

A Review of the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid

January 9, 2024



Agenda

- ISAC Contact Updates
 - Student Services
 - School Services
 - Partner Services
- Retention of Illinois Students & Equity (RISE) Act
 - Overview
 - Eligibility criteria
- Review of the 2024-25 Alternative Application
- Alternative Application Resources
- Processing Policies & Procedures

ISAC's Student Services Department

For inquiries from students, parents, and the general public

Phone: 800-899-ISAC (4722)

Fax: 847-831-8549

E-mail: isac.studentservices@illinois.gov

Spanish-speaking counselors are available

8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. CT

Call Center Reps

Bertha Esquivel

Ghouse Farooqi

Vanessa Guzman

Matt Setnicar

Larry Thompson

ISAC's School Services Department

Exclusively for school inquiries, both colleges and high schools

School Services Manager Mary Lewis retired at the end of 2023 after 40+ years at ISAC

Thankfully, she trained us all well 😊 ... and we will continue to respond to school inquiries in a timely manner

Phone: 866-247-2172

Fax: 847-831-8549

E-mail: isac.schoolservices@illinois.gov

8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. CT

ISAC's Partner Services Department

Provides training, program information, and support to school and other ISAC partners

Assists School Services

Partners with ILASFAA and other professional organizations

Partner Services Staff

Stephanie Claudio, Stephanie.Claudio@illinois.gov

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A Review of the Retention of Illinois Students & Equity (RISE) Act

- Public Act 101-0021 went into effect January 1, 2020
 - www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=101-0021
- Allows eligible undocumented students who are disqualified from federal financial aid to apply for all forms of state financial aid
 - Includes any student aid or benefit funded or administered by:
 - the state
 - a state agency, or
 - any public institution of higher learning
 - Includes (but not limited to):
 - Scholarships
 - Grants
 - Awards
 - Stipends
 - Free room and board
 - Tuition waivers, or
 - Other financial or in-kind assistance
- Does not exempt students from having to meet general eligibility criteria for ISAC programs as well as criteria specific to each individual program

Rise Act Provisions

- Undocumented students may be eligible to apply for ISAC programs if they meet all of these criteria (which are based on Illinois statute regarding in-state tuition eligibility):
 - the individual resided with his or her parent or guardian while attending an Illinois public or private high school;
 - the individual graduated from a public or private high school or received the equivalent of a high school diploma in Illinois;
 - the individual attended school in Illinois for at least 3 years as of the date the individual graduated from high school or received the equivalent of a high school diploma;
 - the individual provides an affidavit stating that the individual will file an application to become a permanent resident of the United States at the earliest opportunity the individual is eligible to do so; and
 - the individual has not established a residence outside of Illinois.

Purpose of the Alternative Application

- To accommodate RISE Act-eligible students, ISAC created an Illinois-specific online application for the need-based Monetary Award Program (MAP) grant
- It is patterned after the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) and is known as the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid
- An Alternative Application is made available for each award year at the same time that the FAFSA® becomes available
- The Alternative Application calculates an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) for 2023-24 and a Student Aid Index (SAI) for 2024-25 to determine financial need for MAP

✓ Section 1 Student
✓ Section 2 Student
Section 3 Student
Section 4 Parent
Section 5 Student
Section 6 Student
Section 7 Review & Signature

Student Information > Tax Information

✓ Application was successfully saved. ✕

Answer these questions about yourself, the student. If you are married or remarried, and you did not file a joint tax return with your spouse, you will be asked to provide additional information about your spouse following the student questions.

Did or will the student file a 2022 IRS Form 1040 or 1040-NR? ?

Yes

No

lication

a paper version

possible

- Messaging will be presented if required fields are left blank
- The application and help text for each question are available in both English and Spanish
- A “Save” button allows applicants to save their data and return to finish at a later time

The 2024-25 Alternative Application

- The format and layout of the application will remain the same as the 2023-24 Alternative Application
- Questions have been added to be consistent with the 2024-25 FAFSA®
- Some questions have been removed to simplify the application whenever possible, and the questions do not always follow the same order as they appear on the FAFSA®
- The application will continue to collect all data elements required to calculate an SAI in the same manner that the FAFSA® form does
- The application will continue to have seven sections

ALTERNATIVE APPLICATION FOR ILLINOIS FINANCIAL AID 2024-2025 SAVE

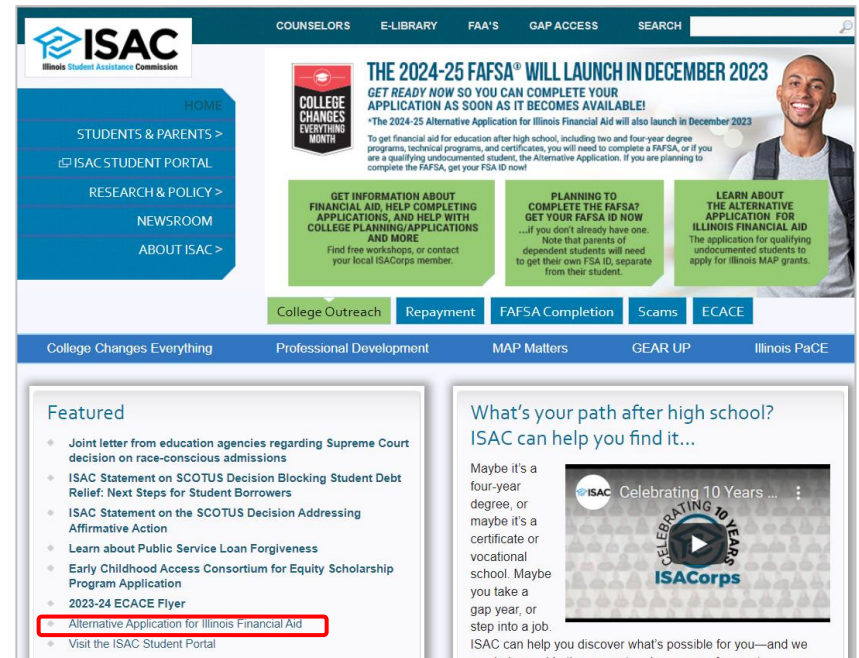
✓ Section 1 Student ✓ Section 2 Student ✓ Section 3 Student ✓ Section 4 Parent Section 5 Student ✓ Section 6 Student ✎ Section 7 Review & Signature

The 2024-25 Alternative Application

- Nothing is changing with the:
 - Pre-screening or log-in process
 - Eligibility criteria
 - Signature process
- Financial aid administrators at the colleges will continue to have the ability to make corrections and/or professional judgment adjustments in the MAP system in GAP Access

Accessing the Application

- The Alternative Application is accessed at isac.org
- Must navigate to the RISE Act information page from the home page
 - Provides information about eligibility requirements
 - The application and resources are available in Spanish
- The Application is not accessible in ISAC's Student Portal or on the general ISAC Applications page with other ISAC program applications
- The Application is not mobile-friendly



Application Process for MAP

The following describes in general terms the steps of application completion and the process used to determine MAP eligibility.

- The Alternative Application is accessible online through the area to the right.
- Pre-screening questions at the beginning of the application help students determine which application (Alternative Application vs. FAFSA) should be completed.
- If an applicant's answers to the pre-screening questions show the Alternative Application should **not** be completed, a message will advise them to consult their high school counselor, a financial aid professional, or an ISACorps member for assistance in completing the FAFSA.
- Similar to the FAFSA, students will only complete the application questions that are relevant to them.
- An "expected family contribution" (EFC) will be calculated from the information submitted on the Alternative Application, which will be used in determining a student's eligibility for MAP.
- MAP award amounts will be calculated for eligible students and provided to colleges by ISAC.
- As with all MAP awards, eligibility notification will be provided to the student by the college, not ISAC.

[Access the application here](#)

ALTERNATIVE
APPLICATION
FOR ILLINOIS
FINANCIAL AID
Intended for qualifying
undocumented students

Accessing the Application

- Resources are available to assist with the application process
- They have been updated for 2024-25

Home › Students & Parents › Before College - Planning › Financial Aid Planning › RISE Act/Alternative Application

[En Español](#)

Retention of Illinois Students & Equity (RISE) Act and Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid

(last updated January 2, 2024)

The Retention of Illinois Students & Equity (RISE) Act allows eligible undocumented students to apply for all forms of state financial aid. The Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid (Alternative Application) provides a way for these qualified students to apply for Monetary Award Program (MAP) grants, the state's largest need-based grant program for low-income college students. For eligible students, the Alternative Application is also part of the application process for the Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program (visit the [MTI Scholarship](#) page of this website for more information).

[Applying for ISAC Programs](#)
[Application for MAP: Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid](#)
[Application Process for MAP](#)
[Applying for Other ISAC Programs](#)

Applying for ISAC Programs

The RISE Act provides a way to apply for ISAC gift assistance programs – including MAP, the Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program, the Illinois Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver (SETTW) Programs and others – to those who meet the RISE Act criteria and each

About The ISACorps
College And Career Exploration And Planning
Financial Aid Planning
Completing The FAFSA®
RISE Act/Alternative Application
[Alternative Application FAQs](#)
[2024-25 Alternative Application User Guide & FAQs](#)
[2023-24 Alternative Application User Guide & FAQs](#)
[Accessing & Updating Your Alternative Application Student Profile](#)
[2024-25 Alternative Application Worksheet](#)
[2023-24 Alternative Application Worksheet](#)
Types Of Financial Aid

Accessing the Application

ALTERNATIVE APPLICATION FOR ILLINOIS FINANCIAL AID

Intended for qualifying undocumented students

Alternative Application to apply for Illinois MAP Grants

The Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid allows qualifying undocumented students who are not otherwise eligible for federal financial aid to apply for Illinois Monetary Award Program (MAP) grants to attend eligible Illinois colleges, universities, and career education programs.

The pre-screening questions in this application will help you determine if you are a qualifying undocumented student who is not eligible for federal financial aid.

[See our User Guide & Resources for this program >>](#)

SOLICITUD ALTERNATIVA DE AYUDA FINANCIERA DE ILLINOIS

Para estudiantes indocumentados calificados

Solicitud alternativa para solicitar las subvenciones MAP de Illinois

La Solicitud Alternativa de Ayuda Financiera de Illinois permite a estudiantes indocumentados calificados que no son elegibles para ayuda financiera federal apliquen para recibir fondos de la Subvención MAP de Illinois para asistir a colegios, universidades, y programas de educación profesional elegibles.

Las preguntas de preselección de esta solicitud le ayudarán a determinar si usted es un estudiante indocumentado que reúne los requisitos y que no tiene derecho a recibir ayuda financiera federal.

[Consulte nuestra Guía del usuario y recursos para este programa >>](#)

Select Academic Year

- Select -
- Select -
2024-2025
2023-2024

Are you a First-time or Returning Applicant?

Select **First-time Applicants** if you have never created an Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid Student Profile and did not receive an ISAC ID Number for purposes of applying for the Monetary Award Program (MAP).

Select **Returning Applicants** if, at some time in the past, you created an Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid Student Profile and received an ISAC ID Number for purposes of applying for the Monetary Award Program (MAP). You must use the same e-mail address that was used for your previous application to file a new application, unless you changed your e-mail address on your Student Profile.

Seleccione el año académico

- Select -
- Select -
2024-2025
2023-2024

¿Es usted solicitante por primera vez o repite?

Seleccione **Solicitantes por primera vez** si nunca ha creado un perfil de estudiante de Solicitud alternativa de Ayuda Financiera de Illinois y no recibió un número de identificación ISAC para solicitar el Programa de concesión monetaria (MAP).

Seleccione **Solicitantes que Regresan** si, en algún momento en el pasado, creó un perfil de estudiante de Solicitud alternativa de ayuda financiera de Illinois y recibió un número de identificación ISAC para solicitar el Programa de concesión monetaria (MAP). Debe utilizar la misma dirección de correo electrónico que utilizó para su solicitud anterior para presentar una nueva solicitud, a menos que haya cambiado su dirección de correo electrónico en su Perfil de Estudiante.

First-Time Applicants

- Click on the "Start" button to start a new Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid
- Do not submit multiple applications for the same academic year

START

Returning Applicants

Complete or correct a Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid

[Forgot Username?](#)

[Forgot Password?](#)

LOGIN

Submit Parent Signature

Click on the "Parent Signature" button to provide your parent's signature (required for dependent students)

PARENT SIGNATURE

Solicitantes por Primera Vez

- Haga clic en el botón "Inicio" para iniciar una nueva Solicitud alternativa de ayuda financiera de Illinois
- No envíe múltiples solicitudes para el mismo año académico

INICIO

Solicitantes que Regresan

Actualice o complete una Solicitud alternativa de ayuda financiera de Illinois

[¿Olvidó su nombre de usuario?](#)

[¿Ha olvidado su contraseña?](#)

INICIAR SESIÓN

Firma de los padres

Haga clic en el botón "Firma de los padres" para proporcionar la firma de sus padres (necesaria para los estudiantes dependientes)

FIRMA DE LOS PADRES

Pre-Screening Questions

- Pre-screening questions at the beginning of the application help students determine which application (Alternative Application vs. FAFSA) should be completed
 - An applicant will only need to respond to the pre-screening questions if it is their initial application
 - Renewal applicants will not see the pre-screening questions
 - Data provided by applicants in the pre-screening questions is not provided to colleges
- If an applicant's answers to the pre-screening questions indicate the Alternative Application should not be completed, a message will advise them to consult their high school counselor, a financial aid professional, or an ISACorps member for assistance in completing the FAFSA

Alternative Application Student Profile

- Creating a Student Profile
 - Once a student has completed the pre-screening process and is determined eligible to complete the Alternative Application, the student must complete a Student Profile
 - The applicant should make note of the data used to create their profile
 - The e-mail address provided should be a permanent one that the student will have regular access to (not one used just for high school or college purposes)
 - If the applicant also has an ISAC Student Portal Account, they will need to use a different e-mail than the one used for the Portal
 - Once the Student Profile is complete, ISAC will assign an ISAC ID number that is unique to the student
 - This is a permanent identifier that will remain the same for a student every year

Student Profile

Account Information	Personal Information
First Name* <input type="text"/>	Challenge Question* <input type="text"/>
Last Name* <input type="text"/>	Challenge Answer* <input type="text"/>

The e-mail address you provide here will be used each year you apply for ISAC-administered financial aid programs, and to access your application in the future. Make sure to provide a personal, permanent e-mail address (such as gmail, yahoo or hotmail) rather than a school-provided e-mail address that will change when you change schools.


E-mail*

Confirm E-mail*

Password must be 8~20 characters, with at least 1 number, 1 upper case letter, 1 lower case letter, and 1 of the following special symbols @#\$%&+*

Password*

Confirm Password*

I'm not a robot 
reCAPTCHA
Privacy * Terms

CREATE ACCOUNT

Alternative Application – Section 1

ALTERNATIVE APPLICATION FOR ILLINOIS FINANCIAL AID 2024-2025 SAVE

Section 1 Student ✓ Section 2 Student ✓ Section 3 Student ✓ Section 4 Parent ✓ Section 5 Student Section 6 Student ✓ Section 7 Review & Signature ✎

Student Information > Demographics

Your ISAC ID Number ?
####00####

First name ?

Middle name ?

Last name ?

Suffix ?

Date of birth ?

Telephone number ?

E-mail address
ISAC requires your e-mail address so we can send the Personal Identification Number (PIN) needed to sign your application. Your e-mail address will also be shared with the schools that you select on your application. ?

Permanent mailing address
Number and street (include apt. number) ?

City (and country if not U.S.) ?

State ?
-- Select --

ZIP Code ?

NEXT

ALTERNATIVE APPLICATION FOR ILLINOIS FINANCIAL AID 2024-2025 SAVE

Section 1 Student ✓ Section 2 Student ✓ Section 3 Student ✓ Section 4 Parent ✓ Section 5 Student Section 6 Student ✓ Section 7 Review & Signature ✎

Student Information > Education Background

When the student begins the 2024-25 school year, what will their college grade level be? ?

First year undergraduate (freshman)
 Second year undergraduate (sophomore)
 Other undergraduate (junior year and beyond)
 Master's, doctorate, or graduate certificate program (MA, MBA, MD, JD, PhD, EdD, etc.)

When the student begins the 2024-25 school year, will they already have their first bachelor's degree? ?

Yes
 No

Will the student be pursuing an initial teaching certification at the elementary or secondary level? ?

Yes
 No

Did either of the student's parents attend or complete college? ?

Neither parent attended college
 One or both parents attended college, but neither parent completed college
 One or both parents completed college
 Don't know

If you are eligible to complete this application because you indicated in the pre-screening section that you meet the RISE Act eligibility criteria as an undocumented student, you must meet the following criteria:

- you graduated from a public or private high school or received the equivalent of a high school diploma in Illinois, and
- you attended school in Illinois for at least 3 years as of the date you graduated from high school or received the equivalent of a high school diploma.

High school completion status when the student begins the 2024-25 school year ?

Diploma from an Illinois high school
 GED from an Illinois Community College Board-approved provider
 Home schooled
 None of the above

If your answer is "Diploma from an Illinois high school," provide the name and location of the high school. Select your high school from the list or enter the complete high school name and the city and state where it is located if it is not automatically displayed.

High school name ?

Alternative Application – Section 1

- Collects student demographic information
 - New name field: suffix (e.g. Jr. or III)
 - Wording of questions and answer options have been edited to match FAFSA® changes
 - College grade level
 - Question about pursuing teacher certification
 - Parents' education status
 - Removed the driver's license questions
- Student gender, race and ethnicity questions are not included on the Alternative Application

Alternative Application – Section 2

ALTERNATIVE APPLICATION FOR ILLINOIS FINANCIAL AID 2024-2025 SAVE

Section 1 Student ✓
Section 2 Student ✓
Section 3 Student ✓
Section 4 Parent ✓
Section 5 Student
Section 6 Student ✓
Section 7 Review & Signature ✎

Student Information > Tax Information

Answer these questions about yourself, the student. If you are married or remarried, and you did not file a joint tax return with your spouse, you will be asked to provide additional information about your spouse following the student questions.
Did or will the student file a 2022 IRS Form 1040 or 1040-NR? ?

Yes
 No

Student's 2022 tax filing status ?

Single
 Head of Household
 Married filed jointly
 Married filed separately
 Qualifying Surviving Spouse

These questions ask about the student's financial information in 2022. This information may be found on W-2 forms or on the tax return you may have filed. If you are married and filed a joint tax return with your spouse, answer these questions about both you and your spouse. Convert all currency to U.S. dollars. If the answer is zero or does not apply, enter 0. If the answer is negative, enter a negative sign to indicate that.
Income earned from work (IRS Form 1040 [or 1040-NR]: line 1z + Schedule 1: lines 3 + d) ?

Adjusted gross income (IRS Form 1040 [or 1040-NR]: line 11) ?

Income tax paid (IRS Form 1040: line 22 minus Schedule 2: line 2. If negative, enter a zero.) ?

Did the student receive the earned income credit (EIC)? (IRS Form 1040: line 27) ?

Yes
 No
 Don't Know

Education credits (American Opportunity and Lifetime Learning credits)(IRS Form 1040 Schedule 3: line 3) ?

Did the student file a Schedule A, B, D, E, F or H with their 2022 IRS Form 1040? ?

Yes
 No
 Don't Know

ALTERNATIVE APPLICATION FOR ILLINOIS FINANCIAL AID 2024-2025 SAVE

Section 1 Student ✓
Section 2 Student ✓
Section 3 Student ✓
Section 4 Parent ✓
Section 5 Student
Section 6 Student ✓
Section 7 Review & Signature ✎

Student Information > Current Financials

Student Assets -- If you indicated that that you are "Married" or "Remarried," enter the combined amounts held by the student and their spouse. If the answer is zero, or the question does not apply, enter 0.
Current total of cash, savings, and checking accounts (Don't include student financial aid.) ?

Current net worth of investments, including real estate (Don't include the home the student lives in. Net worth is the value of the investments minus any debts owed against them.) ?

Current net worth of businesses and investment farms (Enter the net worth of the student's businesses or for-profit agricultural operations. Net worth is the value of the businesses or farms minus any debts owed against them.) ?

PREVIOUS NEXT

ALTERNATIVE APPLICATION FOR ILLINOIS FINANCIAL AID 2024-2025 SAVE

Section 1 Student ✓
Section 2 Student ✓
Section 3 Student ✓
Section 4 Parent ✓
Section 5 Student
Section 6 Student ✓
Section 7 Review & Signature ✎

Student Information > Additional Financials

Annual Child Support Received -- Enter the total amount the student received in child support for the last complete calendar year. If you indicated that you are "Married" or "Remarried," enter the combined amount the student and their spouse received. If the answer is zero or the question does not apply, enter 0. ?

PREVIOUS NEXT

Alternative Application – Section 2

- Collects student financial and tax information
 - Data fields and question text have been adjusted to match those on the FAFSA
 - On the paper FAFSA, these are the data elements in Questions 20, 21 and 22
 - Child support received has been added as a data element
 - Spouse fields will be presented to collect financial data if the student indicates a status of married and the student did not file taxes or indicates taxes were filed separately
 - On the paper FAFSA, these are the data elements in Question 25, 27 and 28
 - Application will not require a spouse's signature

Alternative Application – Section 3

ALTERNATIVE APPLICATION FOR ILLINOIS FINANCIAL AID 2024-2025

SAVE

- ✓ Section 1 Student
- ✓ Section 2 Student
- ✓ Section 3 Student
- ✓ Section 4 Parent
- Section 5 Student
- ✓ Section 6 Student
- ✎ Section 7 Review & Signature

Student Information > Dependency Status

Student's Personal Circumstances – Answer the questions in this section to determine if you will need to provide parental information. The student is currently serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces for purposes other than training. ?

- Yes
- No

The student is a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces. ?

- Yes
- No

The student has children or other people (excluding their spouse) who live with the student and receive more than half of their support from the student now and between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025. ?

- Yes
- No

At any time since the student turned 13, they were an orphan (no living biological or adoptive parent). ?

- Yes
- No

At any time since the student turned 13, they were a ward of the court. ?

- Yes
- No

At any time since the student turned 13, they were in foster care. ?

- Yes
- No

The student is or was a legally emancipated minor, as determined by a court in their state of residence. ?

- Yes
- No

The student is or was a legally emancipated minor, as determined by a court in their state of residence. ?

- Yes
- No

The student is or was in a legal guardianship with someone other than their parent or stepparent, as determined by a court in their state of residence. ?

- Yes
- No

At any time on or after July 1, 2023, was the student unaccompanied and either (1) homeless or (2) self-supporting and at risk of homeless? ?

- Yes
- No

Do unusual circumstances prevent the student from contacting their parents or would contacting their parents pose a risk to the student? ?

- Yes
- No

PREVIOUS

NEXT

Alternative Application – Section 3

- Collects information about the student’s personal circumstances
 - Often referred to as the “dependency questions”
 - Step Three on the current 2023-24 FAFSA®
 - Question text has been edited to be consistent with the FAFSA®
 - Dependency questions
 - Other circumstances
 - Questions related to homelessness
 - Unusual circumstances
 - To identify a student who may qualify for a dependency override (provisionally independent)

Alternative Application – Section 4

ALTERNATIVE APPLICATION FOR ILLINOIS FINANCIAL AID 2024-2025

SAVE

- Section 1 Student
- Section 2 Student
- Section 3 Student
- Section 4 Parent**
- Section 5 Student
- Section 6 Student
- Section 7 Review & Signature

Parent Information > Demographics

Your ISAC ID Number ?

865003701

Answer all the questions in Section Four even if you do not live with your legal parent(s). Legal parents are biological or adoptive, or as determined by the state. Grandparents, foster parents, legal guardians, widowed stepparents, aunts, uncles, and siblings are not considered parents on this form unless they have legally adopted the student.

First name ?

Middle Name ?

Last name ?

Suffix ?

Date of Birth ?

E-mail address – We require an e-mail from your parent so ISAC can send them a Personal Identification Number (PIN) that is needed to sign your application. This e-mail will also be shared with the schools you select on your application. ?

Permanent mailing address

Number and street (include apt. number) ?

City (and country if not U.S.) ?

ALTERNATIVE APPLICATION FOR ILLINOIS FINANCIAL AID 2024-2025

SAVE

- Section 1 Student
- Section 2 Student
- Section 3 Student
- Section 4 Parent**
- Section 5 Student
- Section 6 Student
- Section 7 Review & Signature

Parent Information > Household Information

How many people are in the parent's family? Include the parent (and spouse or partner), the student, the parent's dependent children (even if they live apart due to college enrollment), and other people living with the parent now. Include these dependent children and other people only if the parent will provide more than half of their support between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025. ?

How many people in the parent's family will be in college between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025? Do not include parent(s). ?

At any time during 2022 or 2023, did the parent or anyone in their family receive benefits from any of the following federal programs? Select all that apply.

Earned income credit (EIC) ?

Yes

No

Federal housing assistance ?

Yes

No

Free or Reduced Price School Lunch ?

Yes

No

Medicaid ?

Yes

No

Alternative Application – Section 4

- Collects demographic information about the parent(s) required to provide their data
 - Uses same definition and guidance regarding parent contributor as the FAFSA®
 - Collects same data elements as the FAFSA®
 - Name
 - Address
 - Date of birth
 - Marital status
 - State of residence
 - Date residency was established
 - Family size
 - Number in household
 - Receipt of benefits from federal programs
 - Does not collect Social Security Number (SSN) or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN)

Alternative Application – Section 4

- Also collects tax and financial information about the parent(s) required to provide their data
- May require Parent Spouse or Partner data, depending on marital and tax filing status
 - Will not require two parent signatures on the application
 - If parent is not married, parent spouse data fields will not be presented
- An email will be required for at least one parent

Alternative Application – Sections 5 & 6

ALTERNATIVE APPLICATION FOR ILLINOIS FINANCIAL AID 2024-2025 SAVE

- Section 1 Student
- Section 2 Student
- Section 3 Student
- Section 4 Parent
- Section 5 Student**
- Section 6 Student
- Section 7 Review & Signature

Student Information > Household Information

How many people are in the student's family? Include the student (and spouse), the student's dependent children (even if they live apart due to enrollment), and other people living with the student now. Include these dependent children and other people only if the student will provide more than half of their support between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025. ?

How many people in the student's family, including the student, will be in college between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025? ?

At any time during 2022 or 2023, did the student or anyone in their family receive benefits from any of the following federal programs? ?

Earned income credit (EIC) ?

- Yes
- No

Federal Housing Assistance ?

- Yes
- No

Free or Reduced Price School Lunch ?

- Yes
- No

Medicaid ?

- Yes
- No

Refundable credit for coverage under a qualified health plan (QHP) ?

- Yes
- No

ALTERNATIVE APPLICATION FOR ILLINOIS FINANCIAL AID 2024-2025 SAVE

- Section 1 Student
- Section 2 Student
- Section 3 Student
- Section 4 Parent
- Section 5 Student
- Section 6 Student**
- Section 7 Review & Signature

Student Information > School Information

Indicate which colleges you want to receive your application data.

1ST Federal School Code ?

-- Select --

- Select --
- AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ART (001628)
- AUGUSTANA COLLEGE (001633)
- AURORA UNIVERSITY (001634)
- BENEDICTINE UNIVERSITY (001767)
- BLACK HAWK COLLEGE (001638)
- BLACK HAWK COLLEGE (001638)

5TH Federal School Code ?

-- Select --

6TH Federal School Code ?

-- Select --

7TH Federal School Code ?

-- Select --

8TH Federal School Code ?

-- Select --

9TH Federal School Code ?

-- Select --

10TH Federal School Code ?

Alternative Application – Section 5

- Collects additional information about an independent student
 - Family size (number in household)
 - Number in college
 - Receipt of benefits from federal programs
 - By student, spouse or anyone in the family/household
- Number in college question
 - Although the number in college is not included in the Student Aid Index calculation, the question will still appear on the 2024-25 FAFSA and the Alternative Application
 - The data is still being collected for institutions that may want to have the data for determining options for institutional aid
 - May be used for professional judgement determinations

Alternative Application – Section 6

- Collects information about the school choices
 - Will no longer collect information about the housing plans
 - Will allow for up to 10 Illinois school choices
 - Student can log-in at any time and change their school choices

Alternative Application – Section 7


[REVIEW](#)
[ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS](#)
[CERTIFICATION/AFFIDAVIT](#)
[PARENT SIGNATURE AND CERTIFICATION](#)

ALTERNATIVE APPLICATION FOR ILLINOIS FINANCIAL AID 2023-2024 SAVE

✓ Section 1 Student
✓ Section 2 Student
✓ Section 3 Student
✓ Section 4 Parent
Section 5 Student
✓ Section 6 Student
✎ Section 7 Review & Signature

Application was successfully saved.

[REVIEW](#)
[ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS](#)
[CERTIFICATION/AFFIDAVIT](#)
[PARENT SIGNATURE AND CERTIFICATION](#)

Your ISAC ID Number ? 


826007675

- Section 1 - Student
- Section 2 - Student
- Section 3 - Student
- Section 4 - Parent
- Section 5 - Student
- Section 6 - Student

ALTERNATIVE APPLICATION FOR ILLINOIS FINANCIAL AID 2024-2025 SAVE

✓ Section 1 Student
✓ Section 2 Student
✓ Section 3 Student
✓ Section 4 Parent
Section 5 Student
✓ Section 6 Student
✎ Section 7 Review & Signature

[REVIEW](#)
[ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS](#)
[CERTIFICATION/AFFIDAVIT](#)
[PARENT SIGNATURE AND CERTIFICATION](#)

Your ISAC ID Number ? 

865003701

▾ Section 1 - Student

?	First name	Daniela	Edit
?	Middle name		Edit
?	Last name	Rios	Edit
?	Suffix		Edit
?	Date of birth	07/29/2001	Edit
?	Telephone number	8159157602	Edit
?	ISAC requires your e-mail address so we can send the Personal Identification Number (PIN) needed to sign your application. Your e-mail address will also be shared with the schools that you select on your application.	daniela.rios@illinois.gov	Edit
?	Number and street (include apt. number)	1755 Cook rd	Edit
?	City (and country if not U.S.)	Deerfield	Edit

Alternative Application – Section 7

- Review the Application
 - After all data has been entered, applicants can navigate back to an appropriate section if a correction or update is needed
- Student signature process
 - Applicants will be provided with a review of the RISE Act eligibility requirements, followed by the Certification/Affidavit, which is part of the RISE Act eligibility requirements
 - If the applicant agrees with the statements on the certification page, they can click on the Provide Signature button and will be presented with a field to enter their PIN
 - The student's PIN is provided by ISAC in an e-mail to the applicant after the Student Demographics page has been completed in Section 1 of the application
 - The student's PIN is associated with the ISAC ID Number that is created and assigned to the student as part of the application process.

Alternative Application – Section 7

- Parent signature process
 - The parent may sign the application after the student has completed their signature process either at the same time, or the parent may log in to the student's application at a separate time
 - To log in, a parent will need the Student's ISAC ID number and the parent PIN, which will be provided to the parent in an e-mail after their e-mail address has been provided on the application
 - The field for the parent address is in Section 4, page 1 and is a required field
 - Once the next button is selected to navigate to page 2 of Section 4, an e-mail will be sent to the parent from ISAC and it will include the parent PIN
 - The student and the parent must have separate e-mails

Parent Access to the Application

- Requires the student's ISAC ID Number and the four-digit PIN sent to the parent e-mail address that was provided on the application

The screenshot displays the ISAC application interface. At the top, there is a dropdown menu for "Select Academic Year" set to "2023-2024". Below this, a question asks, "Are you a First-time or Returning Applicant?". Two paragraphs of text provide instructions: the first paragraph explains that "First-time Applicants" are those who have never created an Alternative Application for the Illinois Financial Aid Student Profile and did not receive an ISAC ID Number for the Monetary Award Program (MAP); the second paragraph explains that "Returning Applicants" are those who have previously created an Alternative Application and received an ISAC ID Number, and must use the same e-mail address as their previous application unless they have changed it.

A modal window titled "PARENT ACCESS" is overlaid on the page. It contains two input fields: "ISAC ID Number" and "4-digit PIN". Below these fields is a dark blue "SUBMIT" button. To the right of the modal, there is a section titled "Submit Parent Signature" with the instruction: "Click on the 'Parent Signature' button to provide your parent's signature (required for dependent students)".

At the bottom of the page, there are three blue buttons: "START", "LOGIN", and "PARENT SIGNATURE". A "Forgot Password?" link is also visible above the "LOGIN" button.

Alternative Application Resources

Home > Students & Parents > Before College - Planning > Financial Aid Planning > RISE Act/Alternative Application

Retention of Illinois Students & Equity (RISE) Act and Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid En Español

(last updated January 2, 2024)

The Retention of Illinois Students & Equity (RISE) Act allows eligible undocumented students to apply for all forms of state financial aid. The Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid (Alternative Application) provides a way for these qualified students to apply for Monetary Award Program (MAP) grants, the state's largest need-based grant program for low-income college students. For eligible students, the Alternative Application is also part of the application process for the Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program (visit the [MTI Scholarship](#) page of the website for more information).

[Applying for ISAC Programs](#)
[Application for MAP: Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid](#)
[Application Process for MAP](#)
[Applying for Other ISAC Programs](#)

Applying for ISAC Programs

The RISE Act provides a way to apply for ISAC gift assistance programs – including MAP, the

About The ISACorps

- College And Career Exploration And Planning
- Financial Aid Planning
 - Completing The FAFSA®
 - RISE Act/Alternative Application**
 - Alternative Application FAQs
 - 2024-25 Alternative Application User Guide & FAQs
 - 2023-24 Alternative Application User Guide & FAQs
 - Accessing & Updating Your Alternative Application Student Profile
 - 2024-25 Alternative Application Worksheet
 - 2023-24 Alternative Application Worksheet

Home > ISAC Gift Assistance Programs > Monetary Award Program (MAP)

Monetary Award Program (MAP)

Program News

(last updated January 2, 2024)

- 2024-25 Start-up Update
- 2024-25 Award Announcements
- 2024-25 Start-up Formula
- 2024-25 File Layout Specifications
- 2023-24 Program Funding
- Suspension of 2023-24 Award Announcements
- 2023-24 Payment *(second-term claims being accepted for payment; late first-term claims being held)*
- 2023-24 Recompute Formula
- 2023-24 Award Announcements
- 2023-24 File Layout Specifications
- 2023-24 Alternative Application Student Record School File Layout Specifications
- 2023-24 Operational Guide for Alternative Application Processing
- 2023-24 Start-up Implementation
- Additional MAP References

Home > E-Library

E-Library for Partners

- Partner E-Messages & Newsletters**
This month's e-Messages and the monthly ISAC Update and Communico
- Partner Training**
ISAC training and event calendars and online registration
- Applications**
Scholarship, grant, and loan repayment/forfeiture applications
- Administrative Rules**
Current and previous year's ISAC Rules, Proposed Rules if applicable
- ISAC Governing Board: The Commission**
Meeting schedules, Commissioner biographies, Agenda Books
- Manuals & Handbooks**
Common Manual, Federal Student Aid Handbook, Counselors and Mentors Handbook, Handbook of Illinois Postsecondary Institutions
- Outreach Events**
Outreach events calendar of college fairs, financial aid nights and FAFSA Completion workshops
- Electronic Tools**
Specifications for loan and grant payment processing, software program links

Alternative Application User Guide

- Intended as a resource for students, parents and counselors
- Includes information on how to reset a password, update an email address, make corrections, etc.
- Includes several FAQs at the end of the guide as well as resource links

Completing the 2024-25 Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid User Guide

The Retention of Illinois Students & Equity (RISE) Act, which went into effect on January 1, 2020, allows undocumented students who are ineligible for federal financial aid to apply for state financial aid if they meet certain eligibility criteria.

The Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid provides a pathway for students who meet the provisions of the RISE Act to apply for the Monetary Award Program.

The Alternative Application collects much of the same data as the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®), but is administered by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission.



The Alternative Application Process

Complete Pre-Screening Questions

- Questions will be presented to help determine if you are eligible to complete this application or if you should complete the FAFSA®.
- You will be provided with guidance on which application to complete after answering the pre-screening questions.
- Data collected in the pre-screening questions will be retained by ISAC and will not be shared with colleges.

Create Student Profile

- If the pre-screening questions determine that you should proceed with this application, then you will be prompted to create an ISAC Student Profile.
- An e-mail address, password and challenge question/answer will be required.
- After creating your profile, an ISAC Identification (ID) Number will be assigned to you.

Provide Student and Parent Data

- There are seven sections in the application which collect demographic and financial information about the applicant and about the parent(s) for dependent students.
- Separate e-mail addresses are required for the applicant and the parent so a Personal Identification Number (PIN) can be sent to them to electronically sign the application.
- For the 2024-25 award year application, both the student and parent(s) should provide 2022 tax and/or income information.

Review, Sign, and Submit

- E-mail messages will be sent to the addresses provided in the application and each will contain the PIN number the student and parent will need to sign the application.
- Student applicants will be presented with an Eligibility and Certification/Affidavit statement which should be carefully reviewed, and if in agreement, applicants can proceed and provide their electronic signature (PIN).
- Once all required data and signatures have been provided, the application can be submitted to ISAC electronically.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

About Signing and Submitting the Application

Why do my parents and I need to have PIN numbers to complete this application?

A PIN is an electronic personal identification number that serves as an identifier to allow access to personal information and act as a digital signature. The PIN, as opposed to other forms of digital signature, does not require any physical form of identification such as a driver's license, and secures the information provided by the student and parent.

When is my application considered complete?

When all signatures have been provided. If you are a dependent student, both your signature and your parent's signature must be submitted.

How do I know if I am eligible for a MAP award and how do I check on the status of my award?

To check on your eligibility and the status of a MAP award, check with the financial aid office at your college.

About Re-Applying Each Year

Do I have to re-apply each year?

Yes. A new application must be submitted for each award year. A new Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid is made available each year at the same time a new Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) form becomes available for the upcoming award year.

Will my information from a previous year's Alternative Application carry forward to the next year?

No. Application information does not carry forward from one year to the next. You will need to complete all required fields with current information. The only data items that pre-populate fields on the Alternative Application are the student's first name, last name and e-mail address provided on the applicant's Alternative Application Student Profile account.

What if I can't locate the Personal Identification Number (PIN) I used last year to sign my application?

If you or your parent(s) are unable to locate the PIN used to sign a previous Alternative Application, you may select the Resend Link & PIN button on the Signature page of the Application to obtain a new PIN.

Resources

- ISAC Resources for Non-Eligible, Noncitizens -- www.isac.org/resources-for-non-us-citizens/
- Illinois Association for College Admission Counseling (IACAC) – College Advising Guide for Undocumented Students -- www.iacac.org/undocumented/
- Federal Student Aid, Financial Aid and Undocumented Students – studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/filling-out/undocumented-students
- National Immigrant Justice Center -- www.immigrantjustice.org/

More Alternative Application FAQs

[Before College - Planning](#) [During College - Paying](#) [After College](#) [Parents](#) [Español](#)

[Home](#) [Students & Parents](#) [Before College - Planning](#) [Financial Aid Planning](#) [RISE Act/Alternative Application](#)

Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid FAQs

(last updated July 19, 2023)

Click on a question (below) to access the corresponding answer.

Q. Who should complete the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid?

A. This application is only for students who are not eligible for federal student financial aid, including qualified undocumented students. Most students will still complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) to apply for financial aid. If you are not sure whether you should complete this Alternative Application or the FAFSA, the pre-screening questions at the beginning of the Alternative Application will help you to determine which application you should file. We also encourage you to talk with your school counselor or the financial aid office at your college or university to learn which application to file.

Q. What kinds of financial aid can I receive by completing the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid?

Q. If I am eligible to complete and submit the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid, does that mean I am guaranteed to get a MAP grant?

Q. The criteria to complete the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid says that I had to have graduated from high school to be eligible to complete it, so if I'm currently a senior in high school, does that mean I have to wait until after I actually graduate to complete the application?

[About The ISACorps](#)

[College And Career Exploration And Planning](#)

[Financial Aid Planning](#)

[Completing The FAFSA®](#)

[RISE Act/Alternative Application](#)

[Alternative Application FAQs](#)

[2024-25 Alternative Application User Guide & FAQs](#)

[2023-24 Alternative Application User Guide & FAQs](#)

[Accessing & Updating Your Alternative Application Student Profile](#)

[2024-25 Alternative Application Worksheet](#)

[2023-24 Alternative Application Worksheet](#)

[Types Of Financial Aid](#)

[Making An Informed College Choice](#)

[Outreach Activities/Event Calendar](#)

Alternative Application Worksheet



2024-25 Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid Worksheet DO NOT MAIL THIS WORKSHEET



This worksheet provides a preview of questions asked on the online Alternative Application, available. This worksheet does not include all Alternative Application questions to help prepare you to complete the application and assist with gathering information that will be needed to complete it online. This worksheet should not be mailed to ISAC.

The Alternative Application is intended for students who meet specific eligibility criteria under the RISE Act, providing a pathway for undocumented students who are ineligible for the Illinois Monetary Award Program (MAP) grant. The online application, along with more application instructions can be found at www.isac.org.

Before beginning the online application process, you will be presented with pre-screening questions to determine if you are eligible to complete the Alternative Application or if you should complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®). Data collected in the pre-screening questions is retained only by ISAC and is not shared with any other agency.

Pre-Screening Questions:

- Are you a U.S. citizen (U.S. national) or someone who meets the definition of an eligible noncitizen?
- To be eligible to apply for a MAP grant through the Alternative Application, you must:
 - o You resided with your parent or guardian while attending a public or private high school.
 - o You graduated from a public or private high school, or received the equivalent.
 - o As of the date you graduated from high school or received the equivalent of a high school diploma, you had resided in Illinois for at least three (3) years;
 - o By signing the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid you will be providing your consent to become a permanent resident of the United States at the earliest opportunity;
 - o You have not established a residence outside of Illinois.
- Do you meet all of the above criteria?

- Have you already filed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) for the 2024-25 school year?
- Generally, you meet the federal definition of an eligible noncitizen (and should complete the FAFSA®) if you are:
 - o U.S. permanent resident with a Permanent Resident Card (I-551);
 - o Conditional permanent resident (I-551C);
 - o The holder of an Arrival/Departure Form (I-94) from the Department of Homeland Security with designations: "Refugee," "Asylum Granted," "Cuban-Haitian Entrants," or "Humanitarian Parole";
 - o Hold a T nonimmigrant status ("T-Visa") (for victims of human trafficking) or your parent is a "battered immigrant-qualified alien" who is a victim of abuse by your citizen or permanent resident spouse or child of a person designated as such under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA);
 - o A citizen of the Federated States of Micronesia (FM), the Republic of the Marshall Islands, or the Republic of the Northern Mariana Islands.

U.S. citizens or eligible federal noncitizens who are eligible to file the FAFSA® application should not complete both an Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid and a FAFSA® for the same year.

- ### Documentation needed to complete the 2024-2025 Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid
- 2022 federal income tax returns, W-2s, and other records of money earned
 - Bank statements and records of investments (if applicable)
 - Records of untaxed income (if applicable).

If you or your family have had special circumstances affecting your financial situation, you should complete the Alternative Application to the extent you can and consult with the financial aid office.

2024-25 Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid Worksheet

DO NOT MAIL THIS WORKSHEET

Use it only to collect information before completing the Alternative Application online at www.isac.org.

Section 1: Student Information – You will be asked to provide your full legal name, an e-mail address, your permanent mailing address, date of birth, state of residence and the date (month and year) you became a resident of the state. You will also be asked to provide your marital status and information about your background.

Your full legal name:

Student's First Name _____ Middle Name _____ Last Name _____

E-mail Address:

To begin the online application process, you will need to create a Student Profile with your own, individual e-mail address. You are encouraged to use a personal e-mail address that could change if you change schools. Your e-mail address should be the same as the e-mail address you provided in the FAFSA® application. Student section of the application and is what ISAC will use to send you a four-digit PIN Number (PIN) that you will need to electronically sign your application.

Student's Current Marital Status:

Single (never married) Married (not separated) Remarried Separated

Education Background

This section of the application will ask: **When the student begins the 2024-25 school year, what will their college grade level be?**

- o First year undergraduate (freshman)
- o Second year undergraduate (sophomore)
- o Other undergraduate (junior year and beyond)
- o Master's, doctorate, or graduate certificate program (MA, MBA, MD, JD, etc.)

When the student begins the 2024-25 school year, will they already have their first bachelor's degree?
 Yes No

Will the student be pursuing an initial teaching certification at the elementary or secondary level?
 Yes No

Did either of the student's parents attend or complete college? (This is asked because the FAFSA® is offered based on the level of schooling your parents completed; this does not apply if you are a dependent student.)

- o Neither parent attended college
- o One or both parents attended college, but neither parent completed college
- o One or both parents completed college
- o Don't know

High school completion status when the student begins the 2024-25 school year:

- o Diploma from an Illinois high school
- o GED from an Illinois Community College Board-approved provider
- o Home educated in Illinois
- o None of the above

If you indicate you have/will have a high school diploma, you will be asked to provide your name, city and state.

2024-25 Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid Worksheet

Section 2 – Student's Tax Information

Answer these questions about yourself, the student.

Did or will the student file a 2022 IRS Form 1040 or 1040-NR? Yes No

Did the student either (1) earn income in a foreign country in 2022, (2) work for an international organization in 2022 without being required to report income on any tax return, or (3) file a 2022 tax return with Puerto Rico or another U.S. territory? Yes No

Did or will the student file a 2022 joint tax return with their current spouse? Yes No

Student's 2022 tax filing status

Single Head of household Married filed jointly Married filed separately Qualifying surviving spouse

These questions ask about the student's financial information in 2022. This information may be found on W-2 forms or your tax return. If you are married and filed a joint tax return with your spouse, answer these questions about both you and your spouse. If you are married or remarried, and you did not file a joint tax return with your spouse, you will be asked to provide additional information about your spouse following the student questions. Convert all currency to U.S. dollars. If the answer is zero or does not apply, enter 0. If the answer is negative, enter a negative sign.

Income earned from work
(IRS Form 1040 [or 1040-NR] line 1z + Schedule 1: lines 3 + 6) \$

Adjusted gross income
(IRS Form 1040 [or 1040-NR]: line 11) \$

Income tax paid
(IRS Form 1040: line 22 minus Schedule 2: line 2. If negative, enter a zero.) \$

Did the student receive the earned income credit (EIC)? Yes No Don't know

Education credits (American Opportunity and Lifetime Learning credits)
(IRS Form 1040 Schedule 3: line 3) \$

Did the student file a Schedule A, B, D, E, F or H with their 2022 IRS Form 1040? Yes No Don't know

Net profit or loss from IRS Form 1040 Schedule C
(IRS Form 1040 Schedule C: line 31) \$

Amount of college grants, scholarship, or AmeriCorps benefits reported as income to the IRS
\$



Alternative Application Worksheet

2024-25 Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid Worksheet

Section 4 – Parent Spouse’s Tax Information

The parent’s spouse or partner must complete the following questions if the parent answered “No” to “Did or will the parent file a 2022 joint tax return with their current spouse?”

- Did or will the parent spouse or partner file a 2022 IRS Form 1040 or 1040-NR? Yes No
- If the answer is “No,” indicate which one of the following situations applies to the parent spouse or partner for 2022:
 - The parent spouse or partner filed or will file a tax return with Puerto Rico or another U.S. territory.
 - The parent spouse or partner filed or will file a foreign tax return.
 - The parent spouse or partner either earned income in a foreign country but did not and will not file a foreign tax return, or worked for an international organization and was not required to report income on any tax return.
 - The parent spouse or partner, even though they earned income in the U.S., did not and will not file a U.S. tax return because their income was below the tax filing threshold.
 - The parent spouse or partner did not and will not file a U.S. tax return for reasons other than low income.
 - The parent spouse or partner did not and will not file any tax return because they did not earn any income.

Parent spouse or partner’s 2022 tax filing status:

- Single Head of household Married filed jointly Married filed separately Qualifying surviving spouse

These questions ask about the parent spouse or partner’s financial information for the 2022 tax year. If the parents filed a joint tax return and provided information in the parent section on the previous page, these questions below can be skipped. The information may be found on W-2 forms or on the tax return they filed. Convert all currency to U.S. dollars. If the answer is zero or doesn’t apply, enter 0. If the answer is negative, include a negative sign.

Income earned from work
(IRS Form 1040 [or 1040-NR] line 1z + Schedule 1: lines 3 + 6) \$

Adjusted gross income
(IRS Form 1040 [or 1040-NR]: line 11) \$

Income tax paid
(IRS Form 1040: line 22 minus Schedule 2: line 2. If negative, enter a zero). \$

Education credits (American Opportunity and Lifetime Learning credits)
(IRS Form 1040 Schedule 3: line 3) \$

Did the parent file a Schedule A, B, D, E, F or H with their 2022 Form 1040? Yes No Don’t know

Net profit or loss from IRS Form 1040 Schedule C
(IRS Form 1040 Schedule C: line 31) \$

2024-25 Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid Worksheet

Section 7 – Review & Signatures

Following are examples of the certification statements that will be presented to you and to your parent (if you are a dependent student) in the online application process prior to submitting the application.

Student Certification and Affidavit Statement

By signing this application electronically using my username and password and/or any other credential, I certify that I have read the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid requirements and that I meet the requirements of the Eligibility Status criteria as stated, making me eligible to complete this Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid.

I also understand that I am applying to be considered for the Monetary Award Program (MAP) grant and that my eligibility will be determined based on additional factors, including, but not limited to, my financial condition, my Illinois residency and the availability of funds appropriated by the State.

If I am not a U.S. Citizen (U.S. National) or eligible noncitizen as defined in federal law, I hereby swear on oath that I will file an application to become a permanent resident of the United States at the earliest opportunity I am eligible to do so.

I further certify that I am the person identified by the username and password, and/or any other credential and have not disclosed that username and password and/or any other credential to anyone else.

I understand that any person who, by means of any false statement, willful misrepresentation, or through other fraudulent device obtains or attempts to obtain or aids or abets any person in obtaining student aid from the Illinois Student Assistance Commission to which the person is not entitled, will be guilty of a Class B misdemeanor and the award obtained by such means will be recoverable in a civil action. (110 ILCS 947/120).

I certify that to the best of my knowledge all of the information and attestations provided in this application are true, accurate and complete.

Parent Certification Statement

By signing and submitting this signature page, I agree, if asked, to provide documentation that verifies the accuracy of the completed Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid. This documentation may include, but is not limited to, a copy of my U.S. or State income tax form or pay stubs.

I understand that any person who, by means of false statement, willful misrepresentation or through other fraudulent device obtains or attempts to obtain or aids or abets any person in obtaining student aid (from the Illinois Student Assistance Commission) to which the person is not entitled will be guilty of a Class B misdemeanor and the award obtained by such means will be recoverable in a civil action. (110 ILCS 947/120).

I certify to the best of my knowledge all information and attestations provided in this application are true, accurate and complete.

After you complete this worksheet, go online to www.isac.org and complete the Alternative Application.
DO NOT MAIL THIS WORKSHEET.

Alternative Application Policies & Procedures

Alternative Application or FAFSA?

- A student should complete either the FAFSA or the Alternative Application, depending on their eligibility and other considerations in determining which application to file
- In general, a student should not complete both applications, however, please note the following exceptions:
 - If the student filed an Alternative Application, but then becomes eligible for federal aid, it would be acceptable to file a FAFSA for the same award year.
 - If the student filed a FAFSA and it was rejected due to their citizenship status, they are encouraged to file an Alternative Application for the same award year if they meet all RISE Act eligibility requirements

Alternative Application Eligibility Policies

- If a school is aware that a student completed a FAFSA and the Alternative Application, the school should review the ISIR to determine if there are eligibility issues that would need to be resolved before awarding MAP.
- It is in a student's best interest to complete the FAFSA if eligible to do so and to resolve eligibility issues that may be flagged on an ISIR to maximize the amount of financial aid the student is eligible to receive.
- If an institution has any information that indicates an applicant does not meet the eligibility requirements for MAP or is aware of conflicting information, regardless of which application was used, the school is expected to resolve it.

Alternative Application Eligibility Policies

- Schools are not expected to check all Alternative Applications to see if those students have also submitted a FAFSA. However, as part of the payment claim and reconciliation process for MAP recipients, schools are expected to review results to ensure that a student does not receive a MAP award as both a FAFSA and an Alternative Application applicant in the same term.
- The Alternative Application is not intended to be an alternate option for students who do not pass the database match checks on the FAFSA.
 - It is intended for students who meet the specific eligibility criteria in the RISE Act legislation.
- If a student completed a FAFSA in error and meets all the criteria specified by the RISE Act, the student may complete the Alternative Application.

Students Unable to Provide Parent Information

- Dependent students may still be eligible to complete the Alternative Application without parental information if they have an unusual circumstance
- **Unacceptable** reasons for not providing parental information:
 - Parents unwilling to provide information
 - Parents refuse to pay for college
 - Parents do not claim student on taxes
 - Student does not live with parents

Alternative Application Corrections

- Students may make corrections to their application by logging in as a Returning Applicant

ALTERNATIVE APPLICATION FOR ILLINOIS FINANCIAL AID

Intended for qualifying undocumented students

Alternative Application to apply for 2024-2025 Illinois MAP Grants

The Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid allows qualifying undocumented students who are not otherwise eligible for federal financial aid to apply for Illinois Monetary Award Program (MAP) grants to attend eligible Illinois colleges, universities, and career education programs.

The pre-screening questions in this application will help you determine if you are a qualifying undocumented student who is not eligible for federal financial aid.

[See our User Guide & Resources for this program >>](#)

Student Profile

LOGIN

LOGIN

[Forgot Password?](#) [Forgot Username?](#)

[Resetting your Password or Challenge Question](#)

Select Academic Year 2024-2025

Are you a First-time or Returning Applicant?

Select **First-time Applicants** if you have never created an Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid Student Profile and did not receive an ISAC ID Number for purposes of applying for the Monetary Award Program (MAP).

Select **Returning Applicants** if, at some time in the past, you created an Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid Student Profile and received an ISAC ID Number for purposes of applying for the Monetary Award Program (MAP). You must use the same e-mail address that was used for your previous application to file a new application, unless you changed your e-mail address on your Student Profile.

First-Time Applicants

- Click on the "Start" button to start a new 2024-2025 Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid
- Do not submit multiple applications for the same academic year

START

Returning Applicants

Complete or correct a 2024-2025 Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid

[Forgot Username?](#)

[Forgot Password?](#)

LOGIN

Submit Parent Signature

Click on the "Parent Signature" button to provide your parent's signature (required for dependent students)

PARENT SIGNATURE

Signature Status

Both you and a parent need to sign your Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid.

You may only sign for yourself. Your parent must sign using your ISAC ID Number and the parent PIN that was provided to your parent in an earlier e-mail. If your parent cannot locate the e-mail containing the PIN, click the button labeled, "Resend Link & PIN".

Required Student Signature: UNSIGNED **RESEND LINK & PIN**

PROVIDE SIGNATURE

Returning Applicants - Student Access

- Requires the student's Student Profile Username and Password
 - Username is the e-mail address entered when creating the Student Profile
 - It may or may not be the same as the one provided on the application e-mail
 - Password is created by the student and can be updated
 - Challenge question and answer is created by the student and can be updated

Select Returning Applicants If, at some time in the past, you created an Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid Student Profile and received an ISAC ID Number for purposes of applying for the Monetary Award Program (MAP). You must use the same e-mail address address on your Student Profile

Student Profile

LOGIN

E-mail address Password

LOGIN

[Forgot Password?](#) [Forgot Username?](#)

[Resetting your Password or Challenge Question](#)

First-Time Appl

- Click on the "S" to start a new 20 Alternative Ap Illinois Financi
- Do not submit applications for academic year

STAT

Information Privacy

Making Corrections to the Application

- Any of the data elements, except the ISAC-assigned ID number, can be corrected or updated by the student
- In general, a student should not update information that was correct as of the date it was initially signed and submitted
 - Like the FAFSA, it's considered to be a “snapshot” of the family's financial situation as of that date
- All corrections will require the student to re-sign the application
- If changes are made to parent data, the parent will need to re-sign the app as well
 - Parent will need the student's ISAC ID number and the parent PIN to log in
- Each time a correction or update is made, a new transaction will be generated

Making Corrections as an FAA

- There is a process in the MAP system that provides colleges with the ability to make corrections for students who have submitted an Alternative Application
- An Application Correction tab is available on the Student Detail: Eligibility screen that allows colleges to access a student's Alternative Application record and update most of the information on the application
 - FAAs cannot update an ISAC ID Number, student e-mail address, parent e-mail address, and school choices/codes.
- During the update process, messaging will appear if data is removed from a required data field, and the user will not be able to proceed until required information has been entered.
- Once all changes have been entered, you must select a "Submit" button to complete the update process.
 - If updated data is not submitted at the time of entry, all changes will be lost; changes cannot be saved to be submitted at a later time.
- Updates will be processed nightly and results will be available on the following business day.

To Make Corrections in the MAP System ...

- Log in to the MAP system in the GAP Access portal.
- Select the appropriate academic year on the MAP system home screen.
- Navigate to the Student Detail screen by entering the student's ISAC ID number in the SSN field on the MAP home screen
 - Or, from the Student List screen, select the Student Detail icon to navigate to the Student Detail screen.
 - If unsure of a student's ISAC ID number, use the Filter function to filter by the student's name.
- If there is more than one transaction for the student, be sure to identify which transaction you want to be the basis for the correction process.
- On the Student Detail: Eligibility screen, select the Application Correction tab and begin the process of updating the application.
- Review all changes and click on the Submit button to complete the correction/update process.
- Review the new transaction on the next business day to ensure corrections/updates processed as expected.

Professional Judgments for Alternative Application Students

- A process is also available in the MAP system that provides colleges with the ability to submit professional judgment adjustments for students who have submitted an Alternative Application
- Colleges may rely on the same policies and procedures they have in place for FAFSA applicants who have special or unusual circumstances
- A Professional Judgment tab is available on the Student Detail: Eligibility screen in the MAP system
- During the update process, messaging will appear if data is removed from a required data field, and the user will not be able to proceed to the next page until required information has been entered.
- Once all changes/updates have been entered, you must select a “Submit” button to complete the process.

To Process a Professional Judgment in the MAP System ...

- Log in to the MAP system in the GAP Access portal.
- Select the appropriate academic year on the MAP system home screen.
- Navigate to the Student Detail screen by entering the student's ISAC ID number in the SSN field on the MAP home screen.
 - Or, from the Student List screen, select the Student Detail icon to navigate to the Student Detail screen.
- If there is more than one transaction for the student, be sure to identify which transaction you want to be the basis for the professional judgment.
- On the Student Detail: Eligibility screen, select the Professional Judgment tab and begin the process of updating the application.
- Review all changes and click on the Submit button to complete the process.
- Review the new transaction on the next business day to ensure corrections/updates processed as expected.

MAP Student Detail: Eligibility

Home Student Budget Reports File Extractions

List Eligibility

Professional Judgment Application Correction

Current SSN
 Go

Transaction / Name ID
01 M. Go

School ID

School Administration Programs

Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid

< Back To Detail

Introduction

Red messaging will indicate if information is missing from a required field, and you won't be able to proceed to the next page until information has been entered in the required field.

Please note that if you exit this application record before submitting your changes, all edits will be lost and you will need to re-enter all of your changes to complete the correction/update process.

Continue To Application



Alternative Application Student Records

- Similar to an ISIR, the Alternative Application Student Record includes all application data elements
 - The order of the data in the file layout follows the order of the ISIR and the values are the same, unless otherwise noted
 - Available as a text file in Notepad
 - Using free Notepad++ app provides more user-friendly viewing
 - Alternative Application Student Record School File Layout document provides details about field names, length of data fields, and start and end positions
 - Located in the Electronic Tools section of the E-Library at isac.org
- Creating/uploading Alternative Application Student Record files to colleges' internal systems is not required.
 - Relevant student applicant data that is provided in GAP Access may be relied on to administer MAP for both FAFSA and Alternative Application applicants

Alternative Application Student Records

MAP 2023-2024: Reports: Eligibility Reports: Create New Report

[Home](#) [Student](#) [Payment](#) [Budget](#) **Reports** [File Extractions](#)

Select Report
MAP Eligibility Report

Applicant
All Students
All Students
Alternative Applications
MAP

Begin MAP Paid Credit Hours

End MAP Paid Credit Hours

Request Report

MAP 2023-2024: File Extractions: Eligibility Status Files: Create New

[Home](#) [Student](#) [Payment](#) [Budget](#) [Reports](#) **File Extractions**

Select Report
MAP Eligibility File

Applicant
All Students
All Students
Alternative Applications

?

End Date Range
 ?

Request Report

MAP 160-Byte File Layout Specifications

- The file layout for 2024-25 MAP processing has been posted to the Electronic Tools section of the E-Library
- For 2024-25, these data elements are no longer included on the file:
 - Student Social Security number (SSN)
 - Student Last Name (previously an optional field)
 - Original SSN
 - Name ID
- These Personally Identifiable Information (PII) data elements were removed to protect student identity when transmitting files between ISAC and colleges.
- The student's Person Universally Unique Identifier (UUID) that is assigned to the student by the Department of Education (ED) by the FAFSA Processing System (FPS) will replace the SSN on the file
 - The Person UUID field is 36 characters in length, and the total number of characters being removed is also 36, so the length of the file will not change
 - The Person UUID will stay the same for the student across FAFSA cycles
 - ISAC will generate and a Person UUID for Alternative Application applicants

Questions/Comments



Thank you for attending today!

ISAC Contact Information

School Services

866-247-2172

isac.schoolservices@illinois.gov

ISAC Call Center – Student Services

800-899-4722

isac.studentservices@illinois.gov

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