



The IRS Data Retrieval Tool

**What is the IRS Data Retrieval Tool?**

The IRS Data Retrieval Tool (IRS DRT) allows both students and parents who filed a U.S tax return to transfer information needed to complete the FAFSA from the IRS directly into the FAFSA form.

**Am I able to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool?**

Unfortunately, not everyone is able to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool as it does not work for the following:

- Married parents/individuals who filed taxes "Married Filed Separately"
- Parents/individuals who filed as "Head of Household"
- Parents/individuals who are unmarried but living together
- Parents/individuals who filed a Puerto Rican or Foreign Tax Return

The parents/individuals above will need to enter their tax return information into the FAFSA manually.

**If you are eligible to use to the IRS Data Retrieval Tool, it is highly recommended that you do use it.**

- It is the easiest way to provide you tax information on the FAFSA
- It is the best way of providing accurate tax information on the FAFSA
- If you are selected for verification, you won't need to provide a copy of tax returns to your college(s)

**If you are eligible to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool, click "Link To IRS" when prompted on the FAFSA in order to transfer your tax return information from the IRS into your FAFSA form.**

**If you are ineligible or choose not to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool, your college(s) may require that you submit a copy of your IRS Tax Return Transcript (or the parent(s)' IRS Tax Return Transcript, if you are a dependent student). You can request a free copy of your IRS Tax Return Transcript here:**

<https://sa.www4.irs.gov/irfof-tra/start.do>

*Note:* For the 2019-2020 FAFSA, you will need your tax return transcript from 2017.

**Additional Notes:**

- If you use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool, you will not be able to see the tax return information that is transferred into the FAFSA. This is for security purposes. Instead, you will see "Transferred from the IRS." The IRS Data Retrieval Tool only allows you to transfer your original tax return information. If you filed a 1040X amended tax return, you should contact the financial aid office at your college(s) to determine whether or not they have received the correct information.



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