FAFSA and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)
Questions and Answers

Beginning with the 2016-2017 academic year, TAMIU will be accepting the FAFSA application for students who are ineligible to apply for federal student aid but meet the residency requirements under House Bill 1403/Senate Bill 1528. Texas residents may still submit the paper TASFA application. The FAFSA is simply another option.

Q1. To complete the FAFSA, do I need a Social Security number?
A1. Yes. A Social Security number is necessary to complete the FAFSA. If you are completing a FAFSA online at fafsa.gov, a Social Security number is also required to apply for a username and password called the FSA ID, which can be used to electronically sign the FAFSA. Most undocumented students are not eligible for a Social Security number; thus, they cannot complete the FAFSA. However, DACA students with Social Security numbers can complete the FAFSA.

Q2. Does my parents' citizenship status affect my eligibility to submit the FAFSA online?
A2. No. Your parents' citizenship status does not affect your eligibility for federal student aid. In fact, the FAFSA doesn't even ask about your parents' status.

Q3. In order for me to complete the FAFSA, do my parents need Social Security numbers?
A3. No; since your parents' citizenship does not affect your ability to complete the FAFSA, they do not need Social Security numbers. If your parents do not have Social Security numbers, you must enter 000-00-0000 when the FAFSA asks for parents' Social Security numbers. If your parents do not have Social Security numbers, you must print out the signature page from the online FAFSA so that your parents can sign it and send it in.

Q4. On the FAFSA, how do I answer the question that reads, "Are you a U.S. citizen?"
A4. DACA students must answer that question by selecting the option "No, I am not a citizen or eligible noncitizen."

Q5. On the FAFSA, how do I answer the question that reads, "What is your state of legal residence?"
A5. The state of legal residence is your true, fixed, and permanent home. The fact that you are a DACA student does not affect how you should answer this question for purposes of completing the FAFSA. Note that in order to qualify for state aid, you must be a resident of Texas.

Q6. On the FAFSA, how do I answer the question that reads, "What is your parents' state of legal residence?"
A6. Your parents' answer should reflect their true, fixed, and permanent home. Your parents' legal immigration status does not affect how you should answer this question for purposes of completing the FAFSA.

Q7. On the FAFSA, how do I submit my and/or my parent(s) tax information?
A7. If you are completing the FAFSA online at fafsa.gov and you and/or your parent(s) filed an income tax return with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), you may be able to access the information through the IRS Data Retrieval Tool. If you and/or your parent(s) did not file an income tax return with the IRS, enter the requested financial information manually on the FAFSA website. For income earned in Mexico or not listed on IRS form W-2, input the numbers manually under Other Untaxed Income or Benefits.

Q8. What other documentation must I submit?
A8. For verification in the case of ***tax filers***, if you or your parent(s) did not utilize the IRS Data Retrieval tool while completing the FAFSA online, a tax return transcript is required. The tax return transcript can be obtained online on www.irs.gov. A *tax return* can be submitted only for the purpose of awarding financial aid. A *tax return transcript* is required for the release of funds.

In the case of ***non-tax filers***, you must submit a copy of IRS form W-2 for each source of employment received for the tax year, or a signed statement certifying that the individual has not filed and is not required to file an income tax return for the applicable tax year. You should also include in the statement any sources of income earned from work as reported on the FAFSA.

Additionally for males, if you did not register for Selective Service through the FAFSA online, you will need to provide a copy of your confirmation card from the Selective Service System.