



STEP TWO: COMPLETE YOUR PFS

Use the section-by-section guide below to complete the PFS fully and accurately. You may not see all questions discussed below as some questions are only displayed based on your answers to previous questions. An application will not be processed until you have completed all required questions online. Note: References to tax form line numbers below and on the online form may vary slightly from the actual line numbers on 2017 tax forms.

Question-by-Question Instructions

Household Information

Parent/Guardian Information

- **Parent/Guardian A and B:** Fill in the biographical and contact information exactly as you do on tax and other official forms. Include an email address, so we can send you a confirmation that we have received your PFS. If either parent has more than one job, please identify.
- **Other Parent:** Complete this section only if the student applicant(s) has another living biological or legal (adoptive) parent that was not listed as Parent/Guardian A or B. Any noncustodial parent or parent with joint custody in separate households should be listed here, but he/she must also complete a separate PFS. Be sure your answers to the remainder of the questions in the PFS only pertain to the parents/guardians *in your household*. Please note that both of these fields are listed with “None” in the field by default. The “None” must be changed to Yes or No prior to saving this section.

Applicant Information

- **Applicant(s):** Enter the biographical information only for students who are applying for financial aid at SSS subscriber schools. Do not include your other dependent children who are not applying for aid, or are applying for aid at non-SSS subscriber schools only.
- **Applicant Lives With:** Select the best response for the current family situation. If the applicant lives with someone other than Parent/Guardian A or B, enter the name(s) of the other parent(s)/guardian(s).

Non-Applicant Dependent(s)

- **Dependent(s):** Enter the biographical information for all dependent individuals in your household who are NOT applying for financial aid at an SSS subscriber school. DO NOT add anyone to this section you have already identified as a Parent/Guardian or an Applicant.

School Selection

- **School Selection:** Identify the SSS subscriber schools to which we should send copies of your family’s report where you are applying by entering the SSS code(s) or name of the schools and organizations or looking them up by location. Once the schools have been found and selected, assign them to the correct applicant(s). If a school/organization is not listed, contact the school/organization directly.

Family Income

Basic Tax Information

- **2017 Tax Return:** It is preferred, but not required, that you have completed your 2017 tax return in order to complete this PFS. If you have not yet completed it, select “Estimated” and use your best estimate to answer each question.
- **Income Tax Filing Status:** If Parent/Guardian A and B have different tax filing statuses, enter the status of Parent/Guardian A (lines 1-5 on IRS Form 1040 or 1040A).
- **Exemptions:** If Parent/Guardian A and B file tax forms separately, enter the total amounts claimed/ reported on both tax returns (line 6D on IRS Form 1040 or 1040A).



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- **Itemized Deductions:** If you filed a Schedule A along with your tax return, enter the total itemized deductions (line 29). If Parent/Guardian A and B file taxes separately and both filed a Schedule A, enter the total from both forms.
- **Federal Tax Paid:** Enter the total federal tax paid in 2017 (line 63 minus line 57 on IRS Form 1040, line 28 on IRS Form 1040A or line 11 on Form 1040EZ). Self employment tax in line 57 of the 1040 is reported elsewhere. Do NOT enter the amount labeled “federal income tax withheld,” because the amount that is withheld is not always what you actually need to pay.
- **Business/Farm Ownership:** Indicate if you are a sole proprietor or partner in one or more businesses and/or farms. If you are, you will be asked for additional information in a separate Business/Farm section.

Total Taxable Income

- **Taxable Salaries and Wages:** Enter taxable salaries and wages including tips, drawing accounts from self-employment, and other employee compensation before payroll deductions for 2017. Enter the actual amount if your 2017 taxes have been completed or estimate them if they have not. Refer to Box 1 on your W2 from your employer(s). If you have more than one W2, add the amounts and enter the total. (If you own a business/farm, do NOT include profit/loss from the business; only include any salary you pay yourself.)
- **Taxable Dividend and/or Interest Income:** Enter taxable dividend (line 1A on 1099-DIV or line 9a from 1040) and interest income (line 1 on 1099-INT or line 8a from 1040) for 2017 and 2018 (estimated). Do not include the value of your income-generating assets here.
- **Alimony:** Enter the total amount of alimony received in 2017 and 2018 (estimated). This does not include child support.
- **Adjustments to Income:** Enter the total amount of adjustments (line 36 on IRS Form 1040) entered in 2017 and 2018 (estimated).
- **Untaxed Portions of Payments to an IRA:** Enter the amount of any payments you made into an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) or a Roth IRA (line 32 of IRS Form 1040 or line 17 of IRS Form 1040A). Otherwise, enter zero.
- **Keogh Payments and SEP Deductions:** Enter the amount of any payments you made into a Keogh, Simplified Employee Pension (SEP), SIMPLE, and/or other qualified plans (line 28 of IRS Form 1040). If you made no such payments, enter zero.
- **Self-Employment Tax:** Enter the total deductible amount of self-employment taxes (line 27 on IRS Form 1040) you paid in 2017 and 2018 (estimated).
- **Other IRS-Allowable Adjustments:** Itemize any other IRS-allowable adjustments not listed above.
- **Other Taxable Income:** Enter the amount of any other taxable income received, if any. Enter zero if no other value applies.

Total Nontaxable Income

- **Child Support:** Enter the total amount of child support you received for all your children, not just those applying for financial aid, in 2017 and 2018 (estimated). Enter the amount you actually received, not the amount agreed upon. This is not reported on your federal or state tax returns.
- **Social Security Benefits:** Enter the total amount of all social security benefits received by all members of your household, not just by parents/guardians in 2017 and 2018 (estimated).
- **Other Nontaxable Income:** Enter the amount of any other nontaxable income you received, if any. Enter zero if no other value applies.

Applicant Income

- **Student Applicant Income:** Enter the amount of money, if any, earned by each student applicant in 2017 and 2018 (estimated) and whether the student applicant filed a federal tax return. Only enter earnings for your children who are applying for financial aid. Complete this section even if the applicant worked but did not file a tax return.



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- **Student Applicant Assets:** Enter the total value of each student applicant's assets, if any, and itemize the assets. Student assets include student savings accounts, IRAs, stocks, bonds, inheritances, trust funds, and real estate as well as the cash value of annuities and education insurance policies. Student assets do NOT include life insurance policies, stamp or coin collections, or the value of personal property as well as Section 529 plans or Education IRAs held on behalf of the students (these count as parent/guardian assets).

Family Assets and Debts

Real Estate

- **Home (Owned):** If you own your home/primary residence, enter the purchase date, purchase price, current market value, current unpaid principal on your first mortgage, and total annual payments on your first mortgage, including all property taxes, interest payments, insurance payments and condo/association fees. If you have a second mortgage or home equity loan, you will also be asked for the current unpaid principal and annual payments on it as well as its purpose. If you're unsure how to estimate your home's current market value, consider using an online resource such as www.zillow.com.
- **Home (Rental):** If you do not own your home/primary residence, enter the total annual rent paid.
- **Other Real Estate:** If you own real estate or property other than your primary residence or a business or farm, enter the address, purpose, purchase price, current market value, and unpaid principal on all mortgages, not including interest or property taxes for each property. Also report the total annual payments on all first mortgages including all property taxes, interest payments, insurance payments and condo/association fees for each of the additional properties owned.

Vehicles

- **Cars, Boats and Recreational Vehicles:** Enter the type, make, model, year, ownership status, current debt, and annual lease cost for every vehicle in your household. Include vehicles purchased for your children. If you do not make payments on the car, enter zero in the debt/lease questions and provide an explanation.

Other Assets and Debts

- **Bank Accounts:** Enter the total value of parents' checking and savings (interest bearing and non-interest bearing) accounts, including money market accounts as of the date you complete the PFS. Do NOT include the value of student applicant accounts in this total.
- **Investments:** Enter the total net value of investments (market value minus debt) as of the date you complete the PFS. Include stocks, bonds, mutual funds, other securities, CDs, college savings plans (e.g. 529 and Coverdell), savings plans, trust funds, and total cash value of whole life insurance policies. Do NOT include retirement-specific accounts.
- **Retirement Plans:** Enter the total current value of retirement-specific plan accounts, such as 401(k)s, 403(b)s, IRAs, Keoghs, pensions, etc. Do NOT include savings, investments, CDs, etc., that are not held in vehicles specifically designated as retirement plan accounts.
- **Debts:** Enter the outstanding balances on amounts borrowed for situations such as: parent educational debt, encumbrances against home or other real estate (NOT mortgages); living expenses if business failure, prolonged illness, unemployment, etc., have depleted assets; past medical/dental expenses; past business debts and legal fees; and uninsured natural disasters or past funeral expenses. Do NOT include: business, farm, car, or consumer debt; debts for routine home repairs, school expenses for children; travel expenses; or debts for investments.
- **Consumer Debts:** Enter the total outstanding balances on all credit cards that you hold, including department stores, gas station credit cards, etc. Do NOT include items reported as debts elsewhere.



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Family Expenses

Educational Expenses

- **Children You Support:** Enter the total number of children for whom you will be providing support in 2018. Include both student applicants applying for aid AND other non-applicant dependent children. If you are providing support for dependents living with you who are not your children, please explain.
- **Number of Children at Tuition-Charging Institutions:** Of the children you support, indicate how many of them will be attending tuition-charging institutions such as childcare centers, schools or colleges. Do not include children who are cared for by a nanny, family members or other types of daycare that are not provided by an institution, business or agency.
- **What You Can Pay:** Estimate what you can pay toward tuition and other educational expenses for each applicant. Be realistic about the amount you can contribute, keeping in mind the primary responsibility for paying for your child's education lies with you. It is helpful for financial aid officers to have a realistic estimate of what the family feels it can pay for tuition.
- **Education Expenses:** Enter the educational and childcare costs for EACH of your children for 2017 and 2018 (estimated). Include costs for a nanny, family members and/or daycare that are not provided by an institution, business or agency.
- **Sources of Payment:** Indicate how you paid for the 2017-2018 academic year from each source for the education expenses listed above and how much you will pay for the 2018-2019 academic year. If you are unsure of which school your child/children will attend and how much it will cost, enter your best estimate based on your preferred school. Sources include: financial aid, parent/guardian, student assets/earnings, loans and friends/relatives/trust funds/other.

Other Expenses

- **Non-reimbursable Medical/Dental Expenses:** Enter the total amount paid for uninsured medical and dental expenses in 2017 and 2018 (estimated). Do not include amounts covered by insurance or the cost of insurance premiums or medical plans. Itemize amounts by each type of medical expense, such as doctors' bills, medicine and hospital bills.
- **Total Paid for Medical/Dental Insurance:** Enter the total amount paid out-of-pocket for medical/dental insurance premiums and plans. Do not include the amount of premiums paid by your or your spouse's employer(s).
- **Unusual Expenses:** Enter and explain the total amount paid for unanticipated, non-typical or emergency expenses in 2017 and 2018 (estimated). Include expenses such as: nursing home/assisted-living care; current legal fees; closing costs for home purchases or refinancing; sewer, street and water assessments (installation only); unreimbursed tuition for parents; uninsured natural disasters; child support paid in excess of \$5,000; special costs for a child with physical, developmental or other diagnosed challenges; funeral expenses; and Union dues. Do NOT include expenses covered in other questions, charity or church contributions, commuting expenses, household help payments and routine home repair expenses.
- **Cost of Club Dues:** Enter yearly costs of social clubs, health/athletic clubs, etc., to which parents and/or children belong that cost more than \$250. Specify the types of clubs.
- **Cost of Camps and Lessons:** Enter the total amount paid for camps or lessons for your children in 2017. Include academic, sports, music, summer day or overnight camps, tutors, test preparation and academic enrichment programs. Itemize these expenses.
- **Cost of Vacations:** Include the total cost of all individual and family vacations taken in 2017.



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Business/Farm

Business Information

- **Owner and Contact Information:** Enter the owners, names and addresses of all the businesses/farms owned in full or in part by Parent/Guardian A and/or Parent/Guardian B.
- **Type of Business:** Select the type of the business(es)/farm(s) owned and describe the service/product provided.

Business Income

- **Business/Farm Income:** Determine your total business/farm income by entering the gross receipts and sales, cost of goods sold and other business/farm income for each business or farm you own. Enter totals for 2017 and 2018 (estimated) for each business or farm. Use the “[SSS Tax Primer for Parents](#)” for more guidance on where to find the business or farm tax information you need to report on your PFS. You also may be required to provide additional documentation, such as:
 - Schedules C, E, or F
 - Form 1120S
 - Form 1065
 - Schedule K-1

Business Expenses

- **Business/Farm Expenses:** Determine your total business/farm expenses by entering the total salaries and wages paid to you and/or your spouse, other salaries/wages, additional compensation, business property rent, business property mortgage and other business/farm expenses for each business or farm you own. Enter totals for 2017 and 2018 (estimated) for each business or farm. You may be asked to provide additional information, such as a Schedule C included with your IRS Form 1040.
- **Total Depreciation:** Enter the total amount of depreciation claimed for tax purposes for each business, farm, and/or rental property you own. Refer to IRS Schedules C (line 13), E (line 23d) and/or F (line 14).
- **Self-Employment Tax Paid:** Enter the amount paid for self-employment taxes for each business or farm you own for 2017 and 2018 (estimated). Refer to IRS Form 1040 (line 57).

Business Assets & Debts

- **Business/Farm Assets:** For each business or farm you own, enter the total value of the business assets as of the date you complete the PFS. Do NOT include any of your personal assets.
- **Business/Farm Debts:** For each business or farm you own, enter the total amount of the business debts or liabilities as of the date you complete the PFS. Do NOT include any of your personal debts.

Other Information

Other Considerations

- **Additional Comments:** Enter any comments regarding your application to provide schools with additional information not covered elsewhere in the application.