

UPDATE! April 24, 2017

In an effort to simplify the financial aid process with the DRT outage, today, the Department of Education announced that rather than collecting tax return transcripts, institutions may consider accepting a signed paper copy of the tax return for verification documentation. What does this mean for you? Students and families who have been requested to submit a 2015 IRS Tax Return Transcript (TRT), may submit a signed paper copy of the 2015 Tax Return in lieu of the TRT.

In addition, students and families selected for verification of nonfiling will no longer be required to provide documentation from the IRS or other tax authorities that show they, their spouse, or their parents did not file a tax return. However, these students must still provide a signed statement “certifying that the individual has not filed and is not required to file a 2015 income tax return,” as well as a document listing the amount and sources of any income from that year. They must also submit a copy of a W-2 (or an equivalent document) for any source of employment from that year.

Students and families needing additional information regarding which documentation is needed to process their financial aid may contact the NCMC Financial Aid Office at (660) 359-3948 ext. 1513 or financialaid@mail.ncmissouri.edu.

March 30, 2017

To protect sensitive taxpayer data, the IRS and FSA announced today the IRS Data Retrieval Tool (DRT) on fafsa.gov will be unavailable until extra security protections can be added. Students and families should plan for the tool to be offline until the start of the next FAFSA season (October 2017).

As a reminder, students can still complete a FAFSA without the IRS DRT; household financial information can be submitted manually from the 2015 tax return (not 2016). The NCMC Financial Aid Office is available to assist students who are confused or have difficulty completing the FAFSA. Families are encouraged to request a copy of their 2015 IRS Tax Return Transcript (TRT) upon completing the FAFSA, which can be requested at www.irs.gov or the taxpayer can call 1-800-908-9946, and a transcript will be delivered to the address on record within five to 10 days. With the DRT outage, the TRT will be required should the student’s FAFSA be selected for verification by ED.

For more information on or for help with completing the FAFSA, visit StudentAid.gov/fafsa or call 1-800-4FED-AID (1-800-433-3243).

For information from the IRS, visit [IRS Offers Help to Students, Families to Get Tax Information for Student Financial Aid Applications](#).

March 10, 2017

The Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) Data Retrieval Tool (DRT), which allows students and parents applying for financial aid to import tax information directly into their FAFSA has been nonfunctional for approximately a week. The IRS and the Department of Education (ED) said in a joint statement released March 9, 2017 that they are working to resolve the situation, but that the tool will be down for several weeks.

With the April 1st state deadline approaching, it is important to understand students can still complete a FAFSA without the IRS DRT; household financial information can be submitted manually. The NCMC Financial Aid Office is available to assist students who are confused or have difficulty completing the FAFSA. Families are encouraged to request a copy of their 2015 IRS Tax Return Transcript (TRT) upon completing the FAFSA, which can be requested at www.irs.gov. With the DRT outage, the TRT will be required should the student's FAFSA be selected for verification by ED.

Updated information will be provided to students and parents through the [NCMC homepage](#) as it's made available.