

Reporting Same-sex Marriage on the FAFSA®

Does the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) consider a same-sex marriage to be a marriage?

Yes, if the couple is legally married. Consistent with the Supreme Court decision holding Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) unconstitutional, same-sex couples (both the student and the student's parents) must report their marital status as married if they were legally married in a state or other jurisdiction (foreign country), without regard to where the couple resides or where the student will be attending school.

If my parents are of the same sex, how do I respond to the parent section of the FAFSA®?

Regardless of whether your married parents are of the same sex or opposite sex, both parents should provide separate information on the FAFSA. (Find out who counts as your parent at StudentAid.gov/fafsa-parent.)

Here's some guidance on what to do:

- FAFSA instructions reflect the post-DOMA definition of "married;" and the FAFSA questions use gender-neutral terminology for married parents ("Parent 1" and "Parent 2" instead of "mother" and "father"). It does not matter which parent completes which set of questions.
- Make sure you keep track of which parent is Parent 1 and which is Parent 2 so that you can provide correct, consistent information throughout the FAFSA. Also, when you sign

the FAFSA, it'll ask whether the parent signature provided is for Parent 1 or Parent 2, so you'll need to know who's who.

Where can I get more information about filling out the FAFSA®?

Visit StudentAid.gov/fafsa to learn

- what information you'll be providing on the FAFSA,
- when to file the application,
- how to determine whether you'll need to provide parent information,
- who counts as your parent on the FAFSA, and
- what happens after you submit your FAFSA.

Fill out the FAFSA for FREE at fafsa.gov

Learn about federal student aid: StudentAid.gov.

Ask questions: studentaid@ed.gov or 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243).