Identity Verification Overview and Acceptable Documentation

What is identity verification?

The federal government selects FAFSAs randomly for a process known as verification. All institutions of higher education that participate in Title IV aid programs must comply with the verification requirements set by the Education Department. When selected for verification, students must submit documentation to substantiate data elements on the FAFSA form.

The federal government has two identity verification tracking groups: V4 and V5. V4 is a simple identity verification form, while V5 combines identity and financial verification. To prevent fraud in the Federal Student Aid programs, the government randomly selects FAFSAs for identity verification to prevent inadvertent payments of federal student aid awards to ineligible students.

Acceptable Documentation for Identity Verification
- Students must present unexpired valid government-issued photo identification (ID).
    - ID must be issued by U.S. government, any of the 50 states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native Tribe, American Samoa, Guam, U.S. Virgin Islands, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, or Republic of Palau.

What are examples of acceptable and unacceptable IDs for V4/V5 verification?

Acceptable IDs	Unacceptable IDs
- U.S. Passport (book or card) - Driver's license - Non-driver's identification card - Other state-issued ID - Permanent Resident or Resident Alien Card (I-551) - Certificate of Naturalization with recognizable photo (even with no expiration date) - Inmate ID issued by correctional facility (even with no expiration date) - State-issued voter ID (even with no expiration date)	- Foreign government-issued photo ID - Common Access Card (CAC) - Temporary driver's license - Student ID - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) ID with or without picture

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Do I have to complete this process every year I am enrolled?

No. Verification, including identity verification, is award-year specific. Therefore, if the federal government selects your FAFSA form in future award years for identity verification, you will need to resubmit a verification worksheet and a copy of your photo ID.

What options do I have to complete identity verification?

Students can complete identity verification in two formats: in person at Goldey-Beacom College with an authorized financial aid administrator, or with a public notary.

What happens if I fail to complete identity verification?

Students who fail to complete identity verification are ineligible for Title IV aid in that award year. Students who previously received a Title IV disbursement in that award are no longer eligible for that funding.

What happens if I falsify my identity?

If you falsify your identity, Goldey-Beacom College must do the following:
1. Halt all further Title IV aid disbursements.
2. Treat previously disbursed/delivered Title IV aid as overpayments.
3. Report on the incident to the ED's Office of Inspector General (OIG) for further investigation.

Falsifying your identity is a serious violation of the Federal Student Aid program. The College's Program Participation Agreement (PPA) with the federal government stipulates that all institutions of higher education that participate in the Title IV aid programs must treat this issue seriously.

 I have questions about this process. Who can I chat with?

Please know that you are never alone in this process. The Financial Aid Office is always available to guide you through identity verification. To schedule an appointment to ask questions or complete this process, please email finaid@gbc.edu or call 302-225-6264.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Sincerely,

Eric Johnson
Director of Financial Aid
Goldey-Beacom College

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