Verification Basics

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Verification

The process used by an institution to check the <u>FAFSA</u> for accuracy, reduce error rates in applicant-reported data and insure eligible applicants receive the correct amount of <u>Title IV</u> aid.



Title IV Aid Recipients



Conflicting Information

Must be resolved for all <u>award</u> years, even retroactively, unless:

- Student dies during the award year; or
- Conflicting <u>data</u> are received after the student is no longer enrolled at the school and does not intend to <u>re-enroll</u>.

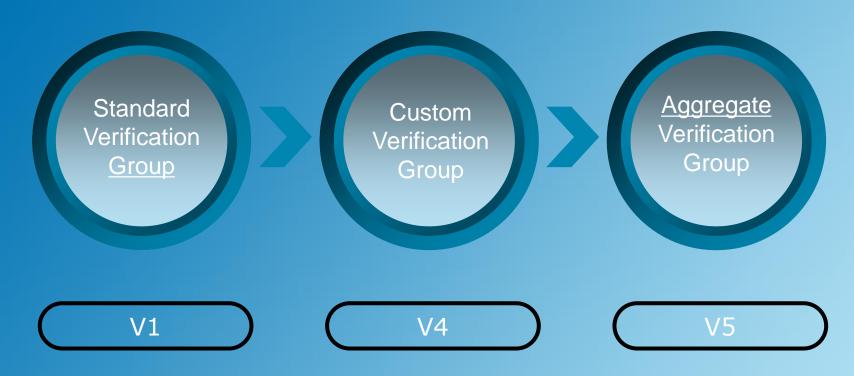


Selection

Applications can be selected for verification by the Institution or The Central Processing System (CPS).



Verification <u>Tracking</u> Groups





V1

Tax filer income information

Nontax filer income information

Household size

Number in college

V4

High School Completion

Identity and Statement of Educational Purpose V5

Tax filer income information

Nontax filer income information

Household size

Number in college

High School Completion

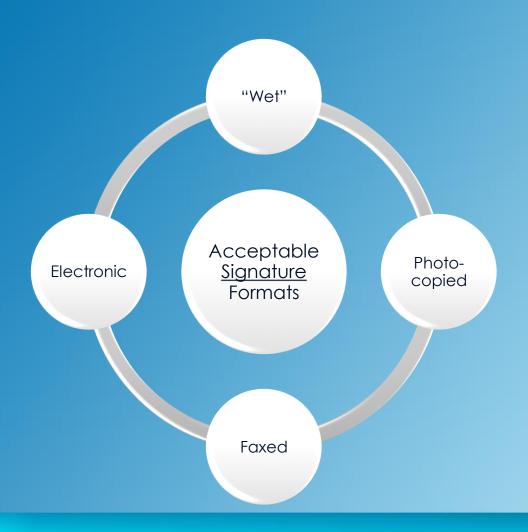
Identity and Statement of Educational Purpose



Verification Worksheets

- Dept of ED provides suggested text to institutions annually
- Institutions may:
 - Use ED's suggested text or create its own
 - Create a comprehensive worksheet or <u>customize</u> it for <u>individual</u> data selections
- Exception Identity and Statement of Educational Purpose
 - Institution MUST use text as provided by Dept of ED







Tax Verification

Tax Filer

IRS DRT (recommended)

Tax Return Transcript

Alternative Tax Return Transcripts

Foreign Tax Return

US <u>Territory</u> Tax Return

US Tax Return (signed)

Amended Returns required, if filed

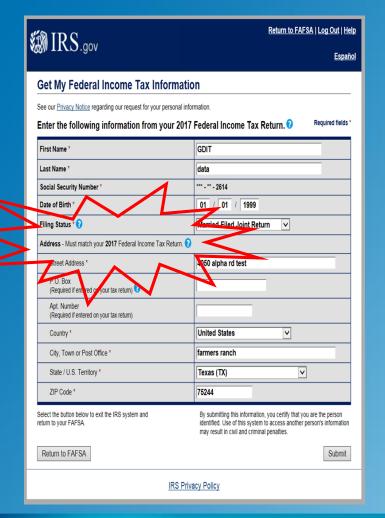
Non-Tax Filer

Verification of Non-Filing Letter from IRS

Signed verification document of non-filing status

Both will need to provide earnings verification, if worked





IRS DRT

Tax return type Tax filing status **Exemptions claimed** AGI Income from work Taxes paid Untaxed IRA distributions IRA deductions Untaxed pensions Tax-exempt interest Education tax credits



When can't you use the **DRT**?

- Return not yet filed
- Amended Return filed
- Puerto Rico or Foreign (non <u>US</u>) Return filed
- Taxes filed electronically w/in last 3 weeks
- Taxes filed by mail w/in last 11 weeks



When can't you use the DRT?

- Parents are unmarried and living together
- Married <u>independent</u> student and spouse filed separate returns
- Married parents filed separate returns
- Married and filed taxes as HoH
- Change in marital <u>status</u> after end of tax year and before filing FAFSA

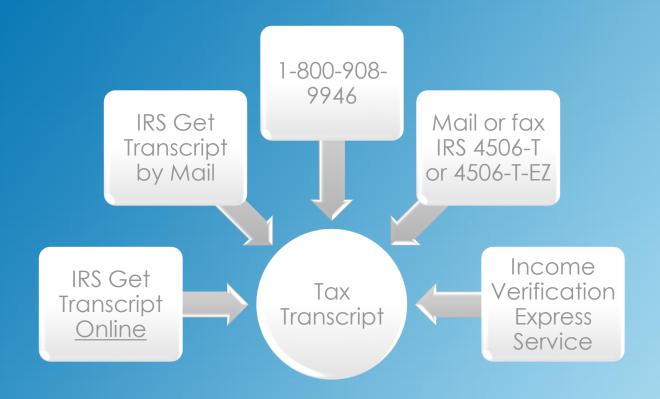


When can't you use the DRT?

- First 3 digits of <u>SSN</u> are "666" for Pacific Islanders
- Neither <u>married</u> parent has a valid SSN
- Both parents entered all zeros for SSN



How to Get a Tax Return Transcript





Acceptable Alternative Tax Transcripts



Tax Return
Database
View
(TRDBV)
Transcript

Return
Transcript
for
Taxpayer
(RTFTP)

Any IRS Tax Transcript w/All Required Data



Income Earned from Work Verification

Tax Filer

US Individuals

<u>Single</u> tax filer & eligible to use DRT – Will pull in when transferred from IRS

Other US tax filing statuses - Earnings <u>Statement</u> from Employer (W2) or Wage Transcript from IRS

Foreign Residents

Documentation from country of residence, showing earnings from work, business, or farm



Income Earned from Work Verification

Non-Tax Filer

US Individuals

Statement or Verification Worksheet

<u>Earnings</u> Statement from Employer (W2) or Wage Transcript from IRS

IRS Verification of Non-Filing Letter

Foreign Residents

Statement or Verification Worksheet

<u>Wage</u> and Tax Statement, or equivalent, from Employer

Verification of Non-Filing Letter from Foreign Tax Authority



Household Verification

Dependent Household

Applicant

Applicant's parents living in household

Parents' other children (including graduate students but not foster children supported by another entity), if parents will provide more than half support from 7/1/19 through 6/30/20

Applicant's children, if parents will provide more than half support from 7/1/19 through 6/30/20

Parents' or applicant's unborn child, if born before 6/30/20, and parents will provide more than half <u>support</u> from projected birthdate to 6/30/20

Other persons living with and receiving more than half support from applicant's parents from application date to 6/30/20



Household Verification

Independent Household

Applicant

Applicant's spouse living in household

Applicant's other children (including <u>graduate</u> students but not foster children supported by another entity), if parents will provide more than half support from 7/1/19 through 6/30/20

Applicant's children, if applicant/spouse will provide more than half support from 7/1/19 through 6/30/20

Applicant's/spouse's unborn child, if born before 6/30/20, and applicant/spouse will provide more than half support from projected birthdate to 6/30/20

Other persons living with and receiving more than half support from applicant/spouse from application date to 6/30/20



High School Completion Verification

High School Diploma (preferred document)

Final official high school transcript that shows the date the diploma was awarded

General Educational Development (<u>GED</u>) certificate, an official GED transcript that indicates you passed the exam, or a state-authorized high school equivalent certificate

Academic transcript that indicates you successfully completed at least a 2 year, full credit program towards a bachelor's degree at any participating institution

Foreign Country

High school diploma or transcript; or,

"Secondary school leaving <u>certificate</u>" issued by the central government agency of the country where you completed your education

Homeschool

Secondary school completion credential for homeschool (other than a high school diploma or its recognized equivalent)

If the law in your home state does not require a homeschooled student to obtain a secondary school completion credential for homeschool (other than a high school diploma or its recognized equivalent), a transcript or the equivalent, signed by your parent or guardian, that lists the secondary school courses you completed and includes a statement that you successfully completed a secondary school education in a homeschool setting.



Identity/Statement of Educational Purpose Verification

2017-18 Identity and Statement of Educational Purpose

2017-18 Identity and Statement of Educational Purpose
Identity and Statement of Educational Purpose (To Be Signed at the Institution)
The student must appear in person atto
verify his or her identity by presenting an unexpired valid government-issued photo identification (ID), such as but not limited to, a driver's license, other state-issued ID, or passport. The institution will maintain a copy of the student's photo ID that is annotated by the institution with the date it was received and reviewed, and the name of the official at the institution authorized to receive and review the student's ID.
In addition, the student must sign, in the presence of the institutional official, the Statement of Educational Purpose provided below.
Identity and Statement of Educational Purpose (To Be Signed in the Presence of a Notary)
If the student is unable to appear in person at (Name of Postsecondary Educational Institution)
to verify his or her identity, the student must provide to the institution:
(e) A copy of the unexpired valid government-issued photo identification (ID) that is acknowledged in the notary statement below, or that is presented to a notary, such as, but not limited to, a driver's license, othe state-issued ID, or passport; and
(f) The original Statement of Educational Purpose provided below, which must be notarized. If the notary statement appears on a separate page than the Statement of Educational Purpose, there must be a clear indication that the Statement of Educational Purpose was the document notarized.
Statement of Educational Purpose
I certify that I am the individual signing (Print Student's Name)
this Statement of Educational Purpose and that the Federal student financial assistance I may receive will only be used for educational purposes and to pay the cost of attending for 2017–2018.
(Name of Postsecondary Educational Institution)
(Student's Signature) (Date)

Institution **MUST**

- Use text as provided by Dept of ED
- Maintain a copy of the government-issued photo ID presented by student (signed by University <u>Official</u>)
- If student cannot appear at institution in person, the form must be <u>notarized</u>.



(Student's ID Number)

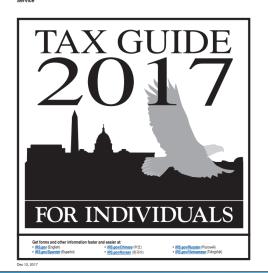
We Are Not Tax Filing Experts



Your Federal Income Tax

For Individuals

Publication 17
Catalog Number 10311G
For use in preparing
2017 Returns



What should you know about taxes?

- Whether student or parent are required to file a tax return
- Correct tax filing status for tax filer
- Person cannot be claimed as an exemption by more than one person





Thank You!!