier this week to alert them to the following:

* We are extending our Priority FAFSA Filing Deadline to April 15, 2024.
* We will alert the student when we receive the student’s FAFSA results.
* We now anticipate Butler offers will be sent to new students within 3–4 weeks of our office receiving the data.
* We will offer flexibility with our enrollment deposit policies. We will continue to accept enrollment deposits after May 1, 2024, and will be generous in refunding deposits after that date.

Current students have received reminders that our **Priority FAFSA Filing Deadline remains April 15, 2024,**and that financial aid offers are sent in early June after we have the opportunity to review spring semester grades and continued eligibility for each aid program.

Enrollment Management is working proactively to support and communicate with students. Should you have a FAFSA or 24-25 financial aid question you are not prepared to answer, please direct a prospective student to the Office of Admission or more specifically the student’s admission counselor.  Current students may be directed to the Office of Financial Aid.