

Dear Pilots,

As many of you have probably heard, the FAFSA has been delayed by the federal government. To help explain exactly what that means for you, we have developed a quick Q&A to help you understand how you might be impacted by the delay. You will also find links to news articles explaining the FAFSA issues at the bottom of this email.

### **What does the delay actually mean for me?**

In a normal year, the FAFSA would open October 1<sup>st</sup>, but in 2023, the FAFSA didn't open until December due to the [FAFSA Simplification Act](#). Usually colleges and universities, including LSU, would receive your information in January and begin processing immediately to communicate your award as soon as possible. With the delay, however, this means your financial aid (Pell Grant, student loans, work-study, and scholarships) will likely not be posted on myLSU before the end of the spring semester.

But with this delay, Federal Student Aid is saying that we will not receive any of your data until mid-March at the earliest. Because of that delay, you will likely not receive your award letter until the summertime. Obviously, this is not ideal for any student, and we recognize that this may cause some anxiety for you. We promise to do everything in our power to process your information effectively and quickly as soon as we receive it so that you can make the right choices financially for yourself and your family.

### **Why can't LSU process my application like normal?**

Because the FAFSA is based on financial information that could change from year to year based on your financial situation or that of your family, we cannot make accurate determinations without the updated FAFSA information.

### **What can I do as a student to help speed this up?**

Renew your 2024-25 FAFSA now at [studentaid.gov/fafsa](https://studentaid.gov/fafsa) if you haven't already done so. The LSU school code is 002013. Create your FSA ID at [studentaid.gov/fsa-id](https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id) at least three days before starting your FAFSA, if you don't already have one. Also, have your parents create an FSA ID if their information is required on your FAFSA.

After completing your FAFSA there is nothing that you can do to help speed up the process. The LSU Financial Aid Office is in a holding pattern right now, like every other university in the country. In anticipation of the FAFSA information being given to us in March, we do ask that you check your email often as March approaches. We will send periodic updates if we hear any news from Federal Student Aid.

### **Will my scholarships be affected?**

Scholarships from LSU will not be affected by the delayed FAFSA. However, some scholarships from our Foundation do require proof of economic hardship before they can be awarded. If you intend to apply for one of these scholarships, you will have to wait until your FAFSA information is processed and complete.

### **When will I know anything?**

We are hopeful that we will have more news to share before mid-March, but we are beholden to the Federal Student Aid office at the moment. We do ask that you check your email often as the mid-March timeframe approaches and passes. We want you all to view and accept your financial award ASAP so we can get you processed and cleared for the start of the fall semester. We will post updates to [www.lsus.edu/costs-and-aid/fafsa-simplification](http://www.lsus.edu/costs-and-aid/fafsa-simplification). You can also find a video explaining the FAFSA Simplification Act on that page.

The most important thing we want all our students to know is that we are working diligently to develop strategies to expedite any and every portion of this process to help counter the time delay. We appreciate your patience and understanding while we navigate this hectic journey.