

No need to itemize to claim these deductions

Are you part of the approximately 68% of taxpayers who IRS statistics say claim the standard deduction instead of itemizing? If so, you can still deduct some expenses on your 2015 federal income tax return.

- Individual retirement account (IRA) contributions – For 2015, you may qualify to deduct up to \$5,500 in contributions to a traditional IRA. That increases to \$6,500 if you're age 50 or older. Income limitations may apply in some cases. The same limits apply to Roth IRA contributions, which are not deductible.
- Health Savings Account (HSA) contributions – HSAs are IRA-like accounts set up in conjunction with a high-deductible health insurance policy. The annual contributions you make to your HSA are deductible. Contributions are invested and grow tax-free, and you withdraw the money tax-free to pay unreimbursed medical expenses. The HSA contribution limit for 2015 is \$3,350 for individuals and \$6,650 for families. You can contribute an additional \$1,000 when you're age 55 and older.
- Student loan interest and tuition fees – Deduct up to \$2,500 of interest on student loans for yourself, your spouse, and your dependents. For 2015, you can also deduct up to \$4,000 of tuition and fees for qualified higher education courses. Income limitations apply, and you must coordinate these deductions with other education tax breaks.
- Self-employment deductions – If you're self-employed, you can generally deduct the cost of health insurance premiums, retirement plan contributions, and one-half of self-employment taxes.
- Other deductions – Don't overlook deductions for alimony you pay, certain moving expenses, and early savings withdrawal penalties. Educators can deduct up to \$250 for classroom supplies purchased in 2015.

Contact our office at (888) 388-1040 for more information on these and other deductions you may be entitled to claim on your 2015 return.

NOTE: This article is written to provide you with information about minimizing your taxes. Do not apply this general information to your specific situation without additional details. Be aware that the tax laws contain varying effective dates and numerous limitations and exceptions that cannot be summarized easily. For details and guidance in applying the tax rules to your individual circumstances, please contact us.

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