



GRADUATE, UNDERGRADUATE AND EQUITY AFFAIRS

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
1111 Franklin Street
Oakland, California 94607-5200

May 16, 2023

Via Federal eRulemaking Portal (www.regulations.gov)

Darrin Zhao-King
Director of the Information Collection Clearance
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue SW, LBJ, Room 224-84
Washington, DC 20202-4537

Re: Docket No.: ED-2023-SCC-0053, Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request; 2024-2025 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

Dear Mr. Zhao-King:

On behalf of the University of California (UC), one of the country's premier public research university systems, serving more than 300,000 students, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on the draft text and supporting materials for the 2024-25 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form.

UC has reviewed the draft materials and appreciates the effort needed to re-work and restructure the application and process as a result of the significant overhaul required by the "FAFSA Simplification Act" as included as part of the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021* (Public Law 116-260). The suggestions that have been noted in comments on the attached FAFSA drafts are an effort to further refine language for greater understanding, specificity, and consideration of the unique circumstances of students.

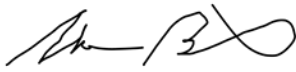
A few highlights UC would like to point out include:

- Retaining the number in college for those institutions that need to continue to model how the Student Aid Index (SAI) may affect institutional aid programs and avoids institutions asking students to complete another form
- Removal of the need-based employment question will negatively impact students in state and/or university need-based work-study programs
- Removal of housing-related questions, which impacts institutions' ability to determine a student's budget based on one's living situation and overall cost of attendance
- Revisions to account for language which may be received with heightened sensitivity
- Simplifying the application for incarcerated students to address information challenges

We applaud the Department's efforts to restructure the application and align with the "FAFSA Simplification Act." We also appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed drafts and welcome additional engagement.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shawn Brick', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Shawn Brick

Executive Director, Student Financial Support
University of California, Office of the President

cc: U.S. Secretary of Education, Miguel Cardona
UC Provost and Executive Vice President, Katherine Newman
UC Federal Government Relations Associate Vice President, Chris Harrington