

TAX SOFTWARE USER GUIDE * * * * * *

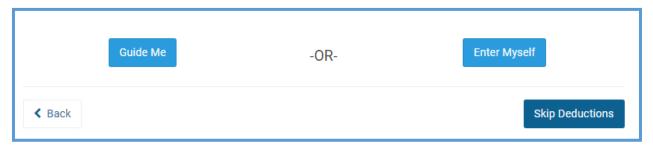
Entering Standard and Itemized Deductions

After completing this topic, you will be able to:

- ✓ Use the standard deduction for the taxpayer.
- ✓ Use itemized deductions even when the standard deduction is better for the taxpayer.
- ✓ Enter medical and dental expenses.
- ✓ Enter taxes that qualify as itemized deductions.
- ✓ Deduct mortgage interest.
- ✓ Deduct charitable contributions.
- ✓ Deduct unreimbursed employee business expenses.
- ✓ Deduct job-related travel expenses as itemized deductions.
- √ Report miscellaneous itemized deductions.
- ✓ Deduct other itemized deductions.

Taxpayers can reduce their taxable income amount using either the standard or itemized deduction. To begin with the standard or itemized deduction, use the following steps:

4. In the Federal Section, select **Deductions** to display the introduction page, as shown below:



5. Click Enter Myself.

TaxSlayer Pro Online displays the **Deductions** landing page:



Using the Standard Deduction

TaxSlayer Pro Online determines the greater of the standard or itemized deductions based on the information entered in the return. If the taxpayer only qualifies to use the standard deduction, you do not need to do anything additional to the return.

After you finish entering all deductions, you can use this page to see whether the standard or itemized deduction is better for the taxpayer. To do so, use the following step:

• Click **BEGIN** on the **Compare Deductions** line.

TaxSlayer Pro Online displays the **Compare Standard vs Itemized Deduction** page:

Compare Standard vs Itemized Deduction

Based on the information that you have entered, the following shows the comparison between the Standard Deduction vs. Itemized Deduction. We will automatically use the larger of the two deductions for your return. If you would like to, or are required to, use the Itemized Deductions you can select "Use Standard or Itemized Deduction" from the Itemized Deductions menu and select "Force to use Itemized Deduction."

Standard Deduction \$9,300.00 Itemized Deductions

\$250.00



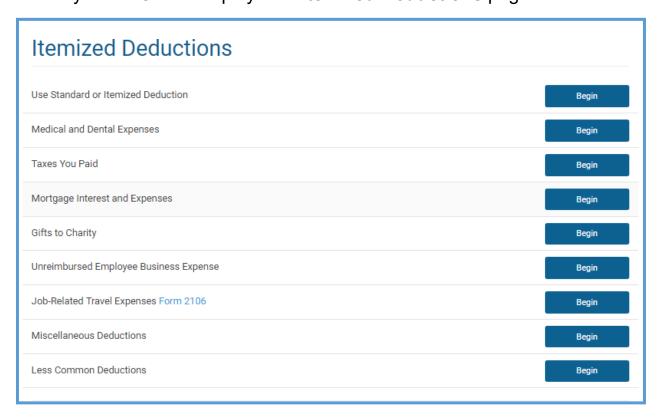
Adding Itemized Deductions

TaxSlayer Pro Online automatically calculates additional itemized deductions, such as state income taxes paid from a Form W-2 or 1099-R. If the taxpayer has other itemized deductions that you need to add, use the following steps:

1. From the **Deductions** landing page, click **BEGIN** on the **Itemized Deductions** line.

1040 View: Click Line 40 to link to the **Itemized Deductions** page.

TaxSlayer Pro Online displays the **Itemized Deductions** page:



2. Use this page as a starting point for all of the remaining sections of this guide.

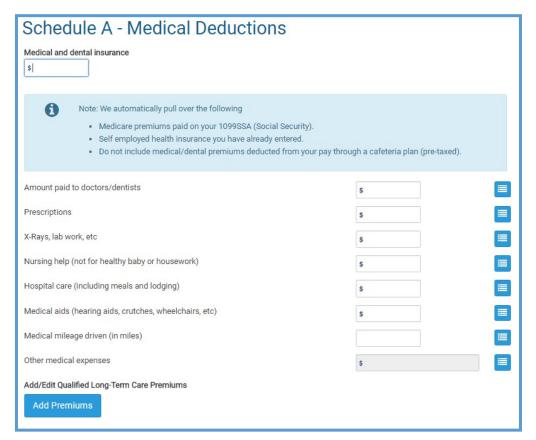


Adding Medical and Dental Expenses

If the taxpayer paid unreimbursed medical expenses during the year, he or she may be able to deduct a portion of those expenses as itemized deductions. To deduct medical and dental expenses, use the following steps:

1. From the **Itemized Deductions** page, click **BEGIN** on the **Medical** and **Dental Expenses** line.

TaxSlayer Pro Online displays the **Schedule A – Medical Deductions** page:



- 2. Read each line carefully and type the amounts based on information provided by the taxpayer.
 - a. TaxSlayer Pro Online automatically deducts certain health insurance payments. Read the information on the page carefully to determine what amounts you should **not** include.



b. Click the **Supporting Statements** icon to itemize a list if the taxpayer has more than one. Click **Continue** when you finish adding amounts to carry the total to the **Medical Deductions** line.



- c. If the taxpayer paid qualified long-term care premiums, click **Add Premiums** and type the total premiums paid.
- 3. When you finish adding medical deductions, click **Continue**.

TaxSlayer Pro Online displays the **Schedule A – Medical Deductions** summary page:



4. Click Continue.

Deducting Taxes

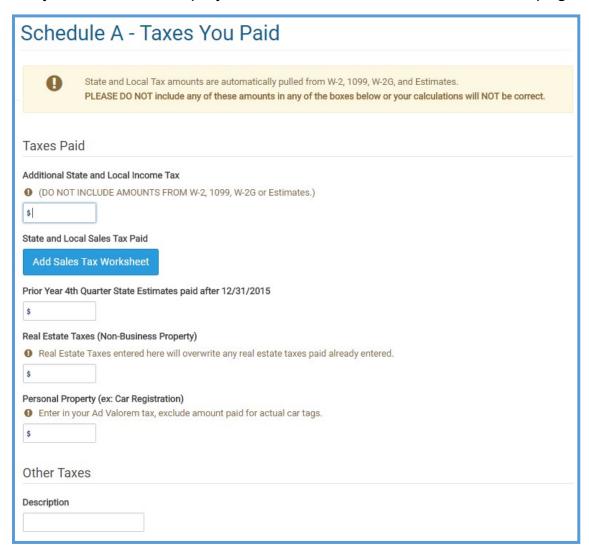
The IRS allows taxpayers to deduct several types of taxes as itemized deductions, including the following:

- State and local income or general sales tax.
- Real estate taxes.
- Personal property taxes.
- Other taxes.

To add taxes paid that qualify as itemized deductions, use the following steps from the **Itemized Deductions** landing page:

1. Click **BEGIN** on the **Taxes You Paid** line.

TaxSlayer Pro Online displays the **Schedule A – Taxes You Paid** page:





State and Local Taxes

State and Local Income Tax

If the taxpayer paid state and local income tax during the year, TaxSlayer Pro Online automatically adds those taxes to Schedule A based on information you enter on Form W-2, Form 1099-R, estimated tax payment worksheets, and other forms where the payer may have deducted state and local income taxes.

In some cases, the taxpayer may have paid state taxes that you have not previously added to the return. If you need to add state and local income tax paid, use the following step on the **Schedule A – Taxes You Paid** page:

Type the amount of any state and local income tax paid in the
 Additional State and Local Income Tax box. Remember that you
 should not include any amounts from Forms W-2, 1099, or W-2G
 already entered into the return. Also, do not include any estimated tax
 payments.

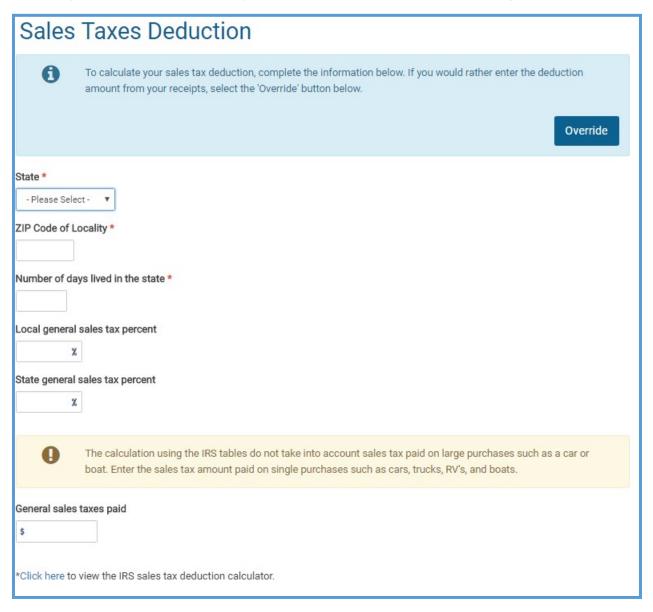
General Sales Taxes

Some taxpayers qualify to claim general sales tax paid instead of state and local income tax paid. If the taxpayer needs to figure the better of the two, you can add sales tax to the return. To take the sales tax deduction, use the following steps from the **Schedule A – Taxes You Paid** page:

1. Click Add Sales Tax Worksheet.



TaxSlayer Pro Online displays the Sales Tax Deduction page:



- 2. Select the state from the drop-down list.
- 3. Type the number of days lived in the state, the local sales tax, and the state sales tax.
- 4. If the taxpayer made purchases that qualify as large purchases to be added to the general rates, type the amount of general sales tax paid in the appropriate box.
- 5. Click Continue.



TaxSlayer Pro Online displays the **Sales Tax Deduction** page:



- 6. If the taxpayer has another state to add (for example, if he or she lived in more than one state during the year), click **Add** and use the same steps to add other states.
- 7. Click Continue.

TIP: If you need to adjust the calculated Modified AGI for the General Sales Tax calculation, use the **Modified Adjusted Gross Income** box on the **Taxes You Paid** page.



Real Estate Taxes

If the taxpayer paid real estate taxes during the year, he or she may be able to deduct those taxes as itemized deductions. To deduct real estate taxes, use the following step from the **Schedule A – Taxes You Paid** page:

 Type the total amount of real estate taxes paid in the Real Estate Taxes (Non-Business Property) box.

TIP: If you enter real estate taxes here, type the total real estate taxes paid that qualify as itemized deductions. You can also enter real estate taxes paid when you enter the mortgage interest deduction. **Do not** add real estate taxes paid in both places.



Personal Property Taxes

If the taxpayer paid vehicle property taxes, he or she may be able to deduct those as an itemized deduction. To enter property taxes, use the following step from the **Schedule A – Taxes You Paid** page:

• Type the total amount of deductible personal property taxes in the **Personal Property** box.

Other Taxes

If the taxpayer has other deductible taxes that you have not already entered on this page, use the following step:

Type the description and amount on the Other Taxes line.

Deducting Mortgage Interest

If the taxpayer owned a home and paid mortgage interest during the year, he or she may be able to deduct that interest as an itemized deduction. To deduct home mortgage interest, use the following steps from the **Itemized Deductions** page:

1. Click **BEGIN** on the **Mortgage Interest and Expenses** line.

TaxSlayer Pro Online displays the **Schedule A Interest** page:



Form 1098 Mortgage Interest

2. If the taxpayer received a Form 1098 to report the mortgage interest, click **BEGIN** on the **Mortgage Interest Reported on Form 1098** line.



TaxSlayer Pro Online displays the **Mortgage Interest Reported on 1098** page:



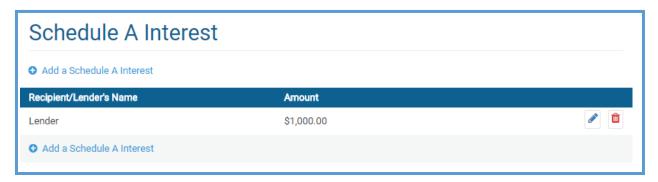
3. Click Add Interest and Points Paid.

TaxSlayer Pro Online displays the **Mortgage Interest Reported on 1098** page:



- 4. Type the lender's name, amount of interest paid, and amount of any deductible points paid.
- 5. Click Continue.

TaxSlayer Pro Online displays the **Schedule A Interest** page, listing the Form 1098 information you entered:



- 6. If the taxpayer received additional Forms 1098, click **Add** and follow the same steps to add those forms.
- Click Continue.

TaxSlayer Pro Online displays the **Mortgage Interest Reported on 1098** page:



8. If the Form 1098 includes real estate taxes paid on the properties, type the total amount in the **Real Estate Taxes (Non-Business Property)** box.

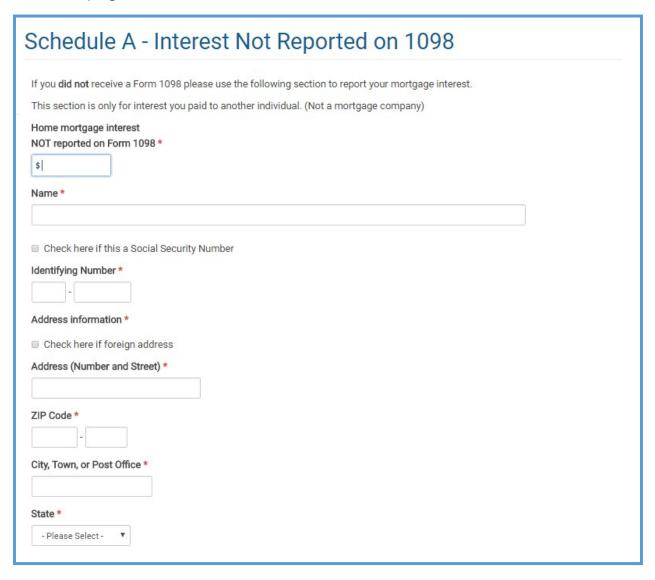
TIP: If you already entered real estate taxes in the **Taxes You Paid** section, do not type them here.

9. Click Continue.

Mortgage Interest with no Form 1098

10. If the taxpayer paid mortgage interest to an individual that was not reported to him or her on a Form 1098, click **BEGIN** on the appropriate line.

TaxSlayer Pro Online displays the **Schedule A – Interest Not Reported on 1098** page:



- 11. Type the amount of mortgage interest paid and the lender's name in the appropriate boxes.
- 12. Type the lender's identifying number. If the identifying number is a Social Security number, select the **Check here if this is a Social Security Number** check box.



- 13. Type the lender's address.
- 14. Click Continue.

TaxSlayer Pro Online displays the **Schedule A Interest** page:



Points with no Form 1098

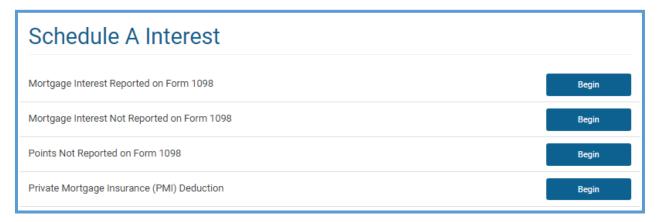
15. If the taxpayer paid deductible points during the year, and did not receive a Form 1098 to report those points, click **BEGIN** on the appropriate line.

TaxSlayer Pro Online displays the **Points Not Reported on Form 1098** page:



- 16. Type the amounts in the appropriate boxes.
- 17. Click Continue.

TaxSlayer Pro Online displays the **Schedule A Interest** page:



Primary Mortgage Insurance Deduction

18. If the taxpayer paid qualified mortgage insurance premiums during the year, click **BEGIN** on the appropriate line.

TaxSlayer Pro Online displays the **Primary Mortgage Insurance (PMI) Deduction** page:



- 19. Type the amount of qualified mortgage insurance premiums in the box.
- Click Continue.

Deducting Charitable Contributions

If the taxpayer made contributions to a qualifying charitable organization, he or she may be able to deduct those contributions as an itemized deduction. To deduct charitable contributions, use the following steps from the **Itemized Deductions** page:

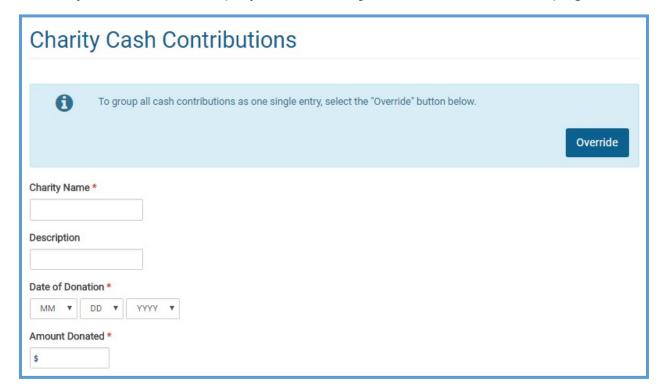
1. Click **BEGIN** on the **Gifts to Charity** line.

TaxSlayer Pro Online displays the **Gifts to Charity** page:



2. If the taxpayer has cash gifts to charity, click **BEGIN** on the **Cash Gifts to Charity** line.

TaxSlayer Pro Online displays the **Charity Cash Contributions** page:



3. Type the charity's name, a description, the amount donated, and the date the taxpayer made the donation.

TIP: If you want to group all of the taxpayer's cash contributions as one entry, click **Override** and type the total amount of cash contributions.

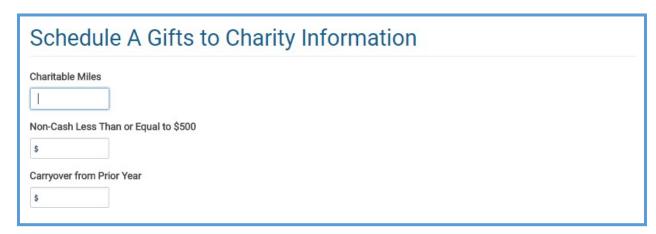
Click Continue.

TaxSlayer Pro Online displays the **Gifts to Charity** page:



5. If the taxpayer has qualifying charitable miles, click **BEGIN** on the **Non-Cash Gifts to Charity** page.

TaxSlayer Pro Online displays the **Schedule A Gifts to Charity Information** page:



6. Type the number of miles the taxpayer used his or her vehicle for charity in the **Charitable Miles** box.

7. If the taxpayer made non-cash gifts to charities totaling less than \$500, type the total amount of non-cash contributions in the appropriate box.

NOTE: If the taxpayer has noncash contributions of more than \$500, you must file Form 8283. Form 8283 is out of scope for the VITA/TCE Programs. Refer the taxpayer to a professional tax preparer.

- 8. If the taxpayer carried over a deduction for charitable contributions in the prior year, type the amount of the charitable contribution carryover from the prior year.
- Click Continue.

TaxSlayer Pro Online displays the **Gifts to Charity** page:



10. When you finish adding charitable donations, click Continue.

Deducting Unreimbursed Employee Business and Travel Expenses

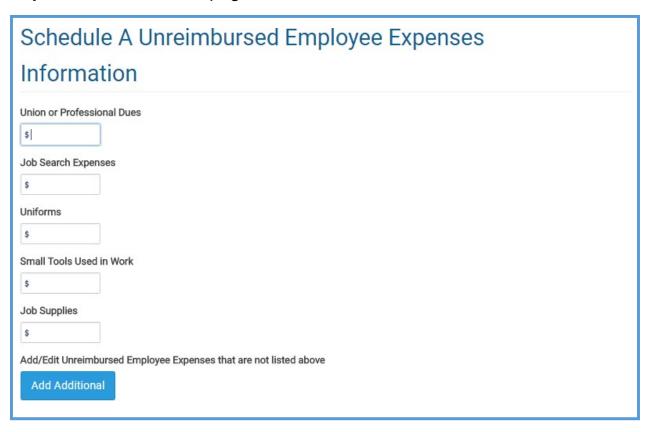
Other Employee Business Expenses

If the taxpayer paid for expenses related to his or her job, he or she may be able to deduct those expenses as an itemized deduction. To deduct job-related expenses, use the following steps from the **Itemized Deductions** page:

1. Click **BEGIN** on the **Unreimbursed Employee Business Expense** line.



TaxSlayer Pro Online displays the **Schedule A Unreimbursed Employee Expenses Information** page:



- 2. Type the amount of any unreimbursed expenses on the appropriate line.
- 3. If the taxpayer has unreimbursed expenses that do not apply to the other lines, click **Add Additional**.

TaxSlayer Pro Online displays the **Schedule A Other Expenses** page:



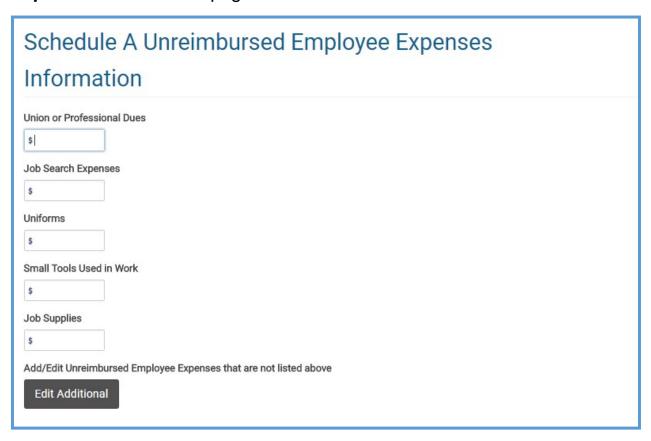
- 4. Type the description and amount of the other expense.
- 5. Click Continue.

TaxSlayer Pro Online displays the **Unreimbursed Employee Expense** page:



- 6. If the taxpayer has more unreimbursed employee expenses not listed elsewhere, click **Add** and follow the same steps to add each one.
- 7. Click Continue.

TaxSlayer Pro Online displays the **Schedule A Unreimbursed Employee Expenses Information** page:



8. When you finish typing expenses, click Continue.



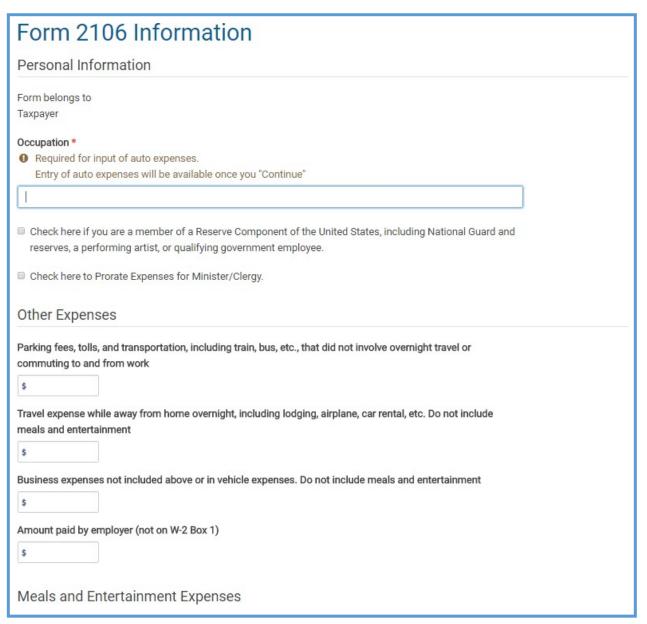
Travel Expenses

If the taxpayer paid for travel expenses related to his or her job, he or she may be able to deduct those expenses as an itemized deduction. To deduct job-related travel expenses, use the following steps from the **Itemized Deductions** page:

1. Click **BEGIN** on the **Job-Related Travel Expenses Form 2106** line.

1040 View: Click Line 24 to link to the Form 2106 Information page.

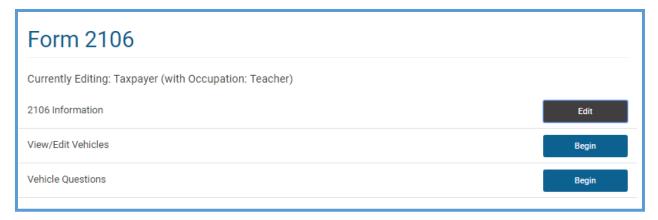
TaxSlayer Pro Online displays the Form 2106 Information page:





- 2. If this return is for a married couple, select whether the Form 2106 belongs to the taxpayer or spouse.
- 3. Type the occupation.
- 4. In the **Other Expenses** section, read each line carefully and type the amount based on information provided by the taxpayer.
- 5. In the **Meals and Entertainment Expenses** section, type the full amount of any qualifying meal and entertainment expenses in the appropriate line. TaxSlayer Pro Online reduces the amount by the appropriate percentage.
- 6. Click Continue.

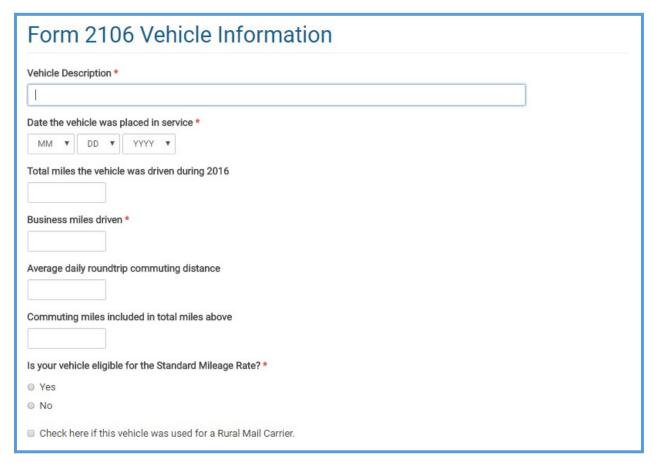
TaxSlayer Pro Online displays the **Form 2106** summary page:



7. If the taxpayer used his or her own vehicle and has vehicle expenses, click **BEGIN** on the **View/Edit Vehicles** line.

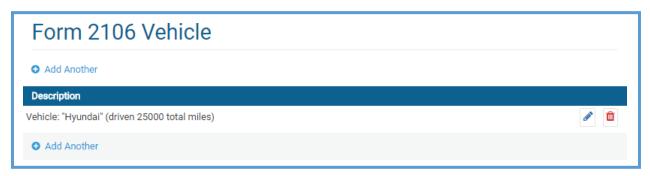


TaxSlayer Pro Online displays the Form 2106 Vehicle Information page:



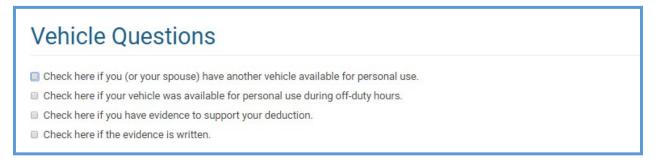
- 8. Type the vehicle information, including the business miles driven and the commuting miles information.
- 9. Select the appropriate radio button to show whether the vehicle is eligible for the standard mileage rate.
- 10. Click Continue.

TaxSlayer Pro Online displays the **Form 2106 Vehicle** summary page:



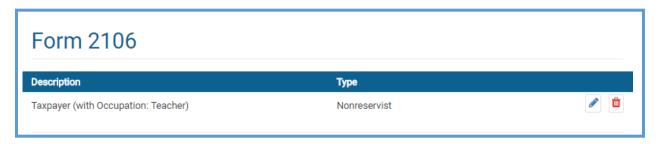
- 11. If the taxpayer used more than one vehicle for job-related travel expenses, click **Add** and use the same steps to add each vehicle.
- 12. When you finish adding vehicles, click Continue.

TaxSlayer Pro Online displays the **Vehicle Questions** page:



- 13. Read each check box carefully and select any that apply.
- 14. Click Continue.

TaxSlayer Pro Online displays the **Form 2106** summary page:



15. Click Continue.

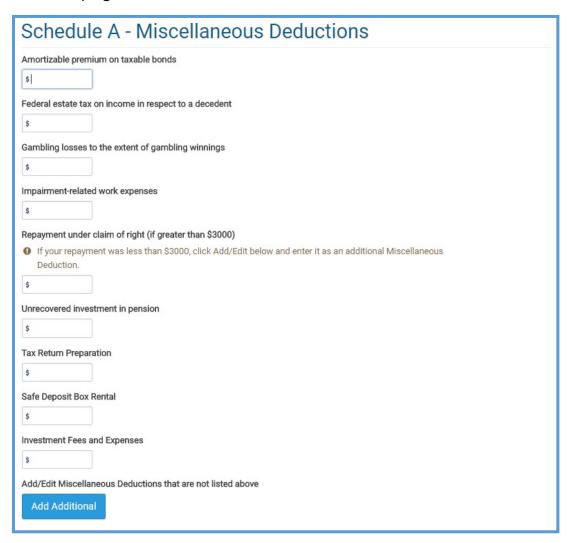
Desktop Tip: Select **2% Deductions & Job Expenses (2106)** from the **Schedule A – Itemized Deductions Menu**.

Entering Miscellaneous Deductions

If the taxpayer paid certain expenses, he or she may be able to deduct those expenses as a miscellaneous itemized deduction. To deduct miscellaneous deductions, use the following steps from the **Itemized Deductions** page:

1. Click **BEGIN** on the **Miscellaneous Deductions** line.

TaxSlayer Pro Online displays the **Schedule A – Miscellaneous Deductions** page:



2. Read each line carefully and type the amount of the taxpayer's deduction in the appropriate box.

Other Deductions

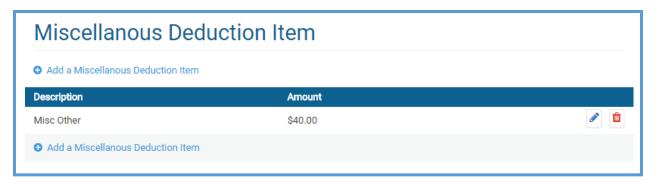
If the taxpayer has miscellaneous itemized deductions other than those listed specifically, click Add Additional.

TaxSlayer Pro Online displays the **Schedule A Other Expenses** page:



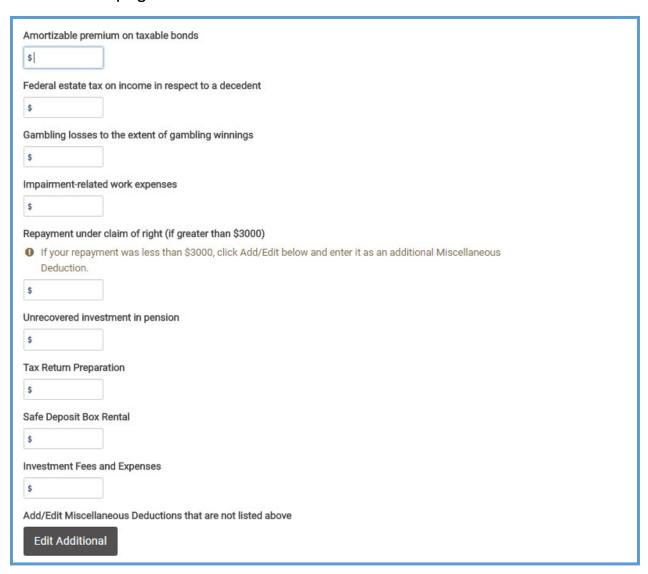
- 4. Type a description for the expense.
- 5. Type the amount of the expense.
- 6. Click Continue.

TaxSlayer Pro Online displays the **Miscellaneous Deduction Item** page:



- 7. If the taxpayer has other miscellaneous itemized deductions to list, click **Add** and use the same steps to add each item.
- 8. Click Continue.

TaxSlayer Pro Online displays the **Schedule A – Miscellaneous Deductions** page:



Click Continue.

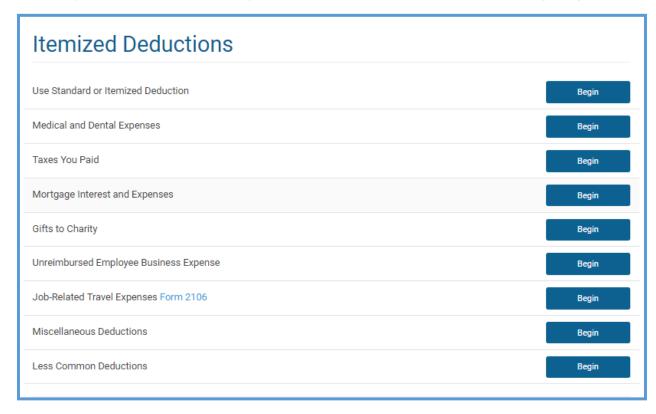
Who Must Use Itemized Deductions

If the taxpayer's filing status is married filing separately and the spouse itemizes deductions on his or her return, the taxpayer must itemize, even if the standard deduction is better for the taxpayer. To accomplish this in TaxSlayer Pro Online, use the following steps:

1. From the **Deductions** page, click **Itemized Deductions**.

1040 View: Click Line 40 to link to the **Itemized Deductions** page.

TaxSlayer Pro Online displays the **Itemized Deductions** landing page:



2. Click **Begin** on the **Use Standard or Itemized Deduction** line.

TaxSlayer Pro Online displays the **Force Itemized Deduction Instead of Standard Deduction** page:



- 3. Click Force to use itemized deduction.
- Click Continue.

Desktop Tip: On the **Personal Information** Menu, click **Other Categories**, and then **Force Itemized Deductions or Dual Status Alien**. Select **Force System to Use Itemized Deductions**, and click **OK**.

TaxSlayer Pro Online now uses the itemized deduction regardless of which is better for the taxpayer.

Summary

You should now be able to:

- Use the standard deduction for the taxpayer.
- Use itemized deductions even when the standard deduction is better for the taxpayer.
- Enter medical and dental expenses.
- Enter taxes that qualify as itemized deductions.
- Deduct mortgage interest.
- Deduct charitable contributions.
- Deduct unreimbursed employee business expenses.
- Deduct job-related travel expenses as itemized deductions.
- Report miscellaneous itemized deductions.
- Deduct other itemized deductions.