FAAST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

BEFORE YOU APPLY:

Q – Why does Yale Law School have its own financial aid application?

Yale Law School awards aid solely on the basis of need and, as such, requires an application that collects data pertinent to our own needs assessment methodology. Eligibility for institutional scholarship support, as well as eligibility for our loan repayment assistance program (COAP), is both determined by the needs analysis generated by the data from FAAST.

Q – Why is my parents' data required?

As a need-based financial aid institution, it is critical that YLS assess a student's full economic situation and resources available. For any student 28 years of age or younger (as of December 31 during the academic year for which you are seeking aid), we require both custodial and non-custodial parents to complete a special Parent section of FAAST. There is a separate FAAST Financial Data Checklist and Worksheet for parents to use as resources in completing the application. Additional information on how parent data is then used in the financial aid calculation is available on the main YLS Financial Aid Website.

Q – Will my parent(s) see my financial information?

If either the student or the parent(s) does not wish to share sensitive financial information with each other, they can indicate as such on a specific FAAST question addressing the issue of confidentiality. Both the student and the parent(s) will create their own log in identifier and password to the system to retain the confidentiality of the responses.

Q – When should I complete FAAST?

We suggest new admit students submit FAAST as soon as the FAAST application becomes available (mid-February), or after they have been admitted to receive a financial aid offer by the Admitted Student Program and in a timely manner to make admission acceptance decisions. Current students should submit FAAST for financial aid renewal by April 15 annually.

Q – How am I supposed to complete my application by the Financial Aid Office deadline if I do not have my W2 yet or have not filed taxes?

You can complete FAAST by using your best estimate of your financial information based on your paystubs and by using your prior year's tax return.

Q – What type of information will I need to complete FAAST?

The FAAST Financial Data Checklist outlines key income, expense, and asset documentation that will be helpful to have available while completing the application.

COMPLETING YOUR APPLICATION:

Q – Can I begin an application now and return later?

Yes. FAAST automatically saves any data that you input. As such, you can begin the application, log out and return at your convenience to where you left off in the application. In addition, the status bar that continually appears on the application helps you track both where you are in the application process and what remains to complete the process.

Q – I have not filed my income taxes yet. What should I do?

If possible, try to complete your federal income tax form prior to beginning FAAST. However, when that is not possible,

you may “estimate” your tax return data by using a combination of your prior year’s tax returns and any current year documents (W-2s, 1099’s, interest/dividend statements, etc.) that you have as a resource. Try to be as accurate in your estimate as possible so that a valid aid award can be made initially which will not have to be revised or changed later in the process. Note that when presented with the question asking you to select the "Source of Following U.S. Tax Figures", and you have not yet filed your taxes, please choose the estimated version.

Q – I am an international student and received income from non-U.S. sources. How should I complete the application?

As an international student who did not file a U.S. tax form, you will be asked similar questions about your income and assets without reference to the IRS forms. You should convert any foreign currency into U.S. dollars to complete the application. Note - the Student Worksheet provides a link to a currency converter. If your tax year is not equivalent to the U.S. calendar tax year, then provide financial information for the most recently completed tax year.

Q – I have no idea what my income will be next year. What should I do?

You will need to provide a “best estimate” of your income for the coming year and enter that amount for the need analysis to be calculated. Enter projected estimated numbers to the best of your knowledge at this time.

Q – A question is unclear or needs further clarification – where can I go for help in understanding what information is needed?

The first source for assistance is our Student Worksheet, which provides a step-by-step instructional guide and a more detailed explanation of each question. A separate Parent Worksheet also similarly assists parents in the process. If you remain unsure how to respond, we encourage you to submit your question to our FAAST dedicated email at FAAST.law@yale.edu. The financial aid staff monitors this email and will respond back with assistance.

Q – Does FAAST have the ability for me to add more information/further detail on my circumstances?

The “Special Circumstances” section of the Student FAAST application allows you to provide any additional information that you wish Yale Law to be aware of in the consideration and assessment of your application based on financial need. Similar Special Circumstances sections exist for both the Parent and Non-Custodial Parent application as well.

Q – How long does it take to fill out the application?

FAAST is meant to personalize the aid application experience, and required questions are generated on the basis of your own responses to prior questions. As such, the experience of completing FAAST will never be the same for any two applicants. We have designed FAAST to be as simple, transparent and efficient as possible for applicants while still yielding YLS with the data necessary to make an equitable aid award. Current students will have the option to have their information from a previous year imported into the next year’s application.

Q – Do I have to pay a fee to submit the application?

No, because this is YLS’s own financial aid application and not a common application shared by numerous schools there is no fee to submit the application to be considered for aid.

Q – How do I submit my application?

If all of the sections for your current application are complete, click the “Submit Application” button to submit your application. You will receive a confirmation email that your application has been received by the YLS Financial Aid Office.

AFTER SUBMITTING THE APPLICATION:

Q – What if I have to make a change or update my application after submission?

Once you have formally submitted FAAST, your application will be “locked” and updates can no longer be accepted. If

there is a major change to your FAAST data after the application has been locked, email the YLS Financial Aid staff at FAAST.law@yale.edu.

Q – Is FAAST the only thing I need to do to apply for aid?

If you are a non-U.S. Citizen, FAAST is the only application that we require to review your eligibility for need-based scholarships and student loans. U.S. Citizens should also complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) www.fafsa.ed.gov for eligibility consideration for federal student loans. The full YLS financial aid application process for New Admit students and Current students is outlined on our website.

Q – After I submit my portion of FAAST, how do my parent complete their portion?

After you submit your FAAST application, you will immediately receive confirmation that your application has been submitted. You will also receive an email for your parent(s). The email for your parent(s) will include a URL that they will use to log into the FAAST system. They will then create their own username and password. As such, it is critical that you share this login information with your parents as soon as you receive it. If you have indicated that your parents are divorced or legally separated, you will receive a separate email for each parent. You will have to designate a "Custodial" vs. "Non-Custodial" parent.

Q – I have no contact with my parent(s) – am I still required to have them complete their portion of FAAST?

Students who can document that they have had no contact with a parent over an extended period of time or have an estrangement from their parent may have the Parent application waived. However, to do so, students must use the Special Circumstances section of FAAST to provide a detailed explanation of their parental situation. After submitting the FAAST application, the Financial Aid Office will review your application, and make a professional judgment on an individual case-by-case basis if a waiver of parental data is allowed. Supporting documentation may be required.

FAAST FOR PARENTS:

Q – How do parents access the FAAST system and how will my application link to my student application?

Once a student has submitted their portion of FAAST, he/she will receive a confirmation email which also includes a URL link for their parent(s). Parents can log into the FAAST system at https://faastparent.law.yale.edu and can create their own secure username and password but must also input the URL link in order for the parent application record to automatically link with the student's application record.

Q – Can the student complete the parent portion of FAAST on behalf of the parents?

We recognize that in some cases parents may not have ready access to technology or may have logistical or communication challenges with the present online system. If a parent is unable to do so, the student may complete the application on their behalf with their permission. If so, the student will need to input the parent PIN (provided in the email confirming submission of the student portion of the application) and then can create a new username and password (on behalf of the parent). It is critical however, that the student provide parent financial data that is as accurate as possible. For all incoming students who are required to submit parental data, we collect tax return documentation later in the financial aid process that will be verified against the FAAST data. If there are variances in that review, aid awards will be revised.

Q – Will my student see my parental financial information?

No – similar to the confidentially offered to the student, parents who do not wish their data to be seen or accessed by the student may indicate as such on the appropriate FAAST question. However, the data will be combined into one application visible to Financial Aid Office staff only. In addition, parents set their own private username and password information to access the system.

Q – I am divorced, or not currently married, to my child's other parent. How do I know which form to complete?

The student will receive two separate emails with a URL link for each parent. The student must designate one for the "Custodial Parent" and one for the "Non-Custodial Parent ". The main supporting parent (and stepparent if applicable) is defined as the parent whom the student lived with for the majority of the time in the last 12 months should be issued the "Custodial Parent" URL. If the student did not live with either parent more than the other in the last 12 months, the Custodial Parent is the one who provided the most financial support during that time. If neither parent provided greater support during the last 12 months, it is the parent who most recently provided the greatest financial support. The other parent (and stepparent, if applicable) should be issued the 'Non-Custodial Parent" PIN. After initial log in, each parent will be prompted to establish their own secure password and submit separate confidential applications.

Q – I am not a U.S. citizen and received income from non-U.S. sources. How should I complete the application?

As a parent who filed a non-U.S. tax form, you will be asked similar questions about your income and assets without reference to the IRS forms. You should convert any foreign currency into U.S. dollars to complete the application. If your tax year is not equivalent to the U.S. calendar tax year, then provide financial information for the most recently completed tax year.

TECHNICAL QUESTIONS:

Q – What are the hardware and software requirements for FAAST?

You need a computer with a web browser installed and access to the Internet. Please have JavaScript and "cookies" enabled in your web browser. We support Internet Explorer 10.0, 11.0, and the most recent versions of Firefox, Safari and Chrome.

Q – Who do I contact if I am having technical difficulties with the system?

If you experience any type of technical challenges with the FAAST system, bring them to our immediate attention by emailing FAAST.law@yale.edu. In your email, please be as detailed as possible as to what the problem is that you are experiencing. The Financial Aid staff monitors the mailbox and if unable to resolve your issue, they will refer the matter to the YLS IT department for resolution.